

2021 Year In Review

2021 Criminal Justice Council Members: Analiese Eicher, *Chair of Board of Supervisors*; Joe Parisi, *County Executive*; Ismael R. Ozanne, *District Attorney*; Calvin Barrett, *Sheriff*; Carlo Esqueda, *Clerk of Courts*; Honorable Valerie Bailey-Rihn, *Presiding Circuit Court Judge*.

Advisory Members: Aaron Chapin, *Chief of McFarland Police*; Catherine Dorl, *Public Defender*; Troy Enger, *Department of Corrections Regional Chief*; John Patterson, *Assistant Chief of Madison Police Department*; Todd Meurer, *Municipal Judge*; Maureen McCarville, *Chair of Public Protection and Judiciary Committee*

Meeting Agenda

dane.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=A&ID=734472&GUID=783FE8FD-C2F5-4531-86FB-A0A6DCC82158

and resources. The CJC requests quarterly updates on the progress of the plan from the CJC-BH subcommittee Chair.

2. CJC endorsement of work on Community Justice Center

The Criminal Justice Council supports the planning and development work within the CJC-Racial Disparities subcommittee for a Dane County Community Justice Center. The CJC endorses the use of previously budgeted \$100,000 to further the in depth planning and analysis. The CJC requests quarterly updates on the progress of the plan from the CJC-Racial Disparities subcommittee Chairs.

D. Presentations

1. Access to Justice Lab, Harvard University, Interim Report of the Dane County PSA Study

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The Work of the CJC Goes Online as the Pandemic Continues

The Dane County Criminal Justice Council (CJC) continues its commitment to racial equity, public safety, and improving the criminal justice system through data-driven decision-making. As the County continues to reduce potential exposure to COVID-19 and variants, we have maintained our efforts in a remote setting for the CJC and CJC subcommittees. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the CJC collaborated to develop additional policies and procedures to decrease the jail population and partner to study how to “Flatten the Curve.”

The Crisis Triage Center will add a treatment-oriented resource for people experiencing acute behavioral health crises, rather than those individuals having face punitive action. Additionally, the CJC continues to consider the potential for a Community Justice Center Initiative, which would provide a hub of coordinated services based in the principles of racial equity and procedural justice. The CJC also continues its research and implementation of evidence-based practices in pretrial justice.

CJC meetings are on the fourth Thursday of every month and are open to the public. Please visit our website or Google Calendar with information about how to attend future meetings. Additionally, because all CJC and CJC-subcommittee

Crisis Triage Center

The Crisis Triage Center will add a resource for people experiencing acute behavioral health crises. It will provide a space for law enforcement to bring people in crisis to a stabilization space based in recovery, rather than punitive action. In doing so, it will close a gap in Dane County behavioral health services. Dane County has allocated \$10 million to create and launch the Center. The Department of Human Services will continue to identify facility space, as well as operational needs in 2022, with an opening in the future.

Earlier in 2021, Dane County contracted with RI International to complete a needs assessment of the potential crisis

triage center, contracted by Dane County Department of Human Services in collaboration with the Criminal Justice Council and the CJC-Behavioral Health Subcommittee. RI International is an experienced consultant on these centers, including developing protocols for crisis response with SAMHSA, the federal agency on behavioral health services and policies.

RI International recommended that the proposed center be a 23-hour facility, where people could be admitted for short-term stabilization treatment. The crisis triage center

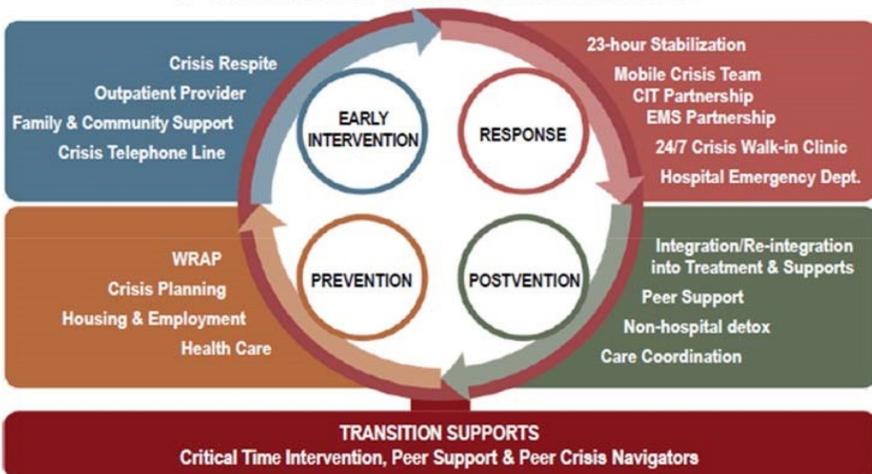
would then connect people to additional community resources. Peer support services would be integrated into the system so that people with lived experience would provide support for those who were in crisis. RI International presented at the September 2021 CJC meeting and released its final report in October. The final report is available at <https://cjc.countyofdane.com/documents/RI-Dane-County-CTC-Consultation-FINAL-Report-10252021.pdf>.

In addition to the crisis triage center, the CJC is committed to approaches to use data to reduce the “revolving door” between behavioral health and criminal justice. The CJC is also in the early stage of developing a booking alert. The booking alert may be used to notify an individual’s treatment providers from the Department of Human Services when a client is booked into jail, thereby improving the timely response for individuals in crisis. Additionally, the CJC-Behavioral Health subcommittee also conducted part of the information-gathering for the City of Madison’s CARES program, the pilot of a non-law enforcement crisis response team for 911 calls pertaining to mental health crises. The Behavioral Health subcommittee met with CAHOOTS in January 2020, the Eugene, OR program that originally developed and piloted a non-law enforcement crisis response.

Flattening the Curve in the Dane County Jail

The CJC partnered with Professor John Eason at the University of Wisconsin Justice Lab (UWJL) and DCSO to measure the impact of COVID-related policies on the jail population. The study determined that the cumulative incidence of COVID-19 cases in the Dane County Jail would have been approximately 1.5 times greater if Dane County had not introduced policies to decarcerate and reduce the jail population. The full report is available at: <https://cjc.countyofdane.com/documents/Eason-COVIDCurve-DaneJail.pdf>.

A CONTINUUM OF CRISIS INTERVENTION NEEDS



Potential Community Justice Center Initiative

The CJC is in the early stages of developing a community justice center initiative. It would create a “one-stop shop” for justice-involved community members. This could include restorative justice services, information about housing and benefits, and education or employment training and opportunities. The community justice center initiative could be a physical, centralized location, or a mobile set of resources stationed in different parts of the community as needed.

In February 2021, seven community groups participated in “pre-engagement” events to share their input and feedback on the potential community justice center initiative. The seven community groups include: Nehemiah Center for Urban Leadership Development, Centro Hispano, Charles Hamilton Institute, JustDane, Urban Triage, Families Back to the Table and Hmong Institute. These groups shared feedback and set goals for the community justice center initiative, emphasizing the need for culturally competent and representative treatment providers, connection between behavioral health resources, and a long-term commitment from major stakeholders.

"If this model is embraced, and embraced fully, it could be a **positive thing**, but they are really skeptical that it will be fully embraced."
Linda Ketcham, *JustDane*

"So many people wanted to see, could there be educational services at the center to really **educate folks** about the process and about a person's legal rights."
Peng Her, *Hmong Institute*

"A lot of people are open to it and **look forward** to it, they just really want to make sure it just needs to be done correctly the first time."
Alex Booker, *Urban Triage*

The Community Justice Center "can be the hub of a lot of opportunities and resources for our community for people in need. This would indeed change the mindset because this isn't a policy thing or behavior thing, it's really a **heart thing**." — Walter Williams, *Charles Hamilton Houston Institute*

"Discrimination or racism and how that often times makes them feel dehumanized by the process or system and there was a lot of conversation about what the experience is in ways in ways the systems would support them ... this would be a way of **humanizing and supporting** immigrant communities."
Evelyn Cruz, *Centro Hispano*

"Someone with lived experience said everyone has to be on the same page, everyone involved has to be willing to **go forward**, being sensitive to different needs for different people."
Dr. Karen Reece, *Nehemiah Center for Urban Leadership*

"The people loved the fact that the community center will be overseen by someone in their neighborhood that they know and feel they can **trust**."
Lisa Burrell, *Families Back to the Table*

As requested by the CJC, the Dane County Board contracted with the Center for Court Innovation (CCI) to complete a needs assessment of the potential community justice center, overseen by the Criminal Justice Council and the CJC-Racial Disparities Subcommittee. CCI presented its results to the CJC in June and August, and released the final report in September 2021. The final report is available on the CJC's website at <https://cjc.countyofdane.com/documents/CCI-Final-Report-DaneCounty-9.10.21-.pdf>.

In Memoriam: Ron Johnson, Advocate & Pioneer of Racial Equity and Restorative Justice



The Dane County CJC and the larger community are deeply saddened by the loss of Ron Johnson. Ron was dedicated to restorative justice, racial equity, and criminal justice reform in Dane County. He was the first coordinator of the Community Restorative Court, and he helped build the program into what it is today. He approached everyone who entered the program with kindness and support—respondents, peacemakers, staff, and government stakeholders. He also shared his expertise with local, state, and national leaders. Colleagues joined the community in honoring Ron Johnson at a gathering at which leaders, community members, and family spoke of his for his dedication, knowledge, and vision for a more equitable future.

Pretrial and Front-End Justice Research

The CJC-Pretrial Services subcommittee coordinates front-end justice initiatives, including pretrial services, the Public Safety Assessment (PSA), and data-driven decision-making across agencies. This year, the subcommittee continued research on the implementation of PSA, expanded on the front-end justice data model and cash bail, and research pretrial supervision.

In 2017, Dane County began to administer and study the PSA, a standardized risk assessment for pretrial release decision-making with analysis from the Access to Justice (A2J) Lab at Harvard Law School. While it is too early for researchers to provide conclusive findings, preliminary findings show that there is less variation among decisions in cases made with the PSA than those made without the PSA. The final report will be released in 2022. A2J's interim report is available at:

<https://cjc.countyofdane.com/documents/Dane-County-PSA-DMF-RCT-Interim-Report-A2J-Lab.pdf>.

Additionally, the Dane County Board has invested in a stand alone Pretrial Office, with a Director to be hired in October of 2022.

2022 Upcoming CJC Discussion Topics

Jail Population Review Team

Cash Bail and Pretrial Justice

Weekend Initial Appearance

Crisis Triage Center

Practices to Control Jail Population

...and more! See CJC agendas prior to meetings to learn more about each month's discussion topics.

Jail Population Review Teams

Beginning in 2018, the Dane County CJC began a collaboration with JFA Institute to work collectively at a study of drivers of the jail population (<https://cjc.countyofdane.com/documents/Dane-County-County-Jail-JFA-RED-analysis.pdf>). JFA recommended Dane County invest in a jail population manager, and subsequently create a jail population review team. The Jail Population Manager position was funded in 2020, and since then work has begun around learning best practices of jail population review teams from large and small counties. The CJC has hosted both Lucas County, OH and Pennington County, SD to share their experience and advise about the use of jail review teams. JFA Institute will continue to work with the CJC into 2022 to help operationalize an effective jail population review team. For more information around jail review teams: https://www.naco.org/sites/default/files/documents/Population-Review-Teams_0.pdf

New Data and Evaluation Analyst Position

Dane County has approved a new full-time Data and Evaluation Analyst position to join the CJC Research and Innovation Team. With this new position, the CJC will have enhanced capability to effectively use and analyze data, and will be able to partner with additional local, state, and national partners. This affirms the collaborative effort across Dane County towards data-driven decision-making in criminal justice. The CJC hired Isabel Anadon as the inaugural Data and Evaluation Analyst.