

Dane County
Community Justice Council

Strategic Planning: Pretrial Alternatives

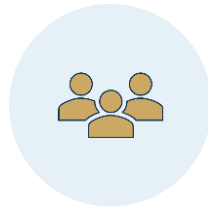
July 9, 2025



Project Goal & Objectives

Goal:

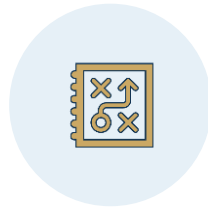
To collaboratively develop a strategic plan for the Dane County CJC that provides a clear roadmap for the council, including its staff and subcommittees, for the next three years.



Engage stakeholders in a structured planning process



Gather and review information to build upon the CJC's existing foundation



Define clear, actionable priorities that address pressing issues



Develop a strategic plan that includes an implementation framework

Strategic Priority Areas

Top Priority Areas

- 1) Behavioral health & substance use
- 2) Prearrest diversion & pretrial alternatives
- 3) Reentry & reintegration

Concurrent Priorities

- Housing & shelter supports
- Racial & ethnic equity
- Community engagement & partnerships
- Reducing overreliance on jail
- Maximizing impacts of existing programs & services

	Behavioral Health & Substance Use	Pretrial Alternatives
System Lens	Focuses on service gaps and interventions for people with behavioral health needs <i>regardless of legal status</i>	Focuses on how cases are handled in the early stages of the legal process <i>regardless of behavioral health status</i>
Core Charge	Improve the behavioral health continuum and reduce justice system involvement caused by unmet treatment needs	Improve front-end case handling through diversion, screening, and release alternatives
Possible Strategies	• Strengthening crisis management and coordination • Advancing the development of a crisis triage center plan • Reducing barriers to housing for justice involved individuals • Creating a data repository to improve delivery of community-centered care	• Expanding eligibility for pre-charge or post-charge diversion • Enhancing pretrial risk screening tools and early decision-making • Streamlining case processing for low-level charges • Using restorative practices or court alternatives

Create a community justice center

Discontinue “stacking” of criminal charges

Expedite early appointment of counsel

Implement weekend initial appearance court

Assess COVID-era practices (e.g., use of summons, dismissals, etc.)

Strengthen pretrial services/modify decision-making framework

Expand access to interpreters

Improve consistency in judicial practices

Opportunities
Mentioned by
CJC Members

Discussion

- What ideas would the CJCPC like to bring forward to the planning team?
- How can we reduce unnecessary detention and improve pre-trial decision making, especially for people charged with low-level offenses and/or non-violent offenses?
- What “off ramps” can we create to get people out of the justice system and to appropriate services?

Next Steps

- Hold strategic planning session on Wednesday, July 23rd from 1-4 PM.
- Present early planning ideas to CJC for feedback & guidance.
- Conduct a second planning session On Wednesday, August 5th from 1-4 PM.
- Hold additional virtual planning sessions as needed.
- Provide draft if plan to CJC in September/October.

Thank you!