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DOC Information Sharing Initiative Overview

The Advisory Group heard a presentation by Department of Corrections (DOC) Chief Business Technology Officer (CBTO) Bill Pal-Freeman about a DOC concept for improving the sharing of and access to criminal justice data. For the DOC, this would provide additional information that could be used in programs and services for incarcerated individuals to give them the best chance to succeed. These would include external education providers, housing and social services, and work programs.

The DOC would not develop the technologies required for information sharing and access alone, but is proposing collaboration between entities that hold criminal justice information to identify requirements for an infrastructure that would be developed and maintained by an external service provider. In the last legislative session, DOC requested $12 million for FY 2023 and $35 million for FY 2024/2025 to create a statewide public safety information sharing infrastructure.

Members discussed the value of including the Advisory Group and its represented organizations, which have long been working toward improving criminal justice data and improving how it moves between systems and stakeholders.

The DOC plans to reintroduce a supplemental budget request in the upcoming legislative session that would include funding for development.

Advisory Group members interested in learning more can contact Bill Pal-Freeman at bill-pal-freeman@state.mn.us.

Legislative Updates

Two requests made of the Minnesota legislature during the 2021-2022 session were not acted upon.

- The BCA sent a letter to Judiciary Finance and Civil Law and Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform Finance and Policy conference committee chairs on behalf of the Advisory Group last May requesting the Advisory Group’s full name – the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Information Advisory Group – be changed to drop the words “and Juvenile.”

- The BCA provided suggested language to update the Advisory Group’s enabling statute that would expand its role to an advisory body for the BCA. The Advisory Group’s Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee had suspended plans to reach out to diverse groups to encourage Advisory Group participation while they awaited a decision from the legislature about the BCA proposal. Now that the BCA request did not move forward the subcommittee will move forward with their planned outreach.
Member Vacancies
Members discussed the ongoing challenge of filling open Advisory Group seats. There are currently 12 vacant seats and 24 filled seats on the Advisory Group. Diane Bartell reported to the group that the Advisory Group has contacted some of the entities multiple times and have not received appointees.

- Stephanie Revering volunteered to reach out to the Minnesota Sheriff’s Association (MSA) to encourage the appointment of people to the two vacant MSA spots.
- Paul Patterson offered to do the same for the two Judicial Branch vacancies.
- Marv Bodie will reach out to the Minnesota Association of Counties regarding its metro vacancy.
- Tim McMillan will reach out to a contact with the League of Minnesota Cities about its two spots.

Members are asked to provide updates at the November Advisory Group meeting.

Criminal & Juvenile Justice Advisory Group
CURRENT VACANCIES
- Three (3) members of the Judicial Branch appointed by the chief justice of the Supreme Court - 2 vacancies
- The Commissioner of Administration or designee
- Two (2) members appointed by the Minnesota Sheriff’s Association, at least one of whom must be a sheriff
- Two (2) members appointed by the League of Minnesota Cities representing the interests of city attorneys, at least one of whom must be a city attorney
- Two (2) probation officers appointed by the Commissioner of Corrections in consultation with the president of the Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers (MACPO) - 1 vacancy
- Four (4) public members appointed by the Governor for a term of six (6) years, one of whom represents the interests of victims, and one of whom represents the private business community who have expertise in integrated information systems - 1 vacancy
- Two members appointed by the Minnesota Association of Counties, one of whom works or resides in Greater Minnesota and one of whom works or resides in the seven-county metropolitan area; and one of whom is an elected official - 1 vacancy
- One (1) member of the Senate appointed by the majority leader of the Senate
- One (1) member appointed by the attorney general

Member Suggestions for the November meeting agenda
- Nate Reitz requested that the Advisory Group resume hybrid meetings instead of fully virtual meetings for those who wish to return to an in-person format. Diane Bartell indicated that she will plan for a hybrid format November meeting.
- Barbara Carson requested a discussion about activities the Advisory Group can do that would benefit the state.
- Tim McMillan requested information for probation personnel on how to determine whether their clients are legally able to possess or transfer a firearm under state or federal laws. Information how DANCOs affect gun rights was requested as well.

Next Meeting: Friday, Nov. 18, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.