

Draft Minutes

Michigan Joint Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration – Meeting #1

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. • Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Wayne State Law School, Spencer M. Partrich Auditorium
471 West Palmer, Detroit, MI

Members Present:

Hon. Bridget McCormack, Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice, Co-chair
Hon. Garlin Gilchrist II, Michigan Lieutenant Governor, Co-chair
Hon. Dana Nessel, Michigan Attorney General
Hon. Prentis Edwards, Jr., 3rd Circuit Court
Hon. Thomas Boyd, 55th District Court
Senator Jim Runestad, 15th Senate District
Senator Sylvia Santana, 3rd Senate District
Representative Mike Mueller, 51st House District
Representative Tenisha Yancey, 1st House District
Dr. Amanda Alexander, Detroit Justice Center
Sheriff Jerry Clayton, Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department
William Gutzwiller, Sr., Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police
Prosecutor DJ Hilson, Muskegon County Prosecutor's Office
Monica Jahner, Northwest Initiative
Dr. Sheryl Kubiak, Wayne State University Dept. of Social Work
Lt. Jim Miller, Allegan County Sheriff's Department
Takura Nyamfukudza, Chartier & Nyamfukudza, P.L.C.
Bill Peterson, Alpena County Board of Commissioners
James Talen, Kent County Board of Commissioners
Robert VerHeulen, Kent County Road Commissioner

Members Excused:

Craig DeRoche, Prison Fellowship; Andrew Brashier attended as his proxy

I. Convening of Meeting

The Co-chairs called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. A quorum was present. Craig DeRoche was excused and Andrew Brashier attended as his proxy.

II. Welcome and Introductions

Co-chair Gilchrist introduced the Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives, the Hon. Lee Chatfield, to give introductory remarks. After the Speaker's remarks, the co-chairs gave welcoming remarks; then Task Force members introduced themselves and shared what they're looking forward to while serving on the Task Force. Finally, Ryan Gamby with the State Court Administrator's Office (SCAO) shared information about upcoming meeting dates and locations, the Open Meetings Act (OMA), and the travel reimbursement policy.

III. Data Presentation

Terry Schuster and Michelle Russell of The Pew Charitable Trusts delivered a presentation on national and Michigan jail incarceration trends and Michigan county budget information. The presentation can be found [here](#).

IV. Task Force Member Comments

Dr. Kubiak wondered how the Michigan-specific data identifiers for race and ethnicity in later presentations will compare to the national identifiers. Representative Yancey asked a clarifying question about the Michigan urban-rural incarceration rates over time with regards to race, as well as whether the Michigan Department of Corrections is collecting this data. Senator Santana inquired after the reason for the recent increase in female incarceration rates. Dr. Alexander shared her desire that future presentations break out demographic data to distinguish males and females by race and ethnicity. Mr. Takura shared his desire that future presentations identify incarceration data by age.

Dr. Kubiak inquired whether litigation costs were included in the county budget data. Mr. Talen confirmed that litigation costs would come out of the county budget. Representative Yancey wondered what is included in the community/economic development category. Sheriff Clayton noted that much of these county expenses ensure that departments are funded at levels that meet their basic personnel and safety needs, and that budget information varies significantly by county; he asked the Task Force to consider that before making any judgments. Ms. Jahner offered that she thinks probation and parole violation data is key to the jail population conversation. Judge Boyd noted that when he chaired the Trial Court Funding Commission, there was some disconnect between what counties report to the state in their chart of accounts. Mr. VerHeulen inquired whether the data and handouts would be posted on the Task Force website, which was affirmatively confirmed.

V. Next Task Force Meeting Date

The next Michigan Joint Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 23, from 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Kirkbride Hall, 700 Cottageview Dr. #200, Traverse City. Public testimony will be taken from 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

VI. Roll Call

Co-chairman Gilchrist took the roll, having not officially done so at the beginning of the meeting. A quorum was present.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Task Force and seeing no objection, the chairs adjourned the meeting at 11:37 a.m.