



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

**Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
FY 2023 Performance Oversight Hearing**

Testimony of
Kristy Love
Executive Director

Wednesday, February 14, 2024



Good morning, Chairwoman Pinto and members of the committee. I am Kristy Love, Executive Director of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC), and I am joined by Fre Deresso, 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 18 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 Matt Graves, U.S. Attorney, 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) Violent Crime; (2) Juvenile Justice; (3) Substance Abuse and Mental Health; and (4) Incarceration and Community Corrections. 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.

For nearly two decades, CJCC's IT team has done an incredible job at ensuring JUSTIS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. And, to provide assurance to our federal partners that their data will be secured, the CJCC has voluntarily agreed to adhere to the requirements of the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA). CJCC periodically undergoes an independent audit to assess our



compliance with FISMA. As a result of the FY22 audit, JUSTIS was upgraded from a Medium security impact system to a High security impact system, which required the CJCC to implement nearly 100 additional security protocols for JUSTIS during FY23.

In addition to enhancing the security of JUSTIS, CJCC's IT team also refreshed end-of-life hardware and software, reestablished the juvenile data feed between Maryland and the District, supported partner agencies' cloud migration efforts, and, by the end of the month, we will have completed Phase 1 of the JUSTIS cloud migration project. Phase 1 of the project will deliver a roadmap for how we can most efficiently and effectively transition JUSTIS to the cloud. Phase 2, which we expect to initiate in late spring, will entail the actual migration, using the roadmap as the guide.

Also in 2024, the Information Technology Advisory Committee (ITAC), which serves as the primary governing body for JUSTIS, will institute a change management process. It is important to note that when an agency that contributes data to JUSTIS makes changes to its case management system, CJCC must modify JUSTIS to accommodate the changes, and recipient agencies must modify their systems as well. This often requires the CJCC and recipient agencies to dedicate considerable resources, such as hiring IT contractors and ensuring IT staff are available to support testing and deployment of the technology updates. Implementing a change management process will enable agencies to have more advance notice to determine what resources are needed for the project, and they will have an opportunity to communicate any impact the project may have on their operations before the project scope is finalized.

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 public safety and justice system operations. In FY 2023, the SAC generated 68 research and analytical products, including some that were routine reports and others that were extensive, multi-year projects.



The SAC conducts analysis to inform the work of the CJCC Principals and subcommittees across our four priority areas.

With respect to **violent crime**, the SAC updated the Risk Terrain Modeling analysis to determine spatial attractors for shootings, robberies and carjackings; conducted monthly analysis of homicide and violent gun crime trends; and generated a monthly gunshot wound incident and gun recovery report. In January 2024, the CJCC released the updated Gun Violence Problem Analysis, which identifies the key drivers of gun violence in the District. The problem analysis was led by the National Institute of Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR), in close collaboration with CJCC, MPD and OGVP. The results show that homicide and nonfatal shooting victims and suspects are primarily Black males in their upper 20s, where about 80 percent have previously been arrested and most have a prior conviction and a history of community supervision. The top two motives for homicides and shootings were personal disputes and group-related conflicts. Drug-related disputes, instant disputes and robberies and carjackings were also significant drivers.

Regarding **juvenile justice**, the SAC continued to generate the monthly Juvenile Justice Data Committee report, as well as ad hoc analyses such as time-of-offense for juveniles and the extent to which juveniles' first arrest was for a weapon or violent offense. Also, per Council legislation, the CJCC released an Analysis of School-Based Arrests, which showed that in recent years, less than 2 percent of all juvenile arrests were school-related. Also, whereas most school-related arrests were for simple assault prior to school year (SY) 19-20, more recent arrests have been for a variety of offenses, including property, release violation, and weapon offenses.

The SAC also conducted analysis to inform the work of our **incarceration and community corrections** and **substance abuse and mental health** portfolios. This included the monthly detained population census report, a READY Center evaluation, and an assessment of sanctions for parole and supervised release violators.

In FY24, the scope of the SAC's analytical responsibilities significantly increased as a result of Council legislation that requires the CJCC to report (1) monthly data on violent crime incidents and arrests and



(2) quarterly data on the full spectrum of the District's criminal justice and juvenile justice systems.

While this has been a particularly heavy lift for the SAC and our partner agencies, the CJCC is pleased to be part of an effort that increases transparency of the District's justice system. To meet the initial reporting requirement, the CJCC published 21 dashboards on our Justice Statistical Analysis Tool (JSAT) website (dcjsat.net), and we will continue to do so on a monthly and quarterly basis, as required. I would like to publicly thank the CJCC partner agencies that *voluntarily* provided the data that enabled us to generate the dashboards; they include: MPD, DC Courts, OAG, USAO, DOC, BOP, DYRS, PSA and CSOSA. We also look forward to receiving data from the DC Sentencing Commission in the future.

Interagency Collaboration

From its inception, the CJCC has identified facilitating interagency collaboration as one of our core functions. During FY23, we convened 136 meetings across 15 committees to facilitate collaboration regarding our priority areas and JUSTIS.

Through the work of our committees, the CJCC has helped to facilitate several multi-agency efforts, including: (1) the transition of the court's records management system to the cloud; (2) monitoring continued justice system involvement for individuals at high-risk of engaging in gun violence; and (3) determining how best to identify and provide appropriate services to prevent persons with substance abuse and mental health issues from cycling through the justice system.

While we have consistent and active participation across our committees, facilitating interagency collaboration is an area where the CJCC staff is seeking to advance. There are several best practices we can implement to enhance the collective impact of the CJCC. They include: (1) focusing on issues and challenges that are within the CJCC members' control; (2) ensuring CJCC members are invested in the decision-making process with respect to the work of the Principals and subcommittees; (3) identifying mutually reinforcing efforts across agencies to address specific challenges; and (4) identifying metrics that can be used to monitor progress toward collective goals. In addition to these best practices, I also look forward to receiving input from the CJCC members regarding how best our staff can support and facilitate coordination.



Training and Technical Assistance

Another one of CJCC's core functions is to provide training and technical assistance, both in the form of public meetings as well as webinars and information sessions. Public meetings provide District residents an opportunity to engage with justice system leaders on relevant and timely issues. Our webinars and information sessions typically include subject matter experts who share information on best practices for addressing specific challenges.

In FY23, our public meeting focused on the relationship between neighborhood blight and increased violent crime. We also hosted three webinars where experts shared ideas regarding: (1) use of risk assessments to inform decision-making at the front end of the juvenile justice system; (2) alternatives to incarceration and best practices for supporting high-risk youth; and (3) innovative housing programs for returning citizens.

Closing

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 sense of urgency around enhancing public safety in our city. We can achieve that goal if we remain focused on high-risk people and places, employ evidence-based crime reduction strategies with fidelity, and operate in the spirit of true collaboration, recognizing that no one agency, person or entity can enhance public safety on its own.