

The State of Connecticut MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge Initiative
CJPAC Meeting – April 28th 2016

Project Goals:

To safely 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.

MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge:

The State of Connecticut was awarded **\$2.5 million in grant funds** from the **MacArthur Foundation** for a demonstration initiative to achieve **18% reduction in jail population** (816 fewer individuals) within a **two year grant period** (July 2016 through June 2018). The proposal was developed over a **six month planning period** with participation from multiple agencies – state and local criminal justice agencies, local police, and advocacy organizations. The initiative includes a coordinated set of strategies focused on the major decision points leading to jail incarceration; Arrest and Pre-Arrestment.

MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge Participants:

The Safety and Justice Challenge Work Group is a collaborative inter-agency planning team with participants from the following agencies;

The Office of Policy and Management
Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division
Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services
Hartford Police Department

Department of Correction
Division of Criminal Justice
Office of the Chief Public Defender
Malta Justice Initiative

Project Next Steps:

The Safety and Justice Challenge Work Group will continue to meet regularly to complete the following deliverables for the MacArthur Foundation within the next quarter;

- Execute a Data Use Agreement
- Finalize the Project Budget and update the project timeline
- Collaborate with ISLG to create baseline performance measures

To assist Connecticut with the implementation of project initiatives the MacArthur foundation assigned two national technical assistance providers;

The Center for Court Innovation (CCI) - will serve as the primary project technical assistance facilitator.

The City of New York Institute for State and Local Governance (ISLG) – will serve as the primary data project facilitator.

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Summary of Project Strategies:

Arrest Decision Point

Deflect individuals from the arrest point and reduce arrest of low risk offenders via evidence-based community policing strategies.

- **Hartford Alternative to Arrest Project (HAAP):** An alternative-to-arrest strategy piloted in The City of Hartford to deflect low risk high need offenders from custodial arrest into community-based mental health care, addiction treatment, and social services. The pilot works in coordination with Governor Malloy's Second Chance Initiative to provide tools, resources, and services to reduce risk of future re-arrest and incarceration. HAAP will be piloted in the Hartford neighborhoods of Barry Square, South Green, and Frog Hollow. The projects goal is to reduce custodial arrests in the pilot neighborhoods by 51% over a two year period.

Arraignment Decision Point

Reduce unnecessary pre-trial detention through the development of alternative interventions and case processing improvements to streamline the arraignment process.

- **Collaborative Ongoing Review Team (CORT):** Collaboration between the Division of Criminal Justice and Office of Chief Public Defender to identify low risk defendants who do not warrant pre-trial incarceration and who are likely to benefit from an alternative resolution model. Strategy will reduce the use of pre-trial incarceration in the New Haven Pilot Site by 20% in two years. (150-200 defendants). Reduce overall Length of Stay by two weeks through streamlining of court procedures.
- **Jail Diversion Substance Abuse (JDSA) Program:** Expand JDSA contracts to increase the number of defendants in New Haven court that have access to court-based diversion detox and residential treatment. This will help to reduce the use of pre-trial detention for eligible applicants. 95 defendants will be diverted from jail and will receive substance abuse treatment and services within the community.

Cross Agency Training and Evaluation Initiative

Develop specialized training components to serve as a foundation for implementing street-level deflection strategies, pre-arraignment case processing improvements, and support efforts to reduce racial disparities.

- **Cross-Agency Training and Systems Improvement:** Provide cross-agency training class to expand the utilization of street level deflection strategies and pretrial diversion options through awareness and education regarding interventions and services can reduce criminal behavior, arrest, and jail admission. 300 individuals from the criminal justice agencies and other stakeholders will participate in the cross agency training initiative in Bridgeport, Hartford, and New Haven.
- **Implicit Bias Training:** Expand the CT Commission of Racial and Ethnic Disparity Implicit Bias training for police, prosecutors, public defenders, community providers and key decision makers in the cities of Bridgeport, Hartford, and New Haven. 300 individuals from the criminal justice agencies and other stakeholders will participate in the cross agency training initiative.
- **Assessment of Racial Disparities:** Conduct an evidence based analysis of racial disparities and disproportionality at key decision points within the criminal justice system.