



County of Dane
CITY-COUNTY BUILDING
210 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BOULEVARD
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53703-3342

July 31, 2018

Laurie R. Garduque
Director, Criminal Justice
MacArthur Foundation

Dear Ms. Garduque,

Dane County requests capstone funding to pilot and validate code to create an effective data model that will not only be foundational to Dane County criminal justice system improvement—but could be replicable by other jurisdictions in the State of Wisconsin (who share many data systems).

Over the last three years with the support of national partners and local champions, Dane County, Wisconsin, has dramatically increased innovative strategies to improve the criminal justice system with a focus on providing greater transparency, racial equity, and data-driven decision making. These innovations include:

- Dane County Community Restorative Court (CRC): A MacArthur Innovation site serving 17-25-year-olds facing misdemeanors with a restorative justice approach rather than traditional criminal processing. The CRC has recently expanded to four new cities/villages, and will be further expanded throughout the County by 2019.
- Public Safety Assessment (PSA)—Randomized Control Test: Dane County hosts the first randomized control test in the United States around the use of the PSA, partnering with the Laura and John Arnold Foundation and the Access to Justice Lab at Harvard University. This has been a data rich project with additional resources that provide not only for two pretrial assessors, but also for a dedicated half-time data analyst.
- Data Sharing Agreement: A data sharing memorandum of understanding was signed in 2017 and allows the Dane County Criminal Justice Council (CJC) research team to integrate data sets from arrest through disposition. (see attachment)

Although the Dane County CJC has made great strides in data sharing and analysis, our initial success has allowed stakeholders to realize the untapped potential of using data to drive changes, resulting in much more work being requested than current resources allow. Judge Nicholas McNamara developed an analysis of signature bonds in Dane County (see attachment) and states his desire for further research “disaggregated by race, age, and gender criteria.” Given the Dane County data sharing agreement, this is within the reach of the Research and Innovation Team if they are provided with additional resources.

We request capstone grant funds and in-kind technical assistance for the Dane County Board Office, which houses the Criminal Justice Council’s Research and Innovation Team, to create a data model of

Dane County's arrest through pretrial populations. The data model will be created to routinize delivery of critical data analysis to stakeholders.

The data model will require submissions from the following: Law Enforcement Records Management, Jail Records Management, District Attorney Case Record Management, and Court Case Records Management systems. Specifically, agencies will continue to share incident and case records at the individual and charge level. This will allow for a deep and broad analysis of each entrance into the criminal justice system by 17-25-year-olds with non-violent misdemeanor offenses. Further analysis and modeling will occur in the pretrial intercept. At this decision point, factors considered for the model will be whether the referral is Custodial/Non-Custodial, whether there was a hold at arrest, whether bail was ordered and the amount of posted, as well as whether there was an issuance of a signature bond — each with their respective flags. There will be also be an analysis of each time interval leading up to pre-trial release. Each of these data elements currently exists within each of the records management systems. However, they will need to be simplified and recoded to allow for reporting out trends in these cases. All will be disaggregated by race and gender to provide policymakers with greater information and transparency in policy and procedure development.

The data model will assist decision makers in the following areas:

Expansion of the Community Restorative Court: As the expansion of the CRC continues geographically through the entire county, the next stage will be to look for potential expansion in state statute violations. Currently, the discussion in the CRC Advisory Committee of potential statute expansion is anecdotal. For example, a surge of crimes in a certain jurisdictions leads the law enforcement in that specified area to propose adding that crime to the list, thereby making potential participants eligible for the CRC. The data model will disaggregate the 17-25-year-old population and display the most frequently used statute violations. This data will then inform the CRC Advisory Committee as to the potential population impacted.

PSA-Pretrial Services: The data model will assist the Clerk of Courts as he prepares for potential expansion of the scope of pretrial services within his department by analyzing the trends in arrests, booking, and length of stay—disaggregated by felony and misdemeanor. Not only will this assist pretrial services delivery approaches, but it will also support the overall vision of the Criminal Justice Council to reduce the number of jail beds by 10 percent of current levels as the Dane County Sheriff's Office remodels its current facilities. Data will be embedded into the strategy development and discussion during the CJC monthly meetings.

Racial Disparities Subcommittee: Inspired by the Pima County, AZ, presentation at the CJC-Racial Disparities Subcommittee (CJC-RD) in June 2018, stakeholders requested Dane County move in the direction of disaggregation of all data, from arrest through disposition, by race, ethnicity, gender, age, and crime level. The CJC-RD Committee has been a formal county subcommittee since 2014 and was instrumental in the creation of the Community Restorative Court. Data will help the racial equity champions develop more innovative and effective programming to reduce the high level of racial inequity in Dane County.

National League of Cities and City of Madison Rethink Jails: The data model will deepen the collaboration between Dane County and the City of Madison in our effort to effectively reduce jail population. (Madison Police Department is currently the heaviest user of the Dane County Jail).

The Dane County Research and Innovation Team will utilize funds to support data analysis and model creation, model validation, and community engagement. Dane County envisions initially building the model with financial support to assist (via capstone data intern) with data matching, validation, and documentation. We will pursue early engagement of stakeholders, community advocates, and criminal justice non-profits to develop a model that will be useful to multiple end-users of the data. And finally, technical assistance is necessary to have an outside perspective on validity of code and the proposed model. The Dane County Research and Innovation Team will partner with OpenLattice for this project. The OpenLattice platform was designed for this kind of cross-agency data sharing, and we have experience working with jurisdictions in implementing criminal justice related initiatives, including pretrial case management and the PSA.

Please consider Dane County's request to embed data and innovation into our front-end systems, with a focus on arrest, charging, and pretrial services. If you have any questions, please contact the Policy and Practice Innovation Manager, Colleen Clark-Bernhardt at clark.colleen@countyofdane.com.

Sincerely,



Honorable Nicholas J. McNamara,
Chair Criminal Justice Council – Pretrial Services
Co-Chair, Criminal Justice Council—Racial Disparities Sub Committee



Colleen Clark Bernhardt
Policy and Practice Innovation Manager

Attachments:

Data Sharing MOU-Dane County Criminal Justice Council

Frequency of Signature Bonds in Dane County Criminal Cases: 2012-2016

Letter of Support: Wisconsin Department of Justice