

ADOPTED
09/17/2015

CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

No. 2015-01

Resolution Regarding the Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative

Resolution

1 **RESOLVED**, That the Connecticut Sentencing Commission partner with The Pew-
2 MacArthur Results First Initiative and utilize the Results First approach when evaluating
3 sentencing policies, practices, and programs.
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Report

1. Program Background

The Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative, a project of The Pew Charitable Trusts and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, works with eighteen states and four California counties to implement an innovative cost-benefit analysis approach that helps them invest in policies and programs that are proven to work. Results First partners use data from evidence-based programs to conduct cost-benefit analyses and compare programs' likely return on investment. The process helps policy-makers make informed decisions to fund effective programs. In Connecticut, the Results First Initiative is staffed by the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy at Central Connecticut State University, which also provides staffing resources for the Sentencing Commission.¹

2. Results First and the Commission's Mandate

The Connecticut Sentencing Commission's enabling legislation (C.G.S. Sec. 54-300) requires that the Commission:

- Facilitate the development and maintenance of a state-wide sentencing database;
- Evaluate existing sentencing statutes, policies and practices including conducting a cost-benefit analysis;
- Act as a sentencing policy resource for the state;
- Evaluate the impact of pretrial, sentencing diversion, incarceration and post-release supervision programs;
- Perform fiscal impact analyses on selected proposed criminal justice legislation; and
- Make recommendations concerning criminal justice legislation

The Results First Initiative is uniquely situated to assist the Commission with these mandates by extending its expertise in collecting and utilizing program data in the criminal justice arena, conducting the required quantitative analyses, and providing the evaluations and evidence for making informed budget and policy decisions.

Using the Results First model, we can:

- Evaluate evidence-based or research-based programs;
- Provide the tools to assess the effectiveness of programs;
- Estimate a return on investment for each program evaluated;

¹ "An Overview of the Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative," July 2015.

Provide the necessary information to conduct fiscal impact analyses on proposed legislation; and

Share resources of the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy.