
Dane County Office of Justice Reform

2025 Budget presentation to the Dane
County Board of Supervisors

Colleen Clark Bernhardt, Director
9/11/2024

Mission of OJR

“The Mission of the Office of Justice Reform is to marshal and coordinate resources both within and outside the county criminal justice system to reduce incarceration and racial disparities in the criminal justice system.”





OJR Vision

The source for inclusive and transformational adult justice system improvements using:

- **Collaboration**
Stakeholders, community, researchers, those with lived experience
- **Data Driven Decisions**
Accurate and transparent data
- **Equity**
Co-create spaces, programs and procedures that increase equity in criminal justice (individual, structural, systemic) .

Major OJR initiatives in 2025

Long term goals into action

Community Court of Dane County

BIG STEP Contract execution

CJC and CJC subcommittees
reconvene

Continue research/improved
practices collaborations with
national groups to glean innovative
improvements.

Micro Grants

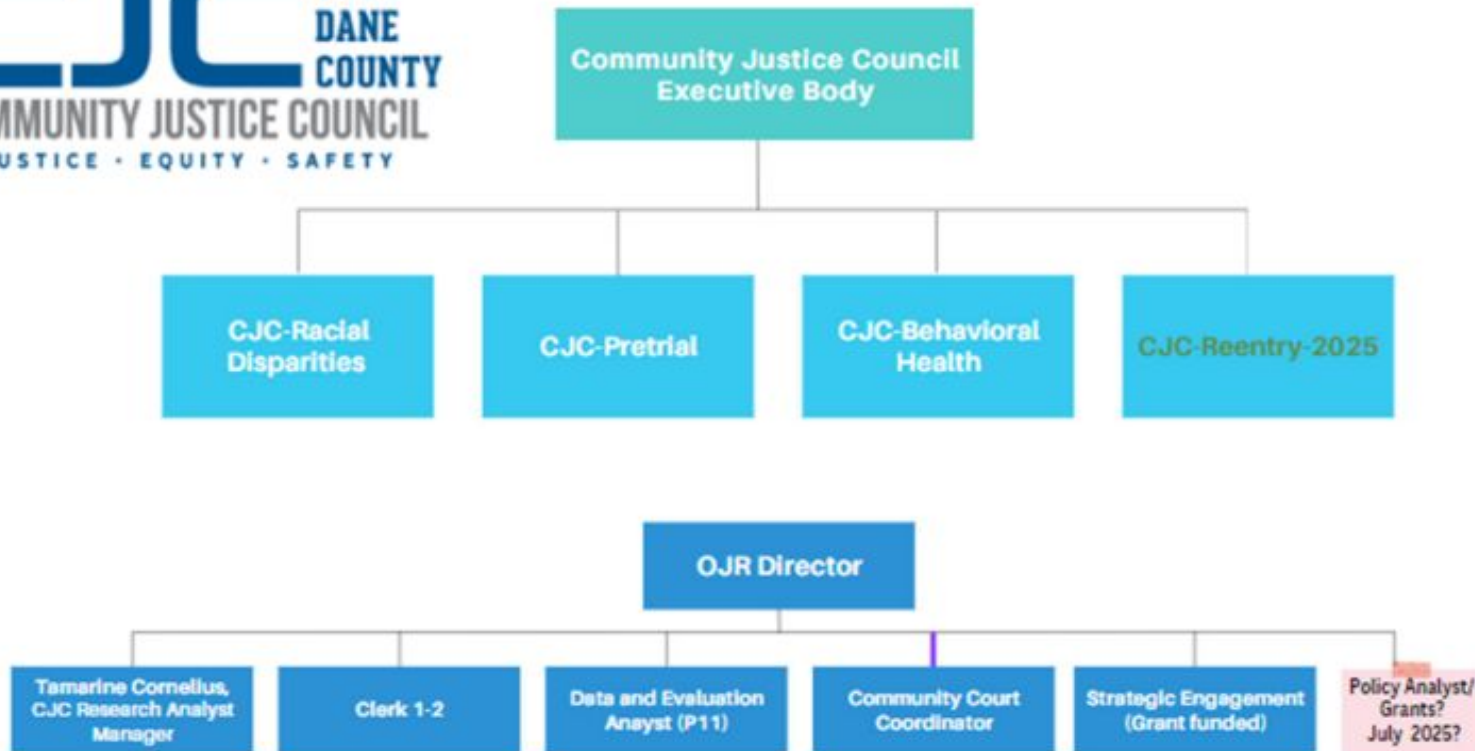
Data Ecosystem planning

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**How will the new Office of
Justice Reform work
with the Community Justice
Council of Dane County?**

COMMUNITY JUSTICE COUNCIL OF DANE COUNTY

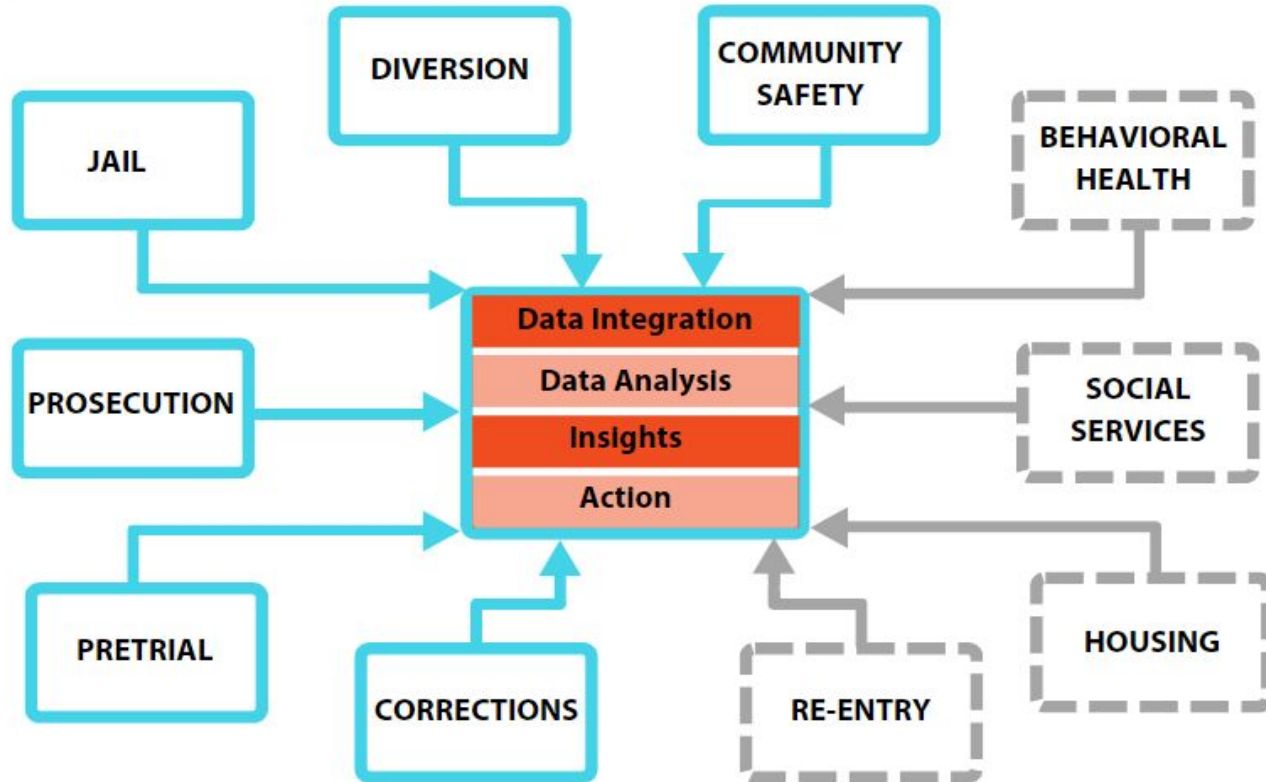
Organizational Chart



The CJC of Dane County provides the work plans for data centered projects/analysis with the general oversight of the Director. Multi-system and multi-agency data accuracy attained through the data sharing agreement. Future hopes for greater data integration leading to a “data-ecosystem”.

**Office of Justice Reform
Envisioned Data Ecosystem**

CURRENT DATA SOURCES ———
ENVISIONED DATA SOURCES - - - - -



Future Hopes: Resources

POLICY ANALYST/Grants Coordinator

Focus on Re-Entry subcommittee; grants development and administration; assist in other duties

Dane County is well positioned to compete for national grants as a well known entity for collaborative, committed stakeholders, inspired residents, innovative ideas, and accurate data.



2025 Budget

Adherence to the County Executive Guidelines

Two decision items to enhance current OJR responsibilities, focused on the Dane County Community Court.

In 2022, Dane County won a federal grant for 600K to plan and implement a community court focused on racial equity and procedural fairness.

Decision items for OJR

1. **Data Enhanced Pilot Community Court:** Community Court Case Management Software–Initializing the Community Court with effective software to assist in case management, data accuracy, and court reporting requirements to local and federal officials and community members.
2. **Peer Learning from the Experts:** Reallocation of membership fees to conference and training expense due to emerging community court of Dane County onboarding and peer site court events and conferences.

Engagement and Communication with community, focus underserved communities

Past Efforts

CJC-Behavioral Health survey of those with SUD, Beh Health concerns and justice involvement; co-authored by member with lived experience

CJC Community Conversations

Intentional engagement and partnership with advocacy agencies and those with lived experience.

Future Efforts (2025)

Community engagement–strategic plan for CJC and subcommittees

Craft position description to include those with lived experience; peer advocates

Ask and survey those with lived experience in courts, behavioral health, and criminal justice –baseline/future.

Strategic Engagement and Outreach Specialist

Partnership in already existing advocacy groups

Develop new partnerships with community, researchers, and new stakeholders



Authentic Engagement

Building a justice system that meets the needs of community members and community health requires a commitment to engaging people that are genuine, meaningful, and build trust by action based on input.

Partnerships

Those with lived experience, advocate agencies, justice partners

Respect

Core value of the dignity and worth of each person

Office of Justice Reform Milestones



July 2024

Department is staffed with a Director, CJC Research Analyst

November 2024

Hire Community Court Coordinator; Strategic Engagement coordinator

2024

2025

October 2025

Hire Clerk 1-11; CJC Data and Evaluation Analyst

Execute Q4 BIG STEP contract

January 2025

Pilot Dane County Community Court

Interns; BIG STEP contract

When with the CJC and Subcommittees begin?

**CJC Executive
Body-January
2025**

Election of Officers

Community Court

Strategic Plan

**Three
Subcommittees:**

Will meet in 2025
pending staffing and
strategic plan

**New Internships
will be available**

January 2025



Thank you!

I am happy to meet and discuss the future of the Office of Justice Reform.

Colleen Clark Bernhardt

Director

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Questions about the CJC ?
Subcommittees, Reports,
Research, Data
Dashboards available at
cjc.countyofdane.com

