MAJIC Meeting Minutes 2024

Table of Contents

*(Click on page number to go directly to minutes for a particular meeting)*

[February 1, 2024 2](#_Toc165294775)

[February 15, 2024 5](#_Toc165294776)

[March 14, 2024 8](#_Toc165294777)

[March 28, 2024 10](#_Toc165294778)

[April 11, 2024 13](#_Toc165294779)

[April 25, 2024 16](#_Toc165294780)

MAJIC Meeting

# February 1, 2024

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| --- | --- | --- |
| * Helen Sharratt
 | Integrated Justice Coordinator | 1. Alaska Court System
 |
| **Lars Johnson** | Deputy PD | 1. Alaska Dept. of Admin, Public Defender
 |
| VACANT |  | 1. UAA AK Justice Information Center
 |
| Angie Rosales | Victim Witness Coordinator | 1. Anchorage Municipal Prosecutor’s Office
 |
| Josiah Jones, Casey Boe | APD IT Manager | 1. Anchorage Police Department
 |
| Brian Brossmer | Research Analyst | 1. Alaska Judicial Council
 |
| * Michal Bowers
 | PBK Coordinator | 1. Alaska Dept. of Law
 |
| VACANT |  | 1. Alaska DOT, Program Development
 |
| Major Steve Adams | Deputy Director, DPS AWT | 1. Alaska Association of Chiefs of Police (AACOP)
 |
| * James Dabbs-Ashworth

David Muise | Acting DP Manager | 1. Alaska Dept. of Corrections
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| Lauren WhitesideWade Long  | Driver’s Services | 1. Alaska DOA/Division of Motor Vehicles
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| Robert Nave | Protective Svcs Spec | 1. AK DOH, Division of Health Care Services, Background Check Program
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| Scott Stair | Investigator | 1. Alaska Dept., of Revenue, CIU
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| Desiree Downey | Traffic Records FARS | 1. Alaska DOT, AK Highway Safety
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| Dee Enoch  | Database Specialist | 24. Juneau Police Department |
| * Melanie Briggs

Miriam Freas, Demara Crim | Data Processing Mgr ORCA Analysts  | 25. Alaska DFCS/Office of Children’s Services |
| Beth Goldstein  | Deputy Director | 26. Alaska DOA/Office of Public Advocacy |
| **OTHER ATTENDEES**  |  |  |
| Haley Gorlick, DPS | Carol Scoles, ACS | Lance Morgan, Karpel |
| Rebecca Cain, ACS | Kyle Kranda, i3 | Anne Fajardo, ACS |
| Brodie Kimmel, ACS | Ryan Foley, i3 | Ina Mano, ACS |
| Melissa Toppin, ACS | Bridgit Grieme, DJJ | Brenda Axtell, ACS |
| Andrew Dougherty, ACS | Kara Southerland, DPS | Bonnie Hough, ACS |
| Terrance Haas, PD |  | Hanley Robinson, ACS |
|  |  |  |
| **LOCATION** | **TEAMS** |  |

**11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon**

1. **Electronic Charging Document Project (eCDP).**

The Alaska Court System and the Department of Law project teams discussed the status of the case initiation phase of this project. A significant amount of testing has been completed since UAT began in June 2023, with issues undergoing correction and re-testing as they are identified. Several missing data fields were added in January 2024. These will be tested this month. The team is in the process of implementing messaging regarding the status of the filing.

1. **Efile Project Update**

**Brodie Kimmel, eFile PM** reported that Anchorage and Palmer went live on January 1, 2024 with the criminal case type. The eFile and Case Management Teams were on-site at the Palmer and Anchorage courts providing roll out support during the month of January. Only Unalaska court remains paper-based for criminal case filing. It is anticipated that Unalaska will go live in the next few months.

1. **Alaska Court System Online Dispute Resolution (AK ODR) Pilot.**

The Alaska Court System has launched AK ODR.  Currently a pilot project for small claims and debt collection disputes, AK ODR provides participants with an online platform to negotiate their disputes directly with each other, or with the assistance of an online mediator.**Rebecca Cain, ODR Project Manager** provided an overview of this project and answered questions.

The program is accessed via a portal available 24/7. It can be used asynchronously so parties can use it whenever it is most convenient.  A link to the program is provided on the court system’s website. The program is available whether or not a person has a court case. Parties can message back and forth, and use a mediator to attempt to negotiate a resolution. If an agreement is reached, the program has template forms available, and parties can also request a court order. The judicial officer can access the agreement in the ACS document management system, and can also hold a hearing, if necessary, before entering a requested order. Currently the program is being piloted for small claims cases and civil debt cases under $100,000. The ACS is looking to expand the use of AK ODR for housing cases, including evictions.  The ACS is also considering the program’s feasibility for traffic cases. A number of states have used it for traffic, with a significant impact on reducing backlogged cases. There are currently five disputes active on the platform.

1. **Alaska Court System Digital Evidence Management Project.**

**Hanley Robinson, Administrative Attorney** provided an overview of the court system’s new pilot project to digitally collect, manage, and display evidence.

Evidence is presented via a web-based platform, and shared as needed electronically in the court room without risk of introducing viruses via the use of externally provided devices, such as thumb drives. This platform also provides a means of keeping track of exhibits, storing them in the electronic case file, and making them easily accessible. The platform will be piloted in Bethel at a district court proceeding in a few weeks. It will be used exclusively at trial and evidentiary hearings. The ACS will roll the platform out slowly and gradually over the next several months. Paper will still be allowed, but this platform will become the only electronic means of sharing evidence in the court room. Parties will access the court’s Wi-Fi using laptops, monitors, TV screens and tablets. All parties log in and the person presenting the evidence will be able to show it to parties, witnesses, and jurors. It will be used for all case types, although there may be challenges with minor offenses with lengthy police video.

Michal Bowers, Law commented that the court’s project is very different from the project underway at Law and DPS. That project focuses on providing a means for Law to be able to request and receive evidence electronically from law enforcement. Law also hopes to be able to use its platform to electronically submit exhibits needed for hearings to the court. The ACS, Law and AST are discussing whether and how this might be possible.

# February 15, 2024

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| Beth Goldstein  | Deputy Director | 26. Alaska DOA/Office of Public Advocacy |
| **OTHER ATTENDEES**  |  |  |
| Gina Turnbull, ACS | Carol Scoles, ACS | Lance Morgan, Karpel |
| Alicia Beach, PBK | Kyle Kranda, i3 | Anne Fajardo, ACS |
| Brodie Kimmel, ACS | Ryan Foley, i3 | Bonnie Hough, ACS  |
| Andrew Dougherty, ACS | Kara Southerland, DPS |  |
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| **LOCATION** | **TEAMS** |  |

**11:00 a.m. to 12 noon**

1. **Electronic Charging Document Project (eCDP)**

Project status – User Acceptance Testing for Phase 1, Case Initiation.

Law’s vendor reported that progress has been made to update the schema with changes recently identified as needed. Testing will resume once the updates are completed.

**2.   DMV’s Mobile Driver’s License Solution**

Alaska DMV has entered into a new Driver's License contract and is actively progressing towards implementing a mobile driver's license solution. While Alaskans will still be required to carry their physical driver's license, they will have the additional option to download a mobile version for added convenience. The mobile solution is expected to be available by the end of 2024.

This agenda item will be rescheduled.

**3.   Uniform Offense Citation Table (UOCT) and Charging Document Accuracy.**

**Anne Fajardo, CMS Analyst, and Helen Sharratt, Integrated Justice Coordinator, Alaska Court System (ACS),** provided and discussed examples of common charge errors seen on charging documents. Anne presented typical issues with offense data on charging documents via PowerPoint. The slides were shared with MAJIC members following the meeting. **Kara Southerland, Criminal Justice Planner, Department of Public Safety (DPS),** responsible for regularly updating and keeping the UOCT, joined Anne and Helen in providing information and input.

Officers and prosecutors are required to cite criminal offenses on charging documents as they are listed in the UOCT. Failure to do so contributes to errors and delays as criminal charges move from case initiation to disposition. These errors must be addressed before dispositions can be entered into the state’s criminal history repository. It is therefore important to refresh UOCT training as new officers or prosecutors join an agency.

The Alaska Court System recently implemented a judgment correction form and process for use by DPS only. DPS is using this process to submit notice of errors to the issuing court in cases where inaccuracies prevent entry of disposition data into the criminal history repository.  In order to minimize the number of judgment errors DPS needs to submit for correction, and the time it takes to make those corrections, it is critical to ensure that charging data is complete and correct at the beginning of the criminal case.

The presentation included how to access the UOCT, an overview of the UOCT’s content, and how to submit a request to update the UOCT. The presentation also covered other common errors seen on charging documents, such as missing defendant information, failure to add the domestic violence indicator at the charge level, and duplicate or incorrect arrest tracking numbers.

# March 14, 2024

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| Lars Johnson | Deputy PD | 1. Alaska Dept. of Admin, Public Defender
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| Andrew Gonzalez | Lead Researcher/Analyst | 1. Alaska Justice Information Center
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| Scott Stair | Investigator | 1. Alaska Dept., of Revenue, CIU
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| Desiree Downey | Traffic Records FARS | 1. Alaska DOT, AK Highway Safety
 |
| Lisa Purinton* Kara Southerland
 | SWS DirectorCriminal Justice Planner | 1. Alaska Dept. of Public Safety, AST
 |
| Stephen Mattson | Election Security  | 1. Alaska Division of Elections
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| Alexis Johnson | Homeless/Housing  | 1. Municipality of Anchorage (DHHS)
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| Kaela Watson  | Policy and Planning | 1. AK DOH, Division of Behavioral Health
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| Dee Enoch  | Database Specialist | 24. Juneau Police Department |
| Melanie BriggsMiriam Freas Demara Crim | Data Processing Mgr.; ORCA Analysts  | 25. Alaska DFCS/Office of Children’s Services |
| Beth Goldstein  | Deputy Director | 26. Alaska DOA/Office of Public Advocacy |
| **OTHER ATTENDEES**  |  |  |
| Andrew Dougherty, ACS | Carol Scoles, ACS | Lance Morgan, Karpel |
| Ina Mano, ACS | Kyle Kranda, i3 | Anne Fajardo, ACS |
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| **LOCATION** | **TEAMS** |  |

**11:00 a.m. to 12 noon**

1. **Electronic Charging Document Project (eCDP)**

Project status – User Acceptance Testing for Phase 1, Case Initiation.

Good progress with code updates has been achieved in the last two weeks. Changes have been made in the ACS’ document management system to accept data from Law into the new data fields that were needed and added. Full testing of the new fields can now get underway to ensure that the data successfully enters the ACS’ case management system.

**2.   Judgment Accuracy Project Updates**

Helen reviewed the updated project summary, which was provided to MAJIC members with today’s agenda.

Progress has included implementation of a judgment correction form for use by DPS; updating AST complaint template functionality to ensure the domestic violence indicator displays at the charge tracking number level; and a presentation to ACS clerks regarding the Uniform Offense Citation Table (UOCT) and disposition accuracy. The ACS and DPS are currently working on a presentation on common charging document errors for prosecutors and law enforcement.

# March 28, 2024

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| --- | --- | --- |
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| Melanie BriggsMiriam Freas * Demara Crim
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| Beth Goldstein  | Deputy Director | 26. Alaska DOA/Office of Public Advocacy |
| * Michael Chiesa
 | Chief Investigator | 27. AK, DEC, Environmental Crimes Unit |
| **OTHER ATTENDEES**  |  |  |
| Melissa Toppin, ACS | Becki Goggins, SEARCH | Brad Myrstol, AJiC |
| Ina Mano, ACS | Bridgit Grieme, DJJ | Anne Fajardo, ACS |
| Audrey Dean, CBJ Attorney |  |  |
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| **LOCATION** | **TEAMS** |  |

**11:00 a.m. to 12 noon**

1. **Alaska Justice Information Center (AJiC)**

AJiC’s mission is to compile, analyze, and report on criminal justice topics to policymakers and practitioners in order to improve public safety, increase criminal justice system accountability, and reduce recidivism.  **AJiC Director, Brad Myrstol, Ph.D**., provided an overview of the AJiC.

Brad encouraged MAJIC agencies to contact him with any research needs or requests. AJiC is one of only seven justice information centers in the US that is housed within a university. This ensures research independence. Brad provided a Power Point on the mission and work of AJiC. The slides were circulated to MAJIC members following his presentation. Recent research projects have focused on intimate partner violence, the use of deadly force by law enforcement in Alaska, homicide statistics, and Fetal Alcohol data.

AJiC also produces Fact Sheets and AJiC is working to improve these with infographics to make them more readable and visually accessible. The Center publishes interactive data dashboards on an external website. The dashboards, which include ACS case data, and DOC inmate data can be found here: <https://public.tableau.com/app/search/vizzes/ajic>

Upcoming projects include research regarding violence in Alaska’s communities, DV case processing using criminal history repository data, and missing person data.

1. **Criminal History Records**

**Becki Goggins, Director of Law and Policy, SEARCH** (the National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics) provided an overview of the beginnings and mission of SEARCH. SEARCH is a membership organization. Members are the criminal history repository agencies in each state or territory. DPS is the Alaska SEARCH member. SEARCH also works closely with prosecutors and courts on a variety of projects.

Among other strategies to improve the administration of justice, SEARCH supports and provides technical assistance for information-sharing, and criminal records systems needs nationwide.  SEARCH provided technical assistance during MAJIC’s strategic planning. SEARCH also provided technical assistance on the MOA-ACS proof of concept project for the electronic filing of charging documents.

Becki explained how criminal history and associated records are created and maintained by criminal history repositories, and the respective roles of courts, prosecutors and law enforcement agencies in contributing data.  She also described the process for conducting checks for firearms purchases through the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). In addition, Becki reviewed funding opportunities for states seeking to improve criminal history records. Becki’s Power Point presentation was provided to MAJIC members following her presentation.

**Announcements**

On March 28, 2024, Alaska’s Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Environmental Crimes Unit became the 27th member of MAJIC. Helen welcomed Michal Chiesa, Chief Investigator to the group.

# April 11, 2024

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| Kate Lampert, DMV |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **LOCATION** | **TEAMS** |  |

**11:00 a.m. to 12 noon**

1. **Electronic Charging Document Project (eCDP)**

There has been a recent hiatus in testing because Law’s recent system update deleted work needed for testing that the vendor needed to restore.

1. **eFile Updates**

The ACS reminded agencies that the ACS is in the process of implementing a new header on court issued forms. The header will be IN THE TRIAL COURTS FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA.  This form change is gradually being implemented across most forms.  The type of court and court location is determined from the case number, case code, and/or other areas of the form.

Agencies do not need to change their forms. This is only a change on court issued forms.

**3.   Judgment Correction Project**

The ACS has notified agencies that, as part of the ongoing efforts to ensure ATN accuracy and avoid duplication, prosecutors who decide to file charges after declining to file them for some time must file a brand new case using the same ATN.

The ACS reminded prosecutors and law enforcement to review the sample complaint form in Criminal Rule 3 to ensure that all required data is provided on agency charging documents, including DV indicator at the charge level.

The ACS and DPS has prepared a charging document accuracy presentation that may be helpful for police and prosecutors. The first presentation is scheduled for April 24, 2024.

1. **DMV’s Mobile Driver’s License Solution**

Lauren Whiteside, DMV’s Division Operations Manager introduced DMV’s new Driver License Program Manager, Kate Lampert.

Lauren announced that DMV has entered into a new Driver's License contract and is working to implement a mobile driver's license solution. While Alaskans will still be required to carry their physical driver's license, they will have the additional option to download a mobile version for added convenience. The mobile solution is expected to be available by the end of 2024.

Lauren emphasized that drivers who opt to have a mobile license will still need to carry their physical license on them. A number of states are piloting an electronic license but there no federally accepted mobile driver’s license yet. A lot of changes will be needed over a number of years in addition to universal acceptance, such as retail card readers, and changes in law.

DMV met with APD, CVE and AST at the beginning of this year to discuss forgery issues. Because security features are now five years old DMV is also making some security upgrades to the physical card that will not be outwardly apparent. Five years is a long time and affords criminals time to learn how get around security features. DMV continues to upgrade security features to protect person identity and the public

There will be a lot of publicity before a mobile license is made available, as well as training for law enforcement. The mobile license will be intuitive and information verification will not be as simple as just showing an image on a phone to an officer or retailer upon request, and a physical license will also continue to be required for the foreseeable future. Development has just begun and there is a lot to consider. DMV can return to MAJIC in a few months and provide a demonstration.

# April 25, 2024

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 | Chief Investigator | 27. AK, DEC, Environmental Crimes Unit |
| **OTHER ATTENDEES**  |  |  |
| Melissa Toppin, ACS | Brodie Kimmel, ACS | Lance Morgan, Karpel |
| Ina Mano, ACS | Erin Ignasiak, i3 | Anne Fajardo, ACS |
| Bonnie Hough, ACS | Gina Turnbull, ACS | Andrew Dougherty, ACS |
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| **LOCATION** | **TEAMS** |  |

**11:00 to 11:20 a.m.**

1. **Electronic Charging Document Project (eCDP) Update**

ACS is meeting next week to analyze the data received in a recently successful test. The issues encountered by Law following system migration are still being addressed, but progress has been made.

1. **eFile Updates**

The eFile team is testing an upgrade to the document management system (OnBase). Enhancements to the eFile portal (TrueFiling) are underway. These include a filing type search, and a check box and validation to be added to the defendant information in case initiation for criminal and minor offense case types. Currently the only defendant information required at case initiation is the defendant’s first and last name and APSIN ID. However, court rules require more information, and this will be required once the update is completed. The eFile team is also getting ready to pilot a process to import log notes into the document management system. The pilot courts are Unalakleet, Fairbanks, and Nome. Updates to the court room solution (Judicial Tools) have been requested that will make it easier for judicial officers and their staff to track hearings.

1. **Department of Environmental Conservation, Environmental Crimes Unit (ECU)**

Chief Investigator Michael Chiesa provided an overview of the ECU, discussed the types of crimes investigated, and the charges that result.  DEC has broad oversight for ensuring compliance with Alaska’s laws governing the health of water, land, and air. The ECU screens cases to determine if they present regulatory issues, or rise to the level of egregious criminal conduct. This is generally conduct that meets the definition of criminal negligence.

The ECU has two offices (in Wasilla and Anchorage) but responds to alleged criminal activity statewide. An assistant AG with OSP is assigned to the ECU, and is cross-designated with the US Attorney’s office. This means that the Assistant AG can handle cases involving both federal as well as state violations. In general, the federal government allows Alaska to have primacy as long as Alaska’s case is brought under laws that mirror federal law.

The types of cases ECU handles involve any number of diverse situations where land, air, and water are polluted, including waterways, food safety, the seafood industry, packaging, landfills, open burns, chemical discharges, hazardous waste dumping, oil spills, and drinking water contamination. A recent case involved an unlicensed sceptic system hauler who was releasing sewage into waterways. This case included charges addressing not only the polluting conduct, but also falsification of records and deceptive business practices. Often egregious conduct is motivated by economic benefit and lowering costs by not doing things legally to save money. It can also occur simply because in a large state like Alaska, violators think that no one is looking. Another case involved a drunk driver who crashed into an oil tanker, requiring both DUI and environmental charges. The ECU works with the DA in these types of cases. The ECU webpage provides a link for reporting violations, and reports can be anonymous.

Typically, environmental cases require lengthy and detailed investigation and collaboration with the EPA and the DA is sometimes needed. While the Department of Law often files criminal charges for the ECU, the ECU is getting up to speed on being able to file its own charging documents via the new eFile system.

The ECU also provides training for law enforcement on entry and search and seizure.  The ECU is part of a western states project which gathers the environmental departments of western states together for training opportunities. The ECU is also Red Cross certified to provide training on how to stop severe bleeding, and also on reversing opioid overdoses. The ECU is authorized to provide Naloxone training on behalf of Project Hope.

**4.   Judgment Correction Project**

The ACS and DPS made a presentation entitled Charging Document Accuracy to the City and Borough of Juneau’s Law Department, and the Juneau Police Department on April 24, 2024. The training was well received and prosecutors and the JPD database manager both reported that it was informative. It was suggested that providing this information, particularly regarding the UOCT and how to access and use it, would be very helpful for officers filing complaints. The ACS and DPS plan to make this presentation available to other law enforcement agencies and prosecutors in the coming months.