



Dane County, WI
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Madison, WI 53703



May 12, 2023

Dear Harvard Kennedy School--Government Performance Lab:

The Dane County Community Justice Council (CJC) is pleased to support the Dane County application to the Alternative 9-1-1 Implementation Cohort. The CJC is a collaborative body of criminal justice leaders, elected officials, and community members from Dane County, City of Madison, and surrounding areas. Increasing public safety, equity, and data driven policies and programs have been mainstays of our collective work. The CJC has been an active partner in national research efforts to improve criminal justice, as well as, behavioral health systems.

In partnership with the City of Madison, Dane County has supported the launch of a non-law enforcement alternative mobile response called CARES, which currently operates 12 hours a day, 5 days a week within the City of Madison limits. CARES pairs a Madison Fire Department Community Paramedic with a Journey Mental Health Center Crisis Worker to respond directly to low risk 911 calls and to support other first responders who have been called to a scene with an identified behavioral health need.

The CJC of Dane County is interested in effective implementation of potential expansion efforts and technical assistance with a national cohort will greatly benefit our work. Effective triaging of calls at the 911 Center is essential to any expansion effort, as is data collection and accurate analysis to demonstrate the need for and efficacy of alternative response. Of particular interest is how to develop and adapt the design and dispatch of a non-law enforcement response to more rural areas of the county.

For this project, the CJC of Dane County will act as an advising committee and provide a platform for information sharing, collective learning, and transparency. Dane County CJC has been an effective partner with national research organizations in the past, and be assured any technical assistance provided by the Government Performance Lab will be of great use as we strive for effective and fair systems for all our residents.

Thank you for your consideration,

Carlo Esqueda,
Chair

Attachment: Membership of the Dane County Community Justice Council