



DANE COUNTY
PRETRIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
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Budget Memo for Dane County Pretrial Services (DCPS)
Prepared by Julie Beyler, Interim Director

<https://pretrial-services.countyofdane.com/>

I have been employed with Dane County since October of 1991, and worked for this office (through a few departmental name changes) in some capacity, since 1994. Most recently until July 2023 as Lead Social Worker and currently Interim Director, until a new director can be hired.

Dane County Pretrial Services Director Status

The Director position was posted and the deadline was 9/1/23 to apply. Next Step is grading of questionnaires, with interviews to follow with Dane County judiciary.

Mission/Vision/Role of Pretrial Services

Mission: To help people successfully complete pretrial supervision and improve community safety today and tomorrow.

Vision: We achieve our mission through the application of evidence-based research in shaping supervision strategies, improving outcomes. Achieving our mission is an ongoing process that involves system and data review.

Role: The role of pretrial services is a unique function within the criminal justice system. Pretrial officers assist in reducing unnecessary pretrial detention while a criminal case is pending trial and they take steps to promote public safety. In Dane County, Pretrial Services Officers are Social Workers operating under the authority of the Dane County judiciary. Upon a court referral, a Social Worker is assigned (1) to monitor conditions of bond, (2) to assess a person's needs, and (3) to make referrals to community resources. Monitoring will include reporting to the office in person and/or by phone and, when ordered by the judiciary, can include random drug testing, GPS (Global Positioning System) monitoring, and/or alcohol monitoring.

We are agents of the court. We strive to increase public protection through the supervision of bail conditions, provide referrals to community resources and support, and offer opportunities for positive change, no matter the outcome of a case. As Social Workers, we are committed to providing quality services in a respectful manner to our diverse client population with the goals of minimizing unnecessary pretrial detention, reducing missed court appearances, and preventing new arrests while on bond. We aim to reduce barriers and increase a person's success during their pretrial supervision and beyond.

Budget

Status quo budget with no decision items.

Equity and inclusion are important values we hold. How we deliver and make services accessible is an expression of that value. Language access is one way we can make our services more accessible and inclusive. The Board would like to hear from department heads during their budget hearing presentations regarding their approach to language access, including identifying challenges, and indicating whether they could use assistance in developing a language access plan or protocols (if they don't already have one).

DCPS uses The Language Line when a client is referred for supervision and CCAP reflects that an interpreter is needed. Should CCAP not reflect it is needed, but a client requests it, we would also offer language line, so the client is set up for success. Using the court interpreters does not work for this office, as our referrals come daily following hearings from the Judges and Court Commissioners, and we do not have the ability to schedule these contacts with court-approved interpreters in advance. Some referrals actually come to our office within fifteen minutes of their release from jail. Ultimately, the language line provides our office the flexibility needed to balance immediate access to help deliver our services to our clientele released on bond, and to date we have had great success using them. We also use them when we need to follow up with clients by phone, and the Language Line places the call for us. In 2023, we started tracking how many cases referred to our office need interpreters and so far, these are the results for 2023.

2023 -18 Total Cases needing Interpreters

15 cases were Spanish

1 Arabic

1 Hacca Chin