



MLC Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee

Workplan for 2021 - 2022

Co-Chairs: Rep. Shannon Roers Jones, North Dakota, and Sen. Robert Peters, Illinois
Vice Chair: Sen. John McCollister, Nebraska
MLC Staff: Derek Cantú, Policy Analyst

Mission/Goals

Established in 2017, the Midwestern Legislative Conference (MLC) Criminal Justice and Public Safety (CJPS) Committee is exploring a range of issues, including sentencing reform; strategies to reduce recidivism; the role and use of specialty courts; alternatives to incarceration; police and community relations; victims' rights; and more. The committee provides a forum to consider these issues affecting the states, and an opportunity to work cooperatively on projects of mutual interest. Meetings and communications help legislators gain a better understanding of the legislative process and how policy issues are addressed in other regional states.

Workplan

- **Hold two committee meetings**, in conjunction with the 2021 and 2022 MLC Annual Meetings in Rapid City, South Dakota, and Wichita, Kansas respectively.
- **Identify opportunities for the committee to partner with the CSG Justice Center** on issues of importance to Midwestern states and provinces; including meetings, webinars, research and/or reports.
- **Keep up-to-date on which criminal justice and public safety topics are of greatest interest** to the committee and respective states.
- **Distribute quarterly newsletters** describing committee happenings, updates from the CSG Justice Center, and criminal justice & public safety news of interest to the committee members.
- **Explore possible collaboration with other MLC committees** on topics of mutual interest to our members. Likely areas of collaboration could include mental/behavioral health services with the MLC Health & Human Services Committee, reentry and employment with the MLC Economic Development Committee, or education in jails and prisons with the MLC Education Committee.
- **Hold one or two webinars** on criminal justice & public safety topics between in-person meetings.
- **Develop policy resolutions**, when appropriate, to submit to the MLC on issues related to criminal justice and public safety.
- **Contribute articles** on committee activities or on issues of interest to committee members for the CSG Midwest monthly newsletter, *Stateline Midwest*.

Questions for consideration during July 2021 Meeting

- What topics would committee members like to see as possible webinar subjects?
- Are there any kind of work products, i.e. research reports, data reports, state-by-state comparisons that committee members would be interested in?