

Community Court Presentation for the Community Justice Council Behavioral Health Subcommittee

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Office of Justice Reform

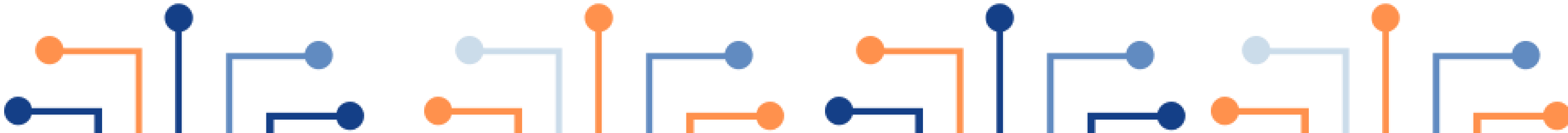
November 5, 2025

What is a Community Court?

Community Courts are court programs that combine the power of community and the justice system to address local programs. They promote problem-solving and collaboration, striving to create/enhance relationships within the justice system and among community members & stakeholders, resulting in improved outcomes, such as lower recidivism and increased trust/legitimacy of the court system.

Hallmarks of a community court include:

- Enhanced information
- Community engagement
- Collaboration
- Individualized justice
- Accountability
- Outcomes



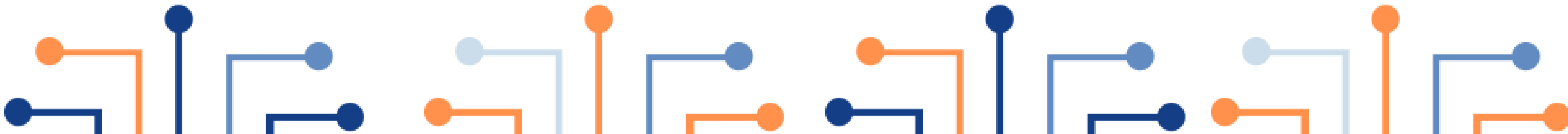
Dane County Community Court

COMMUNITY DRIVEN, PUBLIC SAFETY FOCUSED, RESULTS ENGAGED AND WHOLE-PERSON CENTERED

- Ages 17-35
- Individuals charged with non-violent misdemeanors and felonies
- **Post charge, pre-plea**, non-jury trial defendants
- Eligible defendants will be given the option for Community Court
- Short term intervention

Key program components include:

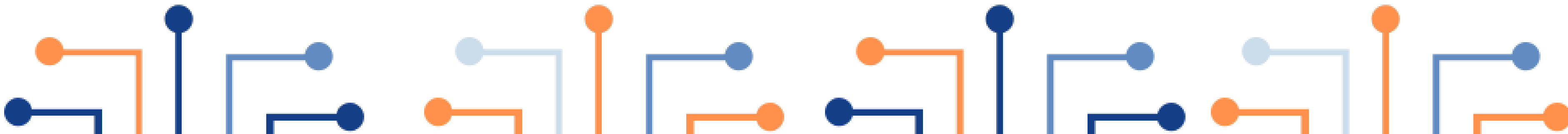
- Comprehensive assessments
- Judicial oversight
- Case management
- Behavioral responses
- Data collection and evaluation
- Restorative practices & victim support



Wraparound Service Array

Services and dosage (proposed length of participation) will be dependent on individual need, risk, and assessment

- Peer support and/or mentorship
- Restitution/community services
- Community Comprehensive Services (CCS)
- Restorative justice processes (victim-offender dialogue, RJ circle)
- Employment/vocational training and placement
- HSED/GED or higher education classes
- Shoplifting accountability class
- Know your rights & responsibilities clinic
- Mental health/substance abuse/trauma assessment and counseling
- Alcohol and substance use treatment
- Driver's license attainment/recovery
- Housing supports (housing search, direct assistance/eviction prevention, etc.)



Referral Process

01

Eligible case identified

02

Victim notification & conferring

03

Community Court offered at initial appearance
(letter mailed if I/A has already occurred)

04

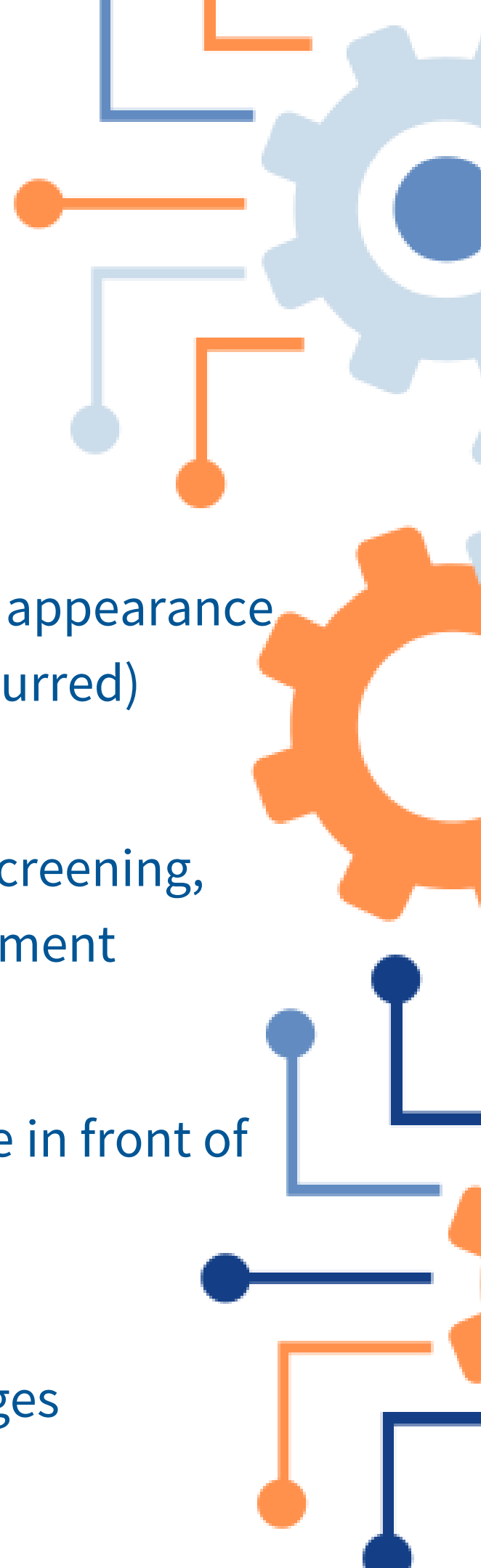
Community Court staff complete screening,
assessment, and participant agreement

05

First Community Court appearance in front of
Judge Trammell

06

Upon successful completion, charges
dismissed/lessened



Phased Approach | Launch & Beyond



1. Soft launch

- est. November - December 2025
- **First court date is December 2, 2025!**

2. Pilot

- est. January - June 2026

3. Full implementation

- est. July 2026 - September 2027

Next Steps/Rollout



- In process of executing contract with Catalis for case management database system
 - Will be used by Community Court staff, in conjunction with OJR Data Analyst and Evaluation Analyst to track, analyze, and evaluate data & outcomes
- Received approval to post and hire a (grant funded) full-time Community Court Case Manager and anticipate hiring & onboarding to begin within the 1st quarter of 2026
 - Acquired additional office space at CCB to be used for case management and other meetings requiring privacy
 - Seeking to utilize consistent space in the courthouse for info/screening/assessment hub
- Collaboratively working on opportunities to offer in-person internal and community-based resources in the courthouse on Community Court days
- Continued unique and long-term partnerships with national and local experts

Questions?

**Office of
Justice
Reform**



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