

The State of Connecticut MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge Initiative

CJPAC Meeting – September 24th 2015

Project Goals:

To reduce the number of individuals held in jail detention, reduce the length of stay in jail detention, and create reforms that eliminate racial disparities in the criminal justice system.

Project Update May 2015 – September 2015:

The MacArthur Foundation assigned the Center for Court Innovation (CCI) to serve as a technical assistance project facilitator. CCI facilitated six multi-agency planning sessions that consisted of;

Collaborative inter-agency planning workgroups with participants from the following agencies;

- The Office of Policy and Management, Judicial Branch Community Support Services Division, Department of Correction, Division of Criminal Justice, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Office of Chief Public Defender, Local Law Enforcement, MALTA Justice Initiative

Deliverables created for submission to the MacArthur Foundation;

- Developed a cross-agency data template of Calendar Year 2010 through 2014 data on arrests, bail status, court process, and sentencing.
- Developed a system flow chart to identify major decision points from arrest through jail detention

CCI also expanded planning efforts to collect additional feedback by;

- Incorporating a tour of the New Haven jail as a group
- CCI led four focus groups to collect additional insight for the project. The focus groups included; Community Non-profit Advocacy Organizations, Victim Advocacy Non-Profit Organizations, Judges, and Local Law Enforcement

Project Next Steps October 2015 – December 2015:

- CCI will review the data template and system flow chart to recommend specific decision points to consider for implementation funding.
- Research consultants (City University of New York) will visit Connecticut agencies to review data sources and prepare baseline data for measuring future reductions in jail population.
- Multi-disciplinary team will draft an implementation plan to reach a MacArthur established target benchmark of **15-19% reduction** in jail population over a three year period.
- As of 6/30/2014 Pre-trial Population: 3,511 and Sentenced “Jail” Population (one year or less): 1,190

Multi-agency planning group will explore strategies and prepare estimates of reform impact for;

- **No Entry and Alternatives to Arrest:** No entry policies and practices, street-level diversion, prevention and intervention services.
- **Agency Administrative Efficiencies:** Greater inter-agency collaboration, revise existing process and procedures to reduce length of detention, improve case tracking, improve information sharing; and other administrative efficiencies.
- **Improve access and referral to treatment for MH and SA offenders:** community-based services and diversion.
- **Bail:** Reduce utilization of monetary bonds.
- **Training:** Expansion of implicit bias training and community resource training.