1. Meeting Minutes



JISC DATA DISSEMINATION COMMITTEE Friday, August 27, 2021, 8:30 a.m.- 9:55 a.m. Zoom Teleconference URL: provided via invite

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present

Judge John Hart, Chair Judge Scott Ahlf Ms. Barbara Miner Judge Kathryn Loring Dave Reynolds Judge Lisa Worswick

Staff Present

Phil Brady, Contracts Manager
Kevin Cottingham, Data Dissemination
Administrator
Michael Keeling, ISD Operations Manager
Jan Nutting, Public Records Officer
Christopher Stanley, MSD Director

Guests Present

Heidi Percy, Snohomish County Clerk
Lt. Col. Sebastian N. Andres of the National
Guard
Sgt. Dolan Santero of the National Guard

0. Call to Order

Judge Hart called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. and welcomed all participants.

1. June 25, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Ms. Miner asked that the statement made on page 2, paragraph 2, be removed or attributed to DDA Kevin Cottingham.

With that change, Ms. Miner moved that the minutes be approved as amended. Judge Ahlf seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Regarding the Washington National Guard's Elevated JIS-Link Site

DDA Cottingham reviewed the question before the Committee. The state National Guard's unusual ability to access an elevated level of information was brought to the attention of the DDA by Dave Reynolds, who had been contacted by a military recruiter with regard to confidential JUVIS information. The National Guard's ability to see a JUVIS number provides evidence that there was a juvenile case associated with the search—where a JUVIS number is attached to an individual in JABS with no visible case data, the individual performing the search can rightly assume the presence of confidential cases.

Elevated access was granted to the Washington National Guard in 2006. No other agency has been allowed this exceptional access, as contracts for JABS access limit the purposes for which that access may be used. It was noted that even an employee of the Supreme Court was recently denied permission from the DDC to use JABS for research. As a result, the Administrative Office of the Courts recommends that the Committee cease granting this exception.

Judge Worswick asked how the elevated access was allowed in the beginning, and if there was a legal basis. Although DDA Cottingham did not know the details, he found evidence that the

DDA was aware of the elevated access in 2011, and the site itself was created in 2006. Permission would have been granted within that timeframe, but nothing specific could be found.

DDA Cottingham also confirmed that recruiters from other military organizations have public level JIS access. Only the Washington National Guard has elevated access.

Ms. Ortega asked if individuals are able to research their own juvenile records. Dave Reynolds answered that usually a court order is sometimes required even to inspect one's own sealed records. Recruiters, likewise, would also need a court order to view non-public cases, including the cases tied to the JUVIS numbers at issue.

Judge Hart inquired about alternatives available for the Washington National Guard to conduct background checks. DDA Cottingham said there are two options:

- 1. The public level JIS site, which is used by various businesses for background checks.
- 2. The Washington State Patrol's WATCH site, which is the official source for criminal history information. WATCH does not share juvenile non-offender data.

Judge Ahlf explained that some information in JABS is not available from WATCH. DDA Cottingham confirmed that neither the public JIS access nor WATCH includes all JABS information.

Lt. Andres expressed understanding of the challenges faced by the Committee and said that there are a number of state and federal laws the recruiters must follow. He stated that recruiters do have the consent of the applicant to conduct the investigation and do not pull information related to JUVIS cases, but just need to know of the existence of a case to be sure the candidate has disclosed everything in the record as required by federal authorities. Losing elevated access will make a recruiter's job more difficult. The National Guard may consider seeking legislative action, but that will take time.

SFC Santero discussed the fact that public level access doesn't give him all the information he needs and agreed that petitioning the legislature is probably appropriate if access to JABS is withdrawn. The Department of Defense collects and reviews all background information to verify accuracy before granting high security clearance, so it is vital to ensure that new soldiers have not overlooked any past cases. Lt. Andres added that Washington State has a number of top secret units so there will be a larger number of candidates here that need higher clearance.

Judge Worswick asked specifically which information the Guard needs but cannot get from the public JIS site and the WSP. SFC Santero replied that JABS has everything that is needed in one report. The Department of Defense needs all background information, including sealed cases, and the applicant must supply accurate information. He highlighted that recruiters can only see the JUVIS number, and no information is provided about the case.

Judge Worswick then asked if the screening is provided only for those seeking top secret clearance. The recruiter said that all applicants are screened during the preliminary security check, and everything must be disclosed at that point.

DDA Cottingham told the Committee that, until RCW 13.50.260 was amended, the Washington State Patrol was permitted to send sealed information to criminal justice agencies including the Department of Defense. Under the amended statute, however, the information can be sent only to Washington State criminal justice agencies. Sealed information can no longer be provided to the Department of Defense by state entities.

Ms. Percy asked if the National Guard or Homeland Security talk with the applicant and provide a chance to explain anything that had not been previously disclosed. SFC Santero answered that a discussion with the applicant may be possible for low level concerns. For higher-level offenses, the applicant could be discharged without a discussion. Mr. Reynolds pointed out that under Washington statute, applicants would not need to disclose cases that have been sealed, as the proceedings in the case are treated as if they never occurred.

Judge Hart asked if the enhanced access could be kept if there were internal oversight to ensure appropriate use only. DDA Cottingham responded that oversight would be difficult from AOC's position, and misuse would not be known unless a complaint was received.

Ms. Percy confirmed that law enforcement agencies cannot use JABS access for background checks. DDA Cottingham stated that no one is authorized to use JABS for background checks – the proper approach is to get a fingerprint check processed by the Washington State Patrol. Judge Hart stated that not only is the Washington State Patrol the best option for carrying out a background check, but it is the official criminal history repository under RCW 10.97.

DDA Cottingham stated that are two items for consideration:

- 1. The Washington National Guard has enjoyed exceptional access, and that he believes that the DDC should revoke that exception.
- He does not believe JABS should display JUVIS numbers for anyone but court users.
 The committee is asked to consider authorizing DDA Cottingham to research the
 process involved in removing JUVIS numbers from elevated access users. These JUVIS
 cases are largely tied to non-offender cases, and showing the case number may do
 more harm than good.

Judge Hart asked whether at this time the DDC would order that AOC remove the appearance of JUVIS numbers, or whether the committee would just authorize the DDA to carry out research. DDA Cottingham confirmed that only research needs to be authorized at this time.

Judge Worswick agreed that DDC direction to remove the information should be a different discussion, allowing time for the task to follow the IT Governance process. Mr. Keeling added that the ITG process can be bypassed if estimated time requirement would be under 40 hours.

Judge Loring moved to revoke the Washington National Guard's exceptional access and provide only Level 1 access as appropriate for background check purposes. Ms. Miner seconded the motion.

Judge Ahlf asked whether the National Guard can return to the DDC at a later time to discuss law enforcement level access. It was confirmed that a request for elevated access will not be banned in the future, and access would be granted if the National Guard had intent to use their access for law enforcement purposes.

Judge Hart invited additional discussion and then called the question. All present members voted to revoke elevated access and return the Washington National Guard to Level 1 access. No members were opposed and none abstained.

Judge Hart thanked the Committee and the National Guard representatives for their work. The decision was a result of thorough research, and was not made lightly. He stated that in the future, change may be made by the legislature to reconcile what is needed with what is allowed.

After National Guard representatives left the call, Judge Hart discussed the issue of displaying of JUVIS numbers further. Judge Worswick believes stakeholders can provide information needed to make a good analysis and be sure the Committee is not missing any important considerations. Mr. Reynolds said that juvenile identities are tied to WIP information rather than JUVIS numbers, and Ms. Miner noted that the clerks do not use information generated by JUVIS.

Ms. Miner moved that the Committee explore the removal of JUVIS numbers from relevant screens, assess the impacts, and gather information about the process needed to remove them from view. Judge Loring seconded the motion, which then passed unanimously.

3. Other Business

Judge Hart again thanked the Committee for its caution, diligence, and robust discussion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 a.m.

2. Request from American Equity & Justice Group



Data Dissemination Administrator Office of the Administrator for the Courts PO Box 41170 Olympia, WA 98504-1170

Email: dda@courts.wa.gov

RE: AOC Superior Court Data Mart Data request

Dear Madam or Sir:

The nonprofit American Equity and Justice Group (AEJG) owns and maintains the public data dashboard found at www.aejg.org. (Currently, the website is in soft-launch form.) Our objective is to make criminal justice data available in a searchable and filterable format because increased transparency changes the criminal justice conversation from one driven by anecdote, to one that is data-based. We believe that greater access to data will lead to increased equity.

Enclosed is copy of the data list that is identified in the ROI form.

Our dashboard currently utilizes data from the Caseload Forecast Council and census results. We are incorporating data from multiple data sources, and plan to include AOC data in the future. AEJG began its work with a Microsoft and Seattle Clemency Project sponsored Hackathon event. A new Hackathon, incorporating new data and making other improvements, is scheduled for later this month.

AEJG does not disseminate personal identifiers. Other publicly available data will be available through the website's dashboard. We request personal identifiers only to aid AJEG's work in validating this data and connecting individual cases from multiple data sources. While this information is needed for our behind-the-scenes work, it is not made publicly available through the website or any other format. Our goal is to improve the system through data transparency, not harm any individual whose information may be included in the underlying information.

Our hope is to get this information as soon as possible. Given the extent of our request, we welcome feedback about a realistic timeline.

We request this data in electronic format. AEJG is a nonprofit with limited resources, so we ask you to talk to us about costs associated with this request prior to beginning work.

Finally, we have already met with Phil Brady, Kevin Cottingham, Carl McCurley, multiple justices of the Washington Supreme Court, the Sentencing Guidelines Commission, numerous legislators, and staff at

the Governor's Office, about our work. If a presentation to others about our work, dashboard, and goals, will further this request, we welcome that opportunity as well.

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Thank you for your time and assistance,

Very Truly Yours,

Anthony Powers
Executive Director

Kimberly Gordon

President of the Board

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DATA REQUESTED BY AEJG

October 4, 2021

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ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The following information is necessary for us to process your request for data from the Judicial Information System (JIS). Please complete this form and return it to:

Data Dissemination Administrator
Office of the Administrator for the Courts
PO Box 41170
Olympia, WA 98504-1170
fax: 360-956-5700

** Do not send payment with this form. You will be invoiced at a later date**

e-mail: dda@courts.wa.gov

Your request is subject to approval under the provisions of JISCR 15, the JIS Data Dissemination Policy, and the local Data Dissemination Policy and Procedures. Upon receipt of a completed form, AOC staff will review the request, contact you with questions or clarifications, and provide you cost/time estimates.

Name: Anthony Powers (Exec. Dir.) and Kimberly Gordon (Board President)				
Agency or Company: American Equity and Justice Group (AEJG)				
E-Mail Address: anthonypowers700@gmail.com; kim@gordonsaunderslaw.com				
Address: 1000 2nd Avenue, Suite 3140				
City: Seattle State: WA Postal Code: 98104				
Day or Work Phone (with area code): 206-605-2136 Fax No. (with area code): 206-267-0349				
Information Requested (Please describe in detail. Continue on page three if necessary.):				
For all years that the AOC maintains electronic data, we request the following information from adult criminal cases: From the Superior Court Information>SC Case Information sub-folder Case Court Name Case Court Name Case Court Name Case Court ORI Case Court Level Case Number Case To we conty seeking data from cases classified as "Criminal" Case Tile Date Case Plan Date Case Plan Date Case Plan Date Case Plan Date Case Resolution Date Case Case Case Case Case Case Case Case				

What will the information be used for?

The nonprofit AEJG runs and maintains the public data dashboard found at www.aejg.org. (The website is currently in soft-launch form.) Our objective is to make criminal justice data available in a filterable and searchable format, because increased transparency changes the criminal justice conversation from one driven by anecdote to one that is data-based. We believe that greater access to data will lead to improved equity.

Our dashboard currently utilizes data from the Caseload Forecast Council and census data. We are in the process of obtaining and incorporating data from multiple additional data sources. AEJG began its work with a Microsoft and Seattle Clemency Project sponsored Hackathon event. A new hackathon, incorporating new data and improvements, is scheduled for later this month.

To whom will the data be disseminated?

AEJG does not disseminate personal identifers. Other publicly available data will be available, at least in part, through the website.

If this information concerns a named individual, please give necessary identifying information (i.e. date of birth, driver's license number, most current address etc.):

We request personal identifiers only to aid AEJG's in validating its data and connecting individuals. While this information is needed for AEJG's work, it IS NOT made publicly available through our public website or any other format. Our goal is to improve the system through data transparency, not harm any individual whose information may be included in the underlying information.

Date information is needed:

ASAP. Given the extent of our request, we appreciate your feedback about a realistic timeline.

The following fees are applied to information requests that require generation of a report from JIS. Fees do <u>not</u> include printed copies of electronic documents such as dockets or screen prints.

Administrative Fee \$62.00 / report Data Warehouse Evaluation/Research \$68.00 / hour

Programming

Data Reporting Evaluation/Research \$67.00 / hour

JIS System Run Time \$15.00 / minute or portion thereof

(two minute minimum)

Materials \$1.00 / page

\$12.00 / compact disc

Medium Requested:

Paper (\$1.00/page, computer generated)

CD (\$12.00/each)

E-mail - electronic file sent as an attachment

I, the undersigned:

- Agree to use and distribute the information only as provided in the above referenced statement of intended use;
- Agree not to use the data received under this request for the commercial solicitation of individuals named in the records (Data Dissemination Policy III.C; GR31(g)(3));
- Agree to pay, unless payment is waived, the cost quoted or invoiced bythe Administrative Office of the Courts;
- Understand that the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Washington Courts, and the Washington State County Clerks make no representation as to the accuracy or completeness of the data;
- Agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Administrative Office of the Courts from any claims or damages arising from the use and distribution of the information responsive to this request; and
- Certify, under penalty of law, that all the information supplied above is true and a complete description.

Anthony Powers/Kimberly Gordon	10-4-2021	
Signature of Requestor	Date	

Typed name will be accepted as signature when document is submitted electronically.

Please use this page for more detailed responses or comments.

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November 16, 2021

TO: Data Dissemination Committee

FROM: Kevin Cottingham, AOC Data Dissemination Administrator

RE: Request from American Equity & Justice Group

The American Equity & Justice Group has placed a request with the Administrative Office of the Courts for bulk Superior Court adult criminal case data, most of which presents no issues.¹

One proposed use of the data, however, does present some logistical issues, and is an issue of first impression on which AOC would appreciate DDC input. AEJG proposes to use the data in a "hackathon", which would entail granting access to the data to participants to allow them to digitally manipulate the data, looking for correlations and trends. As this data will be provided with individually identifying information, Section 5.4 of the DDC-approved data dissemination contract presents an issue. This clause prohibits AEJG from "disclos[ing] of the data provided under this Agreement in any form which identifies an individual," and Section 6 spells out criteria for AEJG to fulfill if disclosure is necessary. AEJG must:

- 1. Secure the written agreement of any such person or entity to comply with all terms of this Agreement as if they were Requestor named herein;
- 2. Submit such written agreement to the AOC with a request for its written consent; and
- 3. Not disclose any of the AOC Data until the AOC has provided such written consent.

Depending on the scale, this could present issues for AOC, as AEJG will need to provide a list of applicants and their signatures to AOC before such an event for AOC approval, and AOC will need to manually review each application. Because the data being provided is public, and because AEJG already has provided a confidentiality

¹ Some data requested will not be granted—namely, JUVIS number and driver's license number—due to restrictions in the Data Dissemination Policy and statutes.

agreement to used by participants, AOC seeks DDC input on how to proceed, and suggests three possible avenues:

- The DDC allow for a modification of the approved standard contract, allowing participants to sign a confidentiality agreement without requiring AOC approval for every participant, and allowing AEJG to provide the AOC data, without modifications, to participants.
- 2. The DDC allow for a modification of the approved standard contract, allowing participants to sign a confidentiality agreement without requiring AOC approval for every participant, but requiring AEJG to provide the AOC data to participants with some modifications, such as removing personal identifiers.
- 3. Disallow such a modification and require AOC approval for every participant.



VOLUNTEER CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT

I. The Parties. This Volunteer Non-Disclosure Agreement, referred to as the "Agreement",

applies to	_, referred to as the "Volunteer", associated with			
	ne American Equity & Justice Group, referred to as			
he "Volunteer Program", with both the Volunteer and Volunteer Program collectively referred to				
as the "Parties".	toor and relations regram concentrally relation to			
as the Taitles.				
II. Confidential Information. All data, mater	ials, knowledge and proprietary information			
	g to do with the Volunteer Program or persons			
-	actors, is to be considered Confidential Information			
_	ty. This includes, but is not limited to, documents,			
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	procedures, conversations, messages (received or			
•	s, e-mail messages, whether internally between staff			
or outside the Volunteer Program is confiden	tial and the sole property of Volunteer Program.			
_	le information, is not be disclosed to any third party,			
under any circumstances, without the written	consent of the Company.			
IV. Damages. Any disclosure, misuse, copyi				
	nal, will subject Volunteer to disciplinary action,			
prosecution, and/or monetary damages acco	ording to the procedures set by Company and any			
applicable laws.				
The signature of the Volunteer below acknov	vledges his/her agreement to the aforementioned			
terms.				
Volunteer's Signature	Date			



VOLUNTEER SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR AMERICAN EQUITY & JUSTICE GROUP

This Agreement, made on	lDate] by and between the American
Equity & Justice Group hereinafter re	eferred to as "AEJG", and
	[NAME],
[DOB], h	ereinafter referred to as "volunteer."
Whereas, volunteer intends to donat donation of volunteer services.	e services to AEJG, and AEJG intends to accept the
NOW THEREFORE, in consideration follows:	n of the mutual promises, the parties hereto agree as
_	ervices to charity in the capacity of TITLE]. Said services shall include, but may not be limited
	(see
attached sheet, if necessary)	
	inderstood that volunteer services shall be donated, and tled to nor expects any present or future salary, wages, or stary services.

4. Volunteer agrees that they will not be considered to be an employee of AEJG, for any purposes other than tort claims and injury compensation, while performing the above described voluntary services.

in any training required by the charity in order to perform the voluntary services.

3. Volunteer agrees to follow the supervision and direction of any personnel, employee, or volunteer, to whom volunteer has been assigned to perform services, and to participate

5. Volunteer further understands that if volunteer is responsible for injuries to third parties or damages to their property while acting outside the scope of assigned volunteer duties,

that said volunteer may be held personally liable for any monetary damages a court may award to the injured party.

- 6. It is further understood and agreed to by volunteer that the services rendered to AEJG shall apply only in the case of liability arising out of the ordinary negligence that occurs during the scope of the volunteer's services agreed to herein, and that in no way do any of these provisions apply for the benefit of volunteer, their heirs, executors or administrators in any action arising out of gross negligence, willful misconduct, or any other conduct on the part of said volunteer, which cause or may give rise to criminal liability.
- 7. Volunteer further agrees that volunteer will fully cooperate with AEJG and its agents in any investigation, lawsuit, arbitration, or any other legal proceedings that arise from the matters covered by this agreement. Volunteer further agrees to notify AEJG immediately of any incident that occurs or may occur within the knowledge of the volunteer, which gives rise to liability on the part of the volunteer of the charity.

8.	IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, please contact	, telephone number
	PARENT OR GUARDIAN SIGNATURE	DATE
	SIGNATURE OF [PERSON AUTHORIZED]	DATE
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√olunt	eer phone:	

Public Equity and Justice System

The Problem:

In the US, systemic racial injustice disproportionately impacts Black, Indigenous, and other minority populations. And Washington State is no exception. This inequity has often been hidden, without tools or research to measure its real-time impact. Those engaged in the criminal justice system often lack visibility to what their peers and their own agencies are doing. Prosecutors' offices don't have visibility into other jurisdictions' data, and without easy access to the information that can reveal biases and the impacts of their decisions on a wide scale, they cannot truly understand how their individual decisions might contribute to unfair disproportionality. Previously, we've had to wait years as colleges conducted lengthy studies to have an accurate comparative analysis. Many individuals, families, and communities suffer harm until these studies reveal an injustice that results in change – an injustice that might otherwise have been corrected earlier if there had been a faster way.

The Solution:

The **Public Equity and Justice System** is a database built to help all criminal justice actors, stakeholders, and the public, get up-to-date data insights on how sentencing decisions vary by judge, county, and demographic characteristics including race, ethnicity, gender, and age. Our database currently combines 20 years of Caseload Forecast Council (CFC) sentencing data as well as census and population data from Washington State.

An additional benefit is that this system could help aggregate and analyze data from our many different data warehouses or formats, potentially reducing manpower and improving accessibility for reasons even beyond the project itself.

Future planned updates include integrating more data from different points in the life of a criminal case as well as information about legal and legislative changes that affect criminal sentencing so we can get a holistic picture to help us understand the implications of these changes from beginning to end.

Why is your solution different to other solutions out there?

This system incorporates the latest technology platforms available to house and visualize data at scale. It displays that data in a format that is quickly accessible to a wide range of stakeholders – be they interested individuals, lawyers, judges, policymakers, legislators, academics, or others.

The long-term goal:

We hope that other states will adopt this type of system so that it creates a ripple effect of change throughout the entire nation. We also aspire to incorporate as much data as we can to see the full justice continuum, starting from first contact with law enforcement all the way through to ultimate resolution of the case.

We are also working to get the system rolled out and adopted by the public, as we believe increasing access to information will have positive implications far beyond the scope of our project and will help improve the fairness and equality of our criminal justice system.

What fundamentals do we have in place:

The team is led by Anthony Powers from the Seattle Clemency Project. Additionally, the project team is made up talent and expertise in technology, data, criminal justice, legislation and grant writing, and data – all passionate volunteers who have committed to seeing this system adopted. The system is hosted on Power BI.

Key Team Members:

- Anthony Powers, reentry program manager at the Seattle Clemency Project and project lead for the Public Equity and Justice System.
- Kim Gordon, owner and partner in firm that focuses exclusively on criminal defense in federal, state, and local courts, and a current member of Washington's Sentencing Guidelines Commission.

- Kate Sigafoos, a former Kitsap County Prosecuting Attorney and Pro-Tem Judge, who now works with Microsoft as an employment lawyer.
- Scott Semyan, principle cloud solution architect at Microsoft. A software developer by trade, Scott manages all the data inputs and the database.
- Jonica Couweleers, senior data analyst at Microsoft. With a data science background, Jonica is our lead data visualizer to translate the data into meaningful insights for easy interpretation.
- Belinda Cheng, product marketing manager at Microsoft focused on the government audience. She currently supports with logistics and project management, as well as developing a marketing and communications plan for roll out.

Thank you to many other Community partners, advisors, and volunteers who have helped to guide and build this system.

- Microsoft volunteers (from 2020 Summer Hackathon and after):
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 - Heather Suchobrus
 - Jacquelyn Krones
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 - Jian Ma
 - Julie Meyer
 - Kevin Braiden
 - Kimberly Ly

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- Marie Robbins
- Mehar Nangia
- Michael Amoako
- Natalie Fetsch
- Natalie Cardinali
- Pablo Castro
- Sarah Berglin
- Sejin Park
- Tareq Humphrey
- Tyler Mays-Childers
- Yvonne Chan