**Washington State Criminal Sentencing Task Force**
**Sentencing Effectiveness Working Group – Grid Subgroup**
**Meeting Summary: February 22, 2021**
Zoom Digital Conferencing Technology

**Attendees:**

- Russ Brown (alt. for Jon Tunheim), *Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys*
- Chief Gregory Cobb, *Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs*
- Representative Roger Goodman, *Washington State House of Representatives, Democratic Caucus*
- Lauren Knoth (research/data support), *Washington Institute for Public Policy*
- Melody Simle (alt. for Suzanne Cook), *Statewide Family Council*
- Clela Steelhammer (research/data support), *Caseload Forecast Council*
- Nick Straley (alt. for Nick Allen), *Interests of Incarcerated Persons*
- Jon Tunheim, *Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys*
- Waldo Waldron-Ramsey, *Interests of Incarcerated Persons*
- Judge Josephine Wiggs-Martin, *Superior Court Judges Association*

**Guests:**

- Matt Landon, *Statistical Analysis Center at Office of Financial Management*
- David Trieweiler

**Facilitation Team:** Amanda Murphy, Molly Stenovec, Hannah Kennedy, and Maggie Counihan

**WELCOME & AGENDA REVIEW**
Amanda welcomed Grid Subgroup (Subgroup) members and briefly reviewed the agenda.

**CRIMINAL HISTORY SCORE RESEARCH**
Matt Landon, from the Office of Financial Management's Statistical Analysis Center (SAC), walked the Subgroup through his current research on Washington's criminal history score. A prior study by the Council of State Governments found that Washington's criminal history score did not correlate with recidivism in fiscal year 2015. SAC's research will focus on the following questions:

- Are the Council of State Governments' finding consistent over other fiscal years? SAC will expand the timeline of analysis over a 10-year period (2005-2015).
- Which multipliers or elements of Washington's criminal history affect the predictive validity for recidivism?
- If possible, how are multipliers applied across demographics (e.g., race/ethnicity, gender, etc.) and geography?

Matt plans to use WSIPP's criminal history database, Caseload Forecast Council (CFC) data, and Department of Corrections (DOC) datasets. He is also working with various courts to access their data and will use a five-year follow-up period to assess recidivism. Matt hopes to complete his analysis in May or June of 2021.

Subgroup questions, comment, and responses are summarized below:

**Q:** Will Washington1 be included in this research? **R:** Washington1 only applies to people in DOC custody, though would not advise including it in this study due to the research timeframe. Furthermore, WSIPP is in the final stages of finalizing a contract to review Washington1.
**Q:** Will the research look at demographic disparities outside of multipliers? **R:** The research is primarily focused on multipliers.
**Q:** Will washout periods be included in the research, and if so how? **R:** Washout periods would have to be calculated in, but this is potentially doable. **C:** It would be interesting to see how often washout periods occur. The Subgroup would be interested in whether a washout period for a felony class contributes to disproportionality.

Subgroup members also expressed interest in seeing demographic data on juvenile adjudications and community supervisions, though others noted such data may be limited.

**Q:** The Subgroup has been grappling with how to address unranked offenses, will these be included in the research? **R:** Given the complexity of unranked offenses, Matt will work with WSIPP and others to figure out if and how best to include them in this analysis.

Matt and several Subgroup members discussed the difficulty in recalculating criminal history scores as researchers. Matt noted that while this study may not answer all the Subgroup and Task Force's questions, he hopes to build a code that can be used in subsequent studies to further explore criminal history scores in Washington.

**NEXT STEPS & ACTION ITEMS**

- **Lauren Knoth** will continue to provide support and feedback to Matt Landon as he navigates Washington's various criminal justice databases.
- **The Facilitation Team** will check-in with Matt Landon in a few weeks, inquiring about any additional updates or revisions to his criminal history score research.