

# Pathways to Pretrial Advancement update

**Community Justice Council - Pretrial Services Subcommittee**  
**Tamarine Cornelius, Office of Justice Reform Research Analyst**

4/1/26

# Pathways to Pretrial Advancement: What is it?

- Technical assistance grant from APPR (Advancing Pretrial Practice and Research)
- One year working with APPR on structured planning for pretrial improvements
- Potential research partnership with the Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities (LEO) at Notre Dame

**APPR** ADVANCING PRETRIAL  
POLICY & RESEARCH

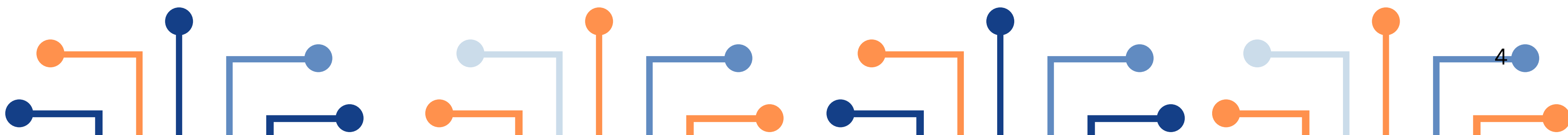
# Dane County's project

- Improving court appearance rates
- Strengthening diversion pathways



# Pathways to Pretrial Advancement: Strategic Planning Timeline

|  | Month 1          | 2   | 3                      | 4  | 5                                    | 6                                    | 7  | 8                                  | 9       | 10                                    | 11                  | 12 |
|--|------------------|---|------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|----|
| <b>Phase I: Examining the Current System</b>                   | Initial Planning | Establish Team Foundation<br>Complete Jail Overview<br>Conduct System Mapping |                        |  |                                      |                                      |  |                                    |         |                                       |                     |    |
| <b>Phase II: Building Knowledge and Exploring Improvements</b> |                  |   | Review of APPR Roadmap | Focus on Roadmap Policies of Interest (including best practices, relevant empirical research, and examples from the field) |                                      |                                      |  |                                    |         |                                       |                     |    |
| <b>Phase III: Learning About Research</b>                      |                  |   |                        | Virtual Session (LEO)  | Follow-Up Discussions (LEO)          |                                      |  |                                    |         |                                       |                     |    |
| <b>Phase IV: Prioritizing Improvements</b>                     |                  |   |                        |  |                                      | Analyze Jail Overview and System Map | Agree on Specific Improvements (including exploring the feasibility of implementation) |                                    |         |                                       |                     |    |
| <b>Phase V: Developing a Research Plan</b>                     |                  |   |                        |  |                                      |                                      |  | Explore Research Feasibility (LEO) |         | Develop Research Plan (LEO)           |                     |    |
| <b>Phase VI: Preparing for Implementation</b>                  |                  |   |                        |  |                                      |                                      |  |                                    |         |                                       | Develop Action Plan |    |
| <b>Workgroup Meetings</b>                                      |                  | Site Visit  | Virtual                | Virtual  | 1 Month Site Visit / 1 Month Virtual |                                      | Virtual  | Virtual                            | Virtual | 1 Month Site Visit / 2 Months Virtual |                     |    |



# Initial Site Visit from TA provider Jessica Ireland

Jessica:

- Met with the APPR workgroup including Community Member James Morgan
- 1:1 meetings with Director of Pretrial Services Shannon Pierce, Director of Office of Justice Reform Colleen Clark-Bernhardt, and Tamarine Cornelius
- Did a “ride-along” in Judge McNamara’s courtroom
- Participated in a jail tour



# Next steps

- Jail summary from a pretrial perspective
- Pretrial system mapping, overlaid with data where possible



# Questions?

**Office of  
Justice  
Reform**



608-283-1425



[ojr@danecounty.gov](mailto:ojr@danecounty.gov)



Room 210, City County Building  
210 Martin Luther King, Jr Blvd  
Madison, WI 53703