MLC Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee

Workplan for 2021 - 2022

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?