

Pretrial Working Group Meeting Minutes (10-24-2025)

Author: Matt Hono, IMRP

Date: 10/24/2025

Topic: Pretrial Working Group Kick-Off Meeting

Attendees: Daniel Karpowitz, Kevin Neary, Rich Sparaco, Sachin Pandya, Matthew Hono, Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Brian Sperry, Andrew Clark, Kathryn Bare, Brittany LaMarr, Lydia Wileden, Judge Robin Pavia, Christian Isidoro, Renee LaMark Muir, John Delbarba, Owen Smyth

1) House Keeping

- Agreed upon reoccurring meetings at 1:30 PM (one hour) for the pretrial working
- Finalizing membership
 - Agreed upon a data analyst from CJIS would be a good addition to the group
 - Contain membership to allow for manageable meeting

2) Defining Measures of Pretrial Success

- **Sachin Pandya** emphasized the need to define clear measures of success for pretrial detention and bail reform (consensus measures)
 - What metrics are we using?
 - How do we measure success?
 - What data is needed to support these definitions?
- **Bryan Sperry** raised the importance of long-term data access, including:
 - Potentially accessing non-public data to describe system impacts
 - Offered to work on an overview of what data exists currently in separate data systems and what work has been done already to link sources to create the story of how a person moves through the pretrial system
- **Rep. Renee LaMark Muir:**
 - Not seeking specific cases or defendants.
 - Focus is on aggregate, de-identified data.
 - Anecdotal examples may be useful but not central.
- Agreement that some definitions already exist, but we need to:
 - Share understanding across the group.
 - Avoid “recreating the wheel.”
- **Lydia Wileden** emphasized that the team should identify and document shortcomings and outliers not captured by current metrics.
- **Judge Pavia**
 - Highlighted the need to better understand aspects of the data that raise questions (e.g. last slide in Sachin’s presentation CTSC presentation that showed that many bonds are increased while a person is already in DOC custody - work needs to be done to understand this trend)

3) Cataloging Questions to Guide Thinking

- Agreement was held that in-between meetings members should think about guiding questions and thoughts on pretrial and share with the group
- **Judge Pavia:**
 - What are the mechanisms where a defendant might have their bond raised during DOC custody?
 - Who are the individuals held facing only misdemeanors who are held pretrial?
- **Rep. Renee LaMark Muir:**
 - Have we already done bail reform? Has it been working? Is the problem system level? Has the system not adopted reforms?
 - **Matt Hono** raised the idea that this might be the case due to 10% cash bail not being used often at the arraignment level
 - Why does a case disposition take as long as it does? Reasons for 18 months from arraignment until case disposition?
 - Exploring the intersection of mental health programming in the community and pretrial detention.
 - Will funding community mental health help address pretrial detention?
- **Undersecretary Karpowitz:**
 - Don't pretrial detention (imprisonment) numbers need to be represented as a sub-portion of the larger universe of which they are a part?
- **Deb Sullivan and John Delbarba:**
 - Who are the defendants held on low bonds?
 - Sullivan highlighted that work to identify and release individuals on low bonds was already undertaken during COVID

4) 2025 Legislative Session:

- Prepare for legislative engagement and use these meetings to educate ourselves and be prepared for impending legislation
- Prevent unintended consequences of potential legislation
 - Ensure evidence-based proposals.
- Rep. Lamark Muir outlined that any piece of legislation worked on by this group may not be need to be completely finalized by February - work can continue in legislative negotiations

5) Proactive Monitoring of Those Held on Bond

- **Sachin Pandya** floated the idea that:
 - We could build a simple tripwire using public DOC data to flag atypical pretrial detention. A small program would run daily, checking whether any (masked) inmate is being held on a low bond amount but has exceeded a

threshold detention duration. For each match, it would issue an alert. We'd then unmask the inmate ID, match it to a name, and flag the case for review—capturing key details and patterns over time. This could help surface concerning cases and inform stakeholders.

- Questions around how to define a low bond, what is an abnormally long period of pretrial detention, and which body would investigate these cases

6) Next Steps:

- **All:** Review the draft charge of the working group
- **All:** Consider development of standardized measures of, at minimum,
 - (1) the rearrest rate for a safety-related crime,
 - (2) the failure-to-appear prosecution rate, and
 - (3) days held in detention.
- **Bryan Sperry:** Draft an overview of what data sources are available and what metrics are collected to tell the story of a person moving through the pretrial system
- **Matt Hono:** Work to create a document that outlines thematic questions with discussion underneath, the working group charge, and history of bail legislation/reform work in CT