

Sheryl Wolcott

From: Ian Ferguson
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 2:20 PM
To: Sheryl Wolcott
Subject: RE: Racial Justice Act overview

Thanks Sheryl,

I will be taking a look at this this week and watching the training video.

I don't think this will require much in terms of outside expertise or assistance, but I may utilize Lourinda to help gather all the data initially and create custom reports.

Let me know when you would like to have a meeting and talk more in depth.

Thanks,
Ian

From: Sheryl Wolcott <swolcott@co.slo.ca.us>
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 12:18 PM
To: Ian Ferguson <iferguson@co.slo.ca.us>
Subject: Racial Justice Act overview

Hi Ian,

Here is the link for the CDAA training on the Racial Justice Act (it was held 12/18/20 "Answering the Call: Avoiding Bias in Prosecution"):

<https://www.cdaa.org/training/webinars/webinars-library/webinars-by-title/answering-the-call-avoiding-bias-in-prosecution>

(Once you log in from the link, it should take you right to the webinar page.) It's about 1 hour 49 minutes, and is a really good overview of the new law codified in Penal Code section 745 which will require us to pull statistics and provide some analysis in response to motions filed under this section.

For our office, our plan is to put together a working group headed by me which will include DDAs and you, to start mapping out what will be needed to respond to these motions. I'm thinking that the main tasks of the group will include:

- 1) Study the law and have some designated attorney subject matter experts
- 2) Determine our data collection resources/capacity, and approach/practices
 - a. Including: Determine our date interpretation resources (experts from Cal Poly?)
- 3) Communicate with the Justice Partners Group (court, defense, prosecution) to talk about what process should be followed to litigate these motions (including, what if it is the court's conduct which is questioned.)
- 4) Look at best practices to remove implied bias moving forward (e.g. Yolo DA has a way to remove references to race in the cases they review for filing.)

Our first step is that Dan is working on an office policy statement that he will issue (reiterating that we do not base any decisions based on bias), and then we will put together the working group.

Thanks
-Sheryl

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