

# Memorandum

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SUPREME COURT OF WISCONSIN  
OFFICE OF COURT OPERATIONS  
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*DATE:* September 10, 2008

*TO:* Interested AIM counties/representatives

*FROM:* Erin Slattengren, Special Projects Manager  
Danielle LeMieux, AIM Project Coordinator

*SUBJECT:* AIM Pilot Project Update

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Thank you for your continued interest in the Assess, Inform and Measure (AIM) pilot project. Many of you took part and played a critical role in developing the AIM concept early in the process. This Memo is to provide you with an update on the progress of this project.

Overview/refresher:

AIM is a process to:

- ❖ Provide the court with **valid and reliable information** that will have value in the case disposition process.
- ❖ Create a **process feedback loop** that provides information on the value of the information being provided to the court.
- ❖ Create an **outcome feedback loop** that provides information on case outcomes and validation of the screening/assessment process.

AIM pilot teams have created their own localized AIM process by selecting a target population, selecting their own assessment tools and establishing information sharing protocols to implement the process.

The base principles that guide all counties piloting AIM include:

- **Information provided to the judge must be predicated on evidence-based practices (established in research, literature and statistical reliability and validity).**
- **Information provided to the judge should be succinct, understandable and sufficient to assist him/her in the decision-making process.**
- **Persons conducting the assessments must be appropriately trained and adequately supervised.**
- **County pilot projects should select target populations and corresponding validated assessment tools that best meet their local needs.**

- **Although assessment tools and target populations are individualized by pilot counties; data collection, definitions and reporting methods must be consistent among all pilot sites.**
- **The across-site data collection and reporting mechanisms must not be enmeshed with local case management needs.**
- **Processes set in place for AIM across all sties must adhere to the above principles and meeting the project goals and objectives.**

#### Progress:

Over the last year, substantial progress in piloting the AIM process has been made. Representatives from the AIM pilot counties attended quarterly meetings to discuss how each pilot is implementing or planning to implement the central concepts of AIM in their county. Each county has chosen a target population and assessment tools. Four of the six pilots have moved to implementing the process. A data collection system is currently being developed for all pilot counties to use to create reports and track the AIM data. While this is development, AIM pilots are using a fillable AIM report template to provide the judges with the necessary information on the defendants. By implementing the process prior to the creation of the data collection software each county is gaining perspective on the different aspects of the project “testing” the process.

Last January, the Director of State Courts Office received grant funding form the private New York based the JEHT Foundation. Grant funding is being used to support the AIM pilot project in several ways including: the hiring of a state AIM Project Coordinator to provide logistical and programming support to the pilot sites, the hiring a software programmer to assist in the development of a web-based data collection tool for all AIM pilot counties to use to create front-end AIM reports and track outcomes of the project, and funds for training opportunities for the AIM counties and others interested in the AIM process and learning about evidence-based practices in the justice system.

#### AIM Project Coordinator:

The AIM Project Coordinator, Ms. Danielle LeMieux, is responsible for facilitating discussions among judges, AIM representatives, and county and state officials in order to further develop each county’s process and the overall AIM concepts. Ms. LeMieux works with both the pilot counties and interested counties to inform key individuals of the basic concepts of AIM and how to initiate those concepts within the framework of the county. The Project Coordinator provides hands-on assistance to the pilot counties when necessary, plans AIM meetings, and coordinates all aspects of the AIM project.

#### AIM Data Collection Software:

Ms. Slattengren and Ms. LeMieux are currently directly with the pilot counties and CCAP, to develop data collection software and common data measures that will be collected by all AIM pilot counties. Each participating county was consulted to obtain information on their process and data collection and this information will be used to assist the Software Developer in developing the web-based technology that will be used by the pilot counties and members of the AIM project to collect data on the AIM process. It is anticipated that a preliminary version of the data collection software will be available for county use by November. Ms. LeMieux will

then work with each county individually to learn help teams implement the data collection portion of the project within their process.

#### AIM Site Visit Conference:

Grant funds are being used to conduct a Site Visit Conference for participating AIM counties, the Effective Justice Strategies Subcommittee and other invited guests. The Director of State Courts Office, after researching risk assessment and evidence-based practices in sentencing processes, invited three jurisdictions to Wisconsin in order to present information on their initiatives. The first jurisdiction, the State of Missouri, incorporated a risk assessment of defendants into their newly remodeled PSI reports. The new reports allow judges to assess a defendant's risk to the community and the available sanctions in order to create the most beneficial outcome while still adhering to sentencing guidelines. Multnomah County, Oregon, another jurisdiction, created a database and sentencing support tools that allow judges to investigate different sentences for specific crimes and the outcomes those sentences have on similar individuals. Finally, the State of Virginia implemented a risk assessment as a way to reduce the prison population in the state. Judges are now able to review a defendant's risk to commit further crime in order to ascertain the best placement for the individual.

These jurisdictions will join the invited guests on Thursday, November 20, 2008 for the full-day conference in Madison and will provide members of conference with a comprehensive overview of their initiatives. Each jurisdiction will present information on their history, process and the lessons they have learned, thereby allowing those of us from Wisconsin to look more closely at our own developments and projects. After each jurisdiction's presentation there will be time for members of the conference to dialogue and ask pointed and in-depth questions of the jurisdiction's representatives. Those invited to the conference are limited to current AIM pilots, the PPAC Effective Justice Strategies Subcommittee members and those of you receiving this Memo who've shown or indicated an interest in AIM.

We are please by the progress and developments of this project to date and greatly appreciative of the hard work devoted by the pilot counties at this time. In the future, further developments on AIM can be found on the court's "Effective Justice Strategies" web site located at:

<http://wicourts.gov/about/organization/programs/alternatives.htm>

Click on the "AIM Project" tab for specific information about AIM.

Please do not hesitate to contact Danielle LeMieux, AIM Project Coordinator, by email at [danielle.lemieux@wicourts.gov](mailto:danielle.lemieux@wicourts.gov) or by telephone at (608)261-0680 if you have any questions or if your county is interesting in pursuing AIM further.

Thank you for your continued interest.