



# Criminal Justice Council Website

In December of 2017, the Criminal Justice Council website was created to increase transparency between the Council and the public. The website features current initiatives, grants, and partnerships, as well as the names of current Council members and links to their respective websites. The CJC website also contains past meeting agendas and minutes, a Google calendar with future meeting information to sync with personal calendars, and detailed instructions on how to register to make a public comment before the Council.



The CJC Website also features interactive data and dashboards created with historical data from six surrounding police departments and the Dane County Sheriff's Office. The data covers arrest demographics, arrest trends, and Dane County Jail populations. The data sets will be continually updated as new data is made available.

You can find the website at: <http://cjc.countyofdane.com>

## 2018 Budget

For the 2018 budget, the Dane County Executive has proposed \$100,000 to be allocated towards a comprehensive review of existing mental health services in the community. The current mental health service system, provided by both public and private funders, will be reviewed to identify needs, gaps, and solutions to address a growing concern regarding a lack of adequate and appropriate services to address the needs of those struggling with mental illness and to divert them from the criminal justice system. The Executive also proposed funds to support the National Association of Mental Illness (NAMI) Dane County to further train and prepare front line responders and medical personnel on skills to successfully interact and diffuse mental health crises. Additionally, the budget funds the consolidation of jail facilities into a single facility that reduces the number of jail beds by nearly 100, vastly improved conditions, and space for mental health programming. The County Board added to the budget training for 911 communicators and increased expenditures for the mental health review to include a racial equity analysis.

## Public Safety Assessment

In March of 2017, Dane County began to implement the Public Safety Assessment (PSA), a risk assessment tool developed by the Laura and John Arnold Foundation based on predictive factors regarding whether released defendants' would fail to appear at court and engage in either new criminal activity and/or new violent criminal activity. The tool is used during initial court appearances to make accurate, efficient, and evidence-based decisions on whether a defendant should be detained prior to trial or released to the community. Within a month, 319 individuals had received the PSA. The PSA is a nationally-validated, race-neutral instrument currently utilized by 30 other jurisdictions.

Dane County's use of the PSA will be evaluated by Harvard University's Access to Justice Lab in a multi-year, randomized control trial. The Dane County Criminal Justice Council is the **first county** to partner with the Access to Justice Lab for an intensive, multi-year study of the PSA and outcomes. Outcomes measured will include:

- Length of stay
- Racial and ethnic disproportionality
- Cultural shifts within the criminal justice system

# Data Driven Initiatives

Building integrated datasets and subsequent data analysis are essential elements of informed decision-making. At the direction of the Criminal Justice Council, work continues on several data efforts that began in 2017. The Data Sharing Feasibility Study, the Data Driven Justice Initiative, as well as the implementation of the training received during the Applied Data Analytics Program, are carried into 2018 with continued focus on addressing issues of public safety and transparency in the Dane County criminal justice system.

Along with cross agency data sharing, a top priority has been to identify residents who are considered high utilizers of the jail and other agencies using historical data. To that end, agencies participating in the data-sharing feasibility study continue to work with the Dane County Criminal Justice Council research team by providing the necessary data to complete the initial review of high utilizers. This will enable continued efforts such as Sequential Intercept Modeling of community resources and identification of high utilizers at each step.

A graduate course, as part of the UniverCity program, provided foundational work on broad cross system integrated data. A further data project of interest included in the 2018 budget is as part of the mental health study, an analysis of the demographics, including race, ethnicity, age, and gender of likely clientele of a potential crisis restorative center based on modeling of eligibility criteria using actual Dane County data.

In December 2017, the CJC endorsed plans to work collaboratively with the City of Madison to reduce the use of the Dane County Jail (see National League of Cities article below). As we look forward, the Criminal Justice Council will be moving to more continuous and timely data sharing. The CJC continues to look for system improvements via data sharing and analysis. As research and analysis expands and improves, so too will the ability to share data effectively via new dashboards and data reports.

## Collaboration: National League of Cities

In December of 2017, the City of Madison presented their work with the National League of Cities (NLC) in reducing the use of jails. The presentation represented their work with the NLC grant to reduce the city's use of jail space. The Dane County CJC research team will collaborate with the City of Madison's effort to reduce the overall jail population and increase racial equity in criminal justice by implementing data driven policy changes that reduce the number of arrests by focusing on diversion from the criminal justice system and instead utilizing community-based strategies.

Next steps include diving into three-year historical data starting in January of 2018, reporting back to the Criminal Justice Council, and adding a representative from the Mayor's Office as an advisory member of the Council.



# Community Conversation: Implicit Bias



From left to right: Madison Police Department's Jared Prado, Perception Institute's Rachel Godsil and William Snowden lead the Community Conversation on Race and Criminal Justice at Fountain of Life Church | Photo by: Amanda Carrizales

In December of 2017, the Criminal Justice Council partnered with the Perception Institute to lead a two-part event on implicit bias and racial anxiety, funded by the Department of Justice and coordinated by Jerrett Jones of Public Health Madison and Dane County and Colleen Clark-Bernhardt of Dane County. The Perception Institute is an organization based in Washington, D.C., that is dedicated to using research to help reduce bias and discrimination. A community conversation took place December 14th at the Fountain of Life Church, where national experts led a workshop followed by scenarios presented by the Madison Police Department outreach team. The next day at the Madison Police Department Training Center, criminal justice stakeholders engaged in presentations that explored the science of implicit bias, its impact on decision-making in the criminal justice system, and evidence-based strategies to combat it. The stakeholders also had an opportunity to engage with a panel of youth who have been involved with the criminal justice system.



Jones, Clark-Bernhardt

## Vera Institute of Justice

Dane County was chosen as one of twelve jurisdictions to be a part of the Vera Institute of Justice's Safety and Fairness for Everyone (SAFE) Cities Network in September of 2017. The Vera Institute awarded \$100,000 to the Immigrant Justice Clinic at the University of Wisconsin Law School and the Community Immigration Law Center (CILC). This award, in combination with funds and personnel from the county previously committed to immigrant support, will assist in providing legal representation to immigrants facing deportation hearings.

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