



Dane County

Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

Community Justice Council

Consider:

Who benefits? Who is burdened?

Who does not have a voice at the table?

How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?

Thursday, January 25, 2024

12:15 PM

Hybrid Meeting: Attend in person at the City County
Building in Room 351; attend virtually via Zoom.

See below for additional instructions on how to attend the meeting and provide public
testimony.

A. Call To Order

Chair Esqueda called the meeting to order at 12:20 pm

Advisory members present: Andrae, Dorl, Enger, Meurer, Patterson, Plisch,
Rhodes-Conway, and Wegleitner

Staff present: Clark-Bernhardt, Menard, Schroeder

Present 6 - CARLO ESQUEDA, JOHN HYLAND, PATRICK MILES, ISMAEL OZANNE, JOE
PARISI, and JOHN JAY MILLER

Excused 2 - JEROME DILLARD, and MYRA MCNAIR

Absent 1 - KALVIN BARRETT

B. Consideration of Minutes

1. [2023
MIN-438](#) MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 28, 2023 COMMUNITY JUSTICE
COUNCIL MEETING

Attachments: [2023 MIN-438](#)
[9.28.23 CJC Registration Forms](#)

A motion was made by HYLAND, seconded by OZANNE, that the minutes be
approved. The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

C. Action Items

NONE

D. Presentations

1. Randomized Control Trial Evaluation of the Dane County PSA-DMF System

Presented by Access to Justice (A2J) Lab at Harvard University

Greiner reviewed the history of the project and summarized when the Public Safety Assessment (PSA) is used; the PSA is used when people are arrested and booked into jail, aren't released on bond, and appear at initial assessment (IA). The Court Commissioner gets to decide the bail and conditions - a significant decision. The PSA along with the Decision Making Framework (DMF) are tools to assist the Commissioners in making the pre-disposition decision.

The PSA was implemented in Dane County in 2017 and consists of 3 measurements - failure to appear, new criminal activity, and new violent criminal activity. The PSA collects nine inputs and produces 1 of 3 scales. Then the DMF produces a recommendation on signature bond, bail, and conditions. The DMF is not binding.

By implementing the PSA-DMF tool, it was hoped that the following outcomes would be reduced: failure to appear, new criminal activity, racial disparities, and the number of pretrial incarceration days.

The results of the evaluation concluded there was a moderate effect on the Commissioner's decisions. There were no effects on failure to appear, new criminal activity, new violent criminal activity, measures of racial fairness, and number of pretrial incarceration days.

There are three guesses as to why the results showed moderate to no effects. One guess is that there was not enough change in the Commissioner's decisions - researchers think this is an unlikely contributing factor. The other two guesses are that the PSA classification is not strong enough and that bail has no deterring power - researchers think these are more likely contributing factors. It is important to note that the second and third guesses are subject to several caveats.

Based on the results of the evaluation, potential suggestions and next steps include: redeploying the resources allocated to the PSA-DMF; if the finding regarding bail deterrence replicates itself at other sites, reduce reliance on bail; credible/rigorous investigation into the effectiveness of the levels of supervision (MDRC Report).

[2023
RPT-491](#)

Randomized Control Trial Evaluation of the Dane County PSA-DMF System Report

Attachments: [A2JLab PSA Transmittal Letter](#)
[Abbreviated Dane County A2JLab PSA-DMF Summary Report](#)
[PSA RCT Final Report](#)
[PSA RCT Final Report Presentation](#)

E. Reports to Committee

NONE

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

NONE

H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

The new Dane County Pre-Trial Director, Shannon Pierce, was introduced as well as the Interim Dane County Clerk of Courts, Jeff Okazaki.

I. Adjourn

A motion was made by HYLAND, seconded by OZANNE, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 1:38 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lindsay Menard, pending Council approval