

AIM Overview

The AIM (Assess, Inform and Measure) pilot project is a process using valid risk, needs and community intervention assessments to provide the court with valid and reliable information on defendants that will have meaning in the case disposition process. The AIM process also includes the development of a “feedback loop.” The first component, the process feedback loop, provides information on the value of information being provided to the court. The next component, the outcome feedback loop, provides aggregate data back to the court and local criminal justice system about case outcomes, such as success/failure rates (recidivism) of the offenders targeted for this process and validation of the screening and assessment process.

Each of the six pilot counties has developed their own localized AIM process within the established base principles. The counties have identified their individualized target populations, selected validated assessment tools and established information sharing protocols and have begun providing the courts with AIM reports. Additionally, representatives from AIM pilot counties have been in contact with the Director of State Courts Office of Court Operations and the AIM Project Coordinator, Ms. Danielle LeMieux, to provide the AIM process with developmental feedback and process implementation information. All information will be kept on file to assist future counties in the development of the AIM process.

Recently Dane and Bayfield counties have joined the AIM pilot project. These counties are working to develop local adaptation of the statewide principles and are selecting county-specific target populations to conduct assessments on. Interested and new pilot counties work directly with Ms. LeMieux to develop a process that is feasible and concise as well as to address key areas of concern with the AIM principles and process.

AIM Software Implementation

With the assistance of funding from the JEHT (Justice, Equality, Human dignity and Tolerance) Foundation, the Wisconsin Court System has developed a web-based application to electronically collect information for the AIM pilot project. AIM pilot counties enter referral and assessment information into this web application. This information is then supplemented with public court records contained on the WCCA (Wisconsin Circuit Court Access) website. This information will be used to generate the AIM judicial report. Additionally, this web application is also able to provide aggregate administrative reports to be used for outcome analysis at both the local and state level.

In the last two months, Ms. LeMieux has begun training and implementation for the AIM web-based software. Three counties have already been trained in the software and have begun entering data, Eau Claire, La Crosse and Marathon. The remaining counties will be scheduled for training on an ongoing basis as their case workflow and county process development is finalized. Training for the AIM web-based software lasts approximately a day, but will vary by county based on the number of individuals who need training. All

software training is conducting onsite in the county by Ms. LeMieux and Mr. Trevor Kravick, of CCAP.

AIM Site Visit Conference

The Director of State Courts hosted the AIM Site Visit Conference on November 20, 2008 which provided AIM representatives from around the state with an opportunity to learn of similar initiatives across the country. The State of Virginia, Multnomah County, Oregon and the State of Missouri participated in the conference and spoke of their efforts to incorporate risk assessment and/or evidence-based practices into judicial sentencing practices.

These three jurisdictions provided thought-provoking information on the history, process development and outcomes for their unique endeavors. The State of Virginia provided a look at how sentencing guidelines were incorporated into a risk assessment process and the changes the criminal justice system has seen since the inception of the process. Multnomah County, Oregon presented detailed information on data collection and potential agency involvement in process implementation. Finally an informative discussion of agency cooperation and process development resulted from the State of Missouri's presentation.

AIM representatives will be able to discuss the various benefits and challenges the AIM process may encounter. The benefits include, but are not limited to, the use of data from the AIM web-based software to further the process in funding and state support. Challenges the AIM process face are initial buy-in and lack of substantial or appropriate program alternatives within individual pilot counties.

We are pleased by the progress and developments of this project to date and are 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 or by telephone at (608)261-0680 if you have any questions or if your county is interesting in pursuing AIM.