JISC DATA DISSEMINATION COMMITTEE
Friday, December 3, 2021, 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Zoom Teleconference
URL: provided via invite

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present:
Judge John Hart, Chair
Judge Scott Ahlf
Judge Kathryn Loring
Ms. Barbara Miner
Judge Robert Olson
Ms. Paulette Revoir
David Reynolds
Judge Lisa Worswick

AOC Staff Present:
Phil Brady, Contracts Manager
Spencer Cearns, Vendor Relations Coordinator
Kevin Cottingham, Data Dissemination Administrator
Michael Keeling, ISD Operations Manager
Jan Nutting, Public Records Officer
Maureen Roberts, MSD Administrative Secretary

Guests Present:
Jonica Couweleers, AEJG
Kim Gordon, AEJG
Kate Sigafoos, AEJG
Anthony Powers, Seattle Clemency Project
Heidi Percy, Snohomish County Clerk

0. Call to Order

Judge Hart called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on December 3, 2021. All present were welcomed. Judge Hart needed to temporarily excuse himself and requested that Judge Ahlf preside over the meeting in his absence.

1. August 27, 2021, Meeting Minutes

It was moved and seconded that the August 27, 2021, meeting minutes be approved as written. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Request from American Equity & Justice Group

Data Dissemination Administrator Cottingham presented a request from American Equity & Justice Group in conjunction with the Seattle Clemency Project regarding the contract used for the annual hackathon run by the groups. In the Hackathon, statisticians and other professionals analyze bulk data to determine trends in criminal justice. Only public, non-sealed criminal data is used, and all participants have signed confidentiality agreements.

Ms. Gordon stated that the request is open to proposals and modifications. The goal of the project is to understand what happens with shared data and how it affects the system at large. The dashboard portion of the request has already been approved and it is agreed that personal identifiers will not be disseminated.

DDA Cottingham stated that the issue at hand arises from Section 6 of the standard data dissemination contract. The current language requires that AOC sign data sharing agreements with every single individual with access to the data outside of AEJG, a requirement that could present issues given the scale of participation. Because the data being provided is public, AOC seeks to determine if the DDC would be amenable to allowing AEJG to submit confidentiality agreements unilaterally signed by participants instead. Ms. Gordon was asked if aggregate data would suffice, but stated that she wants consultants to be able to validate methodology by working with raw data.

Ms. Sigafoos stated that confidentiality agreements are held for each of the volunteers participating in the Hackathon.

DDA Cottingham identified details of the request. This request will cover information from all counties but King County. As of July 15, 2019, King County moved to a new case management system and King County case information is no longer in SCOMIS. King County data is being transferred to AOC, but work is still underway to test and verify the data so it can be reported.

Ms. Gordon outlined the Microsoft checks and balances, as all AEJG volunteers are employed by Microsoft, and said that legal guidance has been provided by Perkins Coie and Davis Wright Tremaine. Results of this research, in the long term, are intended to benefit anyone trying to understand the way court decisions play out.

Judge Worswick asked if identifiers will be stripped before data is made available for the Hackathon. Ms. Gordon replied that the Hackathon volunteers need the raw data to be able to compare and validate the methodology used. Judge Worswick confirmed that Hackathon participants will all presently work under confidentiality agreements managed by Microsoft. Ms. Miner reviewed the date range and data involved, which will be all superior court adult criminal records available back to 1978.

Mike Keeling asked whether this request will be one-time in nature, and Ms. Gordon replied that additional requests will be made to update the dashboard. Researchers will use 21 years of sentencing information from the Caseload Forecast Council to compare with AOC data. Work will be carried out behind the scenes to match person data and be sure the data are validated.

Ms. Miner and DDA Cottingham discussed the way court data would be matched with the CFC data. The defendant's name will be assigned a token so researchers can see if the names/tokens correspond.

After discussion, DDC Cottingham presented three options:

- DDC may allow data access under individual confidentiality agreements rather than requiring individual contracts.
- DDC may allow access under confidentiality agreements but require AOC to provide only data but with personal identifiers removed.
- DDC may disallow modification of the agreement and require AOC approval and contract for every participant.

Judge Loring moved to adopt the first option, and the motion was seconded by Judge Worswick.

Ms. Miner asked for clarification of the second option, and Mr. Cottingham explained that the second option would involve removing identifiers and providing only deidentified information.

Judge Hart called the question, asking the Committee to approve modification of the AEJG contract to allow data access to individuals who have signed confidentiality agreements. All voted in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.

Judge Hart thanked the Committee and moved to other business.

Other Business

Mr. Brady introduced Maureen Roberts, a new employee of the Administrative Office of the Courts, who will assist in supporting this Committee going forward.

DDA Cottingham is still collecting comments regarding modification to content offered through JABS. The current time estimate is 300 hours for the work required, so the project must be routed through the ITG process.

In addition, DDC Cottingham informed the Committee that discussion related to the Violence Against Women Act will be on a future agenda.

The December 3, 2021 DDC meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m. The next DDC meeting will take place in February 2022.