

Feedback from Certified Peer Specialists Regarding Barriers and Improvements to the Dane County Justice System

Barriers in booking

Intense anxiety and worry about the unknown

Booking process is very isolating (Individuals told not to look at anyone, head down and don't speak to anyone)

Lack of understanding on how to contact their loved ones

Lack of questions from deputies about physical or mental status

Compromised critical thinking due to stress

Language barriers

Barriers in pre-trial and trial

Lack of understanding about the trial process

PDs may not have all important information prior to trial

Terminology used isn't always explained

Unclear about how to contact family members

Family unclear about the process and how to advocate for their loved one

Deep sense of isolation and uncertainty

Difficulty with information sharing between family or other outside advocates about the individual or situation

Improvements

Utilize peer support with lived experience in the criminal justice system in all areas of the process, peer support in the public defender's office

Create a tri-fold brochure for individuals to help better understand the process and terminology

Create similar brochure for family members

Create a more trauma-informed approach at booking