



**Committee on the Judiciary
The Honorable Brooke Pinto, Chairwoman
Council of the District of Columbia**

**Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
FY 2022 Performance Oversight Hearing**

Testimony of
Kristy Love
Interim Executive Director

Wednesday, February 15, 2023



Good morning, Chairwoman Pinto and members of the committee. I am Kristy Love, Interim Executive Director of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC), and I am joined by Shavonne Smith, CJCC's Agency Fiscal Officer. I am pleased to appear before you today to provide testimony on the agency's performance.

CJCC is an independent agency that serves as a forum for identifying challenges and generating solutions to enhance public safety and the fair administration of justice in the District of Columbia. Today, the CJCC is comprised of 22 staff across three divisions—the Information Technology team, the Statistical Analysis Center (SAC), and the Policy team, along with administrative and management staff.

CJCC's Executive Director and staff work on behalf of our 17 members, who span all three branches of government. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice are the Chair and Chair Pro Tempore of the CJCC, respectively; and Leslie Cooper, Director of the Pretrial Services Agency, currently serves as the federal co-chair.

Our members have identified four priority areas on which to focus the CJCC's efforts. They include: (1) Combating Violent Crime; (2) Juvenile Justice; (3) Substance Abuse and Mental Health; and (4) Adult Reentry. CJCC staff support our members in accomplishing their goals through our four core functions: (1) automated information sharing; (2) research and analysis; (3) interagency collaboration; and (4) training and technical assistance.

Automated Information Sharing

The CJCC facilitates automated information sharing through the Justice Information System—or JUSTIS. JUSTIS functions as the central hub for real-time information sharing among local and federal criminal justice agencies in the District. With millions of records and thousands of users across 30-plus agencies, JUSTIS plays an integral role in the District's justice system operations.

I am proud to say that CJCC's IT team has done an incredible job at ensuring JUSTIS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. And, during 2022, our IT team made notable strides to enhance the security and utility



of JUSTIS, including: (1) completing penetration testing of JUSTIS to identify and mitigate security vulnerabilities; (2) successfully completing a FISMA assessment; (3) reestablishing juvenile data sharing with Maryland; and (4) enhancing the user interface to include a new logo, dashboards, announcements and training materials.

The IT team also supported partner agencies in planning for and executing upgrades to their records management systems. It is important to note that when an agency that contributes data to JUSTIS makes changes to its system, CJCC must modify JUSTIS to accommodate the changes, and recipient agencies must modify their systems as well. Given the interconnectedness of partner agencies' systems and JUSTIS, CJCC often plays a project management role to help facilitate system upgrades for our partners.

Research and Analysis

CJCC is home to the District's Statistical Analysis Center—or the "SAC"—which is responsible for collecting, analyzing, and reporting information about crime and justice in the District. In 2022, the SAC generated 195 research and analytical products, including some that were regularized reports and others that were extensive, multi-year projects.

For example, the SAC conducted analysis to keep our members abreast of violent crime trends. This included updating the Risk Terrain Modeling analysis to determine spatial attractors for shootings, robberies and carjackings; a monthly analysis of homicide and violent gun crime trends; and a monthly Gun Violence dashboard that includes trends regarding incidents, arrests, papering, and dispositions for gun-related offenses.

The SAC also conducted analysis to inform decisionmaking regarding system-involved youth. This included: the monthly Juvenile Justice Data Committee report; and analyses of juveniles arrested for carjackings, juvenile police stops, and the extent to which individuals arrested as juveniles were later arrested as adults.



Interagency Collaboration

From its inception, the primary mission of the CJCC has been to facilitate collaboration. During FY22, we convened 153 meetings across 13 committees to facilitate collaboration regarding our priority areas and JUSTIS.

We also facilitated a number of multi-agency efforts, including: monitoring the justice system involvement of individuals at high-risk of engaging in gun violence; leading the Interdiction and Criminal Justice Workgroup for the District's Live.Long.DC initiative; establishing electronic flags in JUSTIS to identify sealed and expunged records; and supporting DC Superior Court's efforts to migrate its records management system to the cloud.

Training and Technical Assistance

Another one of CJCC's core functions is to provide training and technical assistance to help inform partners' decisions regarding challenging issues, such as the rise in gun violence. We engaged the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR) to conduct a gun violence problem analysis to identify the key drivers for gun violence in the District.

We then reengaged NICJR, in close partnership with the Office of Gun Violence Prevention (OGVP), to develop a gun violence strategic plan. The proposed plan includes 16 recommendations for reducing gun violence, with a particular emphasis on intervention. For example, the plan recommends that the District implement the Gun Violence Reduction Strategy (GVRs), an intervention approach that entails (1) identifying high-risk individuals; (2) respectfully informing these individuals of their risk; (3) helping to stabilize the individuals and then prioritizing them for intensive services, supports, and opportunities; and (4) if they persist in violent activity, taking appropriate law enforcement action. The District has already begun implementing several of the recommendations, and we look forward to supporting further implementation efforts.

We also convened three webinars and two public meetings during FY22, covering topics such as restorative justice, trauma-informed care, and the impact of social media on gun violence.



Looking Ahead

2022 was a year of change and refocusing for the CJCC. We had a change in agency leadership. We welcomed new members to the CJCC. We updated the CJCC MOA to refine the purpose of our committees and the method for selecting committee leadership. And our members identified specific efforts on which they would like each of our committees to focus.

Also on the horizon is CJCC's effort to migrate JUSTIS to the cloud, which will enhance the security, efficiency and utility of the system and reduce maintenance costs. We will implement Phase 1 of the cloud migration in FY23, which will entail an assessment of the current system and a proposed cloud solution. Phase 2 will begin in FY24, which will involve the actual cloud migration process.

As I close, I would like to publicly acknowledge the CJCC staff and our members for their ongoing commitment to our mission. There is a renewed energy among our partners on how to enhance public safety and the fair administration of justice in our beloved city, and I look forward to working alongside my colleagues, members and other stakeholders to achieve this goal.