

Collaborative Criminal Justice Improvement Efforts

11.1.21

PROJECT TITLE Elevating safety, justice, wellness, and equity: strategies to safely prioritize rehabilitation over incarceration.

PARTNERS Courts, District Attorney, Probation, Public Defender, Sheriff

INITIATIVE	DESCRIPTION & OPTIMAL OUTCOME	STATUS			
		Implemented	In Progress	To Be Implemented	Target Completion Date
TRANSPARENCY: Provide accessible data to the public and decisionmakers to promote evidence-based discussion and planning.					
1 Data Dashboard	<p>DESCRIPTION: 1) Create interim data dashboard incorporating data from all justice partners (not real time but refreshes every 30 days). 2) Create interactive, real-time data dashboard incorporating potential real-time data from all justice partners.</p> <p>OUTCOME: Meaningful sharing and understanding of pertinent and relevant data between Courts, BOS, criminal justice stakeholders, and public to promote evidence-based practices in the areas of correctional assessment, programming, and supervision strategies, among others, to improve rehabilitation and increase public safety.</p>	<p>Interim dashboard model built (refreshes every 30 days); includes Probation and Sheriff data, including glossary.</p> <p>Sheriff's Office implemented data dashboard for the main jail: https://www.sbsheriff.org/data-dashboard/</p>	<p>PD and DA data integration being evaluated.</p>	<p>Other data to be integrated; interactive real-time dashboard that includes elements of all partners not yet initiated. (Potential Measures for Justice project to create DA dashboard).</p>	<p>1) February 2022 (interim dashboard) 2) August 2022 (real-time interactive data dashboard)</p>
Notes:	A data dashboard that connects the entire system is the intent of this project, with data elements that align and connect each department's information.				
EQUAL JUSTICE: Strategies to optimize due process					
2 Discovery	<p>DESCRIPTION: Document current process, ideal process, and create procedures to support ideal process and future state. Identify technology solutions to enhance the efficiency of the discovery sharing process, from law enforcement to prosecutor to defense; identify need for additional staff in law enforcement, prosecution, or defense.</p> <p>OUTCOME: Fact-based decisionmaking regarding current processes and steps to achieve the desired state.</p>		<p>InnovateSBC collaborative process mapping and solution identification process began September 2021. Meetings to be completed by end of CY.</p>		<p>1) February 2022 (technology recommendations) 2) April 2022 (other budget recommendations)</p>

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	<p>This process will help standardize an understanding of the current state of the law, conditions, and a procedure that discourages redundancy and/or replication of duties. Desired outcome is a system that encourages all discovery to be exchanged at the earliest date, simplifies the task, and reduces the "culture of continuances."</p> <p>In October 2021, the DA's office announced use of eDisclosure beginning in November, a web-based service to enhance providing discovery to defense attorneys.</p> <p>Notes:</p> <p>Concurrently evaluating vendors for digital evidence software.</p> <p>CEO funding to be released upon recommendations and findings of InnovateSBC process.</p>				
3	<p>Resolve aged cases</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Collaboration between Public Defender, District Attorney, and Courts to resolve serious crime cases over 365 days old. Cases are batched into 20-case bundles for resolution.</p> <p>OUTCOME: Closure for victims and defendants; reduced pre-trial jail population.</p>		121 cases identified; DA and PD working together to prep first batch of 20 cases for court review.		First 20 cases ready for court review by November 2021, with court intervention opportunity (set for trial or settled) by December 2021. Next 20 cases will follow by 60 days.
4	<p>Enhance Public Defender (and Court experts) access to incarcerated clients</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: 1) Allow Public Defenders to bring non-internet-enabled laptops into jail facilities for ability to share digital evidence and other relevant documents with clients. 2) Allow Public Defender's Office access to self-schedule client visits electronically.</p> <p>OUTCOME: Custody staff time freed up from scheduling to more important duties; defendants receive greater access to their attorneys.</p>	<p>1) Laptops now permitted in jail facilities.</p> <p>2) Sheriff purchased additional equipment and expanded video conference capability to 14 terminals.</p> <p>3) Sheriff expanded daily visitation hours.</p>	<p>4) Sheriff exploring wireless access points in IRC to increase access to pre-arraignment defendants.</p> <p>5) Sheriff and PD researching Teams as alternative to Zoom for attorney visits. Efficiencies may include: ease of scheduling, document sharing, reduced costs, and integration with county platform.</p>		Expected full implementation by June 30, 2022 (dependent on Northern Branch Jail opening).
	<p>Notes:</p> <p>Access to an attorney is the foundation of the 6th amendment. This access includes retaining the ability to have Zoom conversations or interviews with attorneys, experts, and family members necessary to a competent defense. This issue also involves delay in accessing inmates by Court experts. The Sheriff's Office has cited staffing challenges that prevent optimal scheduling and access in the Main Jail, as well as an overall increase in visitation, with 2,137 visits conducted in the past six months (April-September 2021).</p>				
5	<p>Maintain use of mandatory settlement conferences post-COVID</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Maintain the use of settlement conferences to promote early resolution of cases and avoid the need for trial unless necessary.</p> <p>OUTCOME: Closure for victims and defendants; reduced pre-trial jail population.</p>		Monthly meetings established between PD & Courts/DA & Courts.		Backlog of cases and pre-trial settlement conferences to be completed in 6 months; settlement conferences to be ongoing practice of the Courts.

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Notes:	Cases are moving through the system, This was implemented to assist with the backlog of cases due to court closure during the pandemic. Pre-trial settlement conferences are not expected to continue but post-arraignment discussions will.				
6 Maintain use of virtual arraignment courts post-COVID	<p>DESCRIPTION: Maintain virtual arraignment court operations for in-custody defendants.</p> <p>OUTCOME: More efficient use of time for all parties; reduced transportation costs for Sheriff.</p>		Monthly meetings established between PD & Courts/DA & Courts.		Decisions on virtual process are ongoing and continuing with recommendations to come within next three months.
Notes:	Process is being mapped out on how this could continue, given different access to clients, and jail staffing, and opening of Northern Branch Jail.				
COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY: Invest in continuous case planning to reduce recidivism, enhance whole person interventions, and ensure victim engagement					
7 Explore expansion of the use of pretrial release	<p>DESCRIPTION: The Pretrial Supervised Release Program is designed to safely maintain in the community those individuals who are deemed appropriate for pretrial release both pre and post arraignment; monitor compliance with release conditions; and ensure defendants' appearance in court.</p> <p>OUTCOME: Implement continuing case management that efficiently and correctly identifies suitable candidates for pretrial release to both enhance earlier interventive resources and accurately keeps jail populations managed.</p>		Expansion dependent on legislative action on \$0 bail and analysis of pretrial population.		Recommendations prepared by April 2022.
Notes:	Pending further legislative movement on \$0 bail. For now, Superior Court has maintained this.				
8 Establish multi-disciplinary teams for collaborative case planning (initial intake assessment and discharge planning)	<p>DESCRIPTION: A proactive, collaborative, multi-disciplinary process that assesses, plans, implements, coordinates, monitors, and evaluates options and services to meet an individual's needs or risks, as well as responsivity factors. Case Management is the process that links all elements involved in an inmate's management. The process of Case Management unifies procedures and personnel to balance departmental resources and an inmate's needs throughout his/her term of incarceration and community supervision.</p> <p>OUTCOME: Create a process for evidence-based case management, breaking down silos and redundancies.</p>		Partners agree this is needed, but no one department yet identified as lead.		Recommendations prepared by June 2022.
Notes:	Partners have all agreed but no agreement on who can lead. Probation recommended as lead. Resources review and system improvements needed before adding resources. Jail discharge support services started a pilot program in October with Good Samaritan, Sheriff, and BW to connect released inmates to services.				

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9	<p>Optimize the use of alternative sentencing</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: An alternative sentence is where a person convicted of a crime serves his/her sentence in the community (via some type of community or state program) instead of with jail time. Alternative sentencing options benefit the accused (especially first-time offenders), the criminal justice system, and society. For offenders, alternative sentencing programs help keep them out of jail, meaning they can avoid losing their job, family, home, damaging their reputation, and/or other experiencing financial hardship. Taxpayers also benefit from these programs since an alternative sentence reduces the total volume of incarcerated inmates.</p> <p>OUTCOME: Early identification of suitable candidates as part of a proactive, holistic, and collaborative approach to shepherd qualified participants into alternatives to traditional incarceration. Prioritizing rehabilitation over incarceration while continuing to maintain public safety and victims' rights.</p>	<p>Sheriff's Alternative Sentencing Bureau has increased the number of participants to an ADP of 60 in September 2021, up from a low of 33 in March 2021.</p>	<p>Sheriff's Office, Probation, and CEO have met several times to explore whether efficiencies may exist in Probation assuming supervision of Alternative Sentencing releases. Efficiencies to include: wider opportunities for post-release programming and treatment; improved supervision through field contact; better outcomes and reduced recidivism.</p>		<p>Recommendations prepared by April 2022.</p>
Notes:					
10	<p>Explore expansion of holistic defense</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: In line with KPMG recommendation, expand holistic defense staffing in Public Defender's Office to improve client outcomes.</p> <p>OUTCOME: Reduced recidivism; crime prevention.</p>			<p>Not yet begun.</p>	<p>Recommended action plan prepared by February 2022.</p>
Notes:		Data on outcomes will need to be presented first; discharge assessment should be done before considering augmenting holistic defense.			
11	<p>Expand and optimize the use of diversion programs and other off-ramps from the criminal justice system</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: New or potential diversion programs include Goleta neighborhood court (now called South County Restorative Justice Program), felony pre-filing diversion, and partnerships with local schools offering trade certificate programs.</p> <p>OUTCOME: Increased diversion of certain populations where appropriate.</p>		<p>New programs in planning stage.</p>		<p>RJP to begin roll out first quarter of 2022. Felony diversion program dates pending from CCI; anticipating end of CY 2022.</p>
Notes:		Presentation on Restorative Justice Program (RJP) at CCP workgroup. Received one-time CCP funding for FY 2021-22; will seek ongoing funding.			
Notes:		Felony - pre-filing diversion. DA working with Center for Courts Innovation (CCI). CCI just received funding from BJA so now in scheduling process. Behavioral Wellness and CJ departments are seeking additional funding from Department of State Hospitals for expansion of felony diversion.			

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12 Optimize victim advocacy services	<p>DESCRIPTION: Restorative justice refers to a system of criminal justice that focuses on rehabilitating offenders through reconciliation with victims and the community at-large. Victim Advocates work to ensure that crime victims and their family members are kept informed and supported throughout the criminal justice process.</p> <p>OUTCOME: Assistance for victim engagement and ensuring victims' rights.</p>			Not yet begun.	Will follow RJP and the work CCI is doing; begin discussion July 2022.
Notes:					
13 Optimize the use of treatment courts	<p>DESCRIPTION: Explore current state of treatment courts to analyze participation levels and outcomes and conduct cost-benefit analysis of this option.</p> <p>OUTCOME: Jail avoidance when safe.</p>			Not yet begun.	Begin February 2022.
Notes:					
14 ThriveSBC.com	<p>DESCRIPTION: Thrive SBC integrates community services into the everyday needs of individuals in the county seeking access to resources ranging from treatment programs to public benefits and food services, and more. Thrive SBC assists those who are pre-entry, actively involved, and re-entry by supplying access to services that can help prevent justice involvement or reintegrate individuals back into the community. While serving as a one-stop shop for those needing access to services, this app also enables providers to better assist those receiving services, and benefits the community by helping prevent future justice involvement.</p> <p>OUTCOME: Provide an online community resource guide to justice-involved individuals and their support systems.</p>				Launching in mid-November 2021.