

Milwaukee County was selected in 2016 by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to receive funding and technical assistance to introduce reforms that safely **reduce overreliance on the jail**, **address racial and ethnic disparities**, and **improve community engagement**.

Before the Safety and Justice Challenge ...

- Nearly **half** of all jail bookings arose from misdemeanor arrests
- Roughly **one-third** of the jail population received psychotropic medications to address mental health needs while in custody
- African-Americans and Hispanics made up 41% of the county population, but approximately **70%** of the jail population

*These numbers were from Milwaukee County Jail in 2016.

... but there are solutions

Through the Safety and Justice Challenge, Milwaukee County has implemented policy changes and strategies to create a more **fair**, **efficient**, and **effective** local justice system.

Phase II Safety and Justice Challenge strategies included:



Introduce a **book and refer policy** in the City of Milwaukee that creates equitable practices throughout Milwaukee County

Goal: Reduce number of individuals booked into the jail for non-violent misdemeanors by the Milwaukee Police Department



Expand **Crisis Assessment Response Team (CART)** and training for law enforcement on community-based mental health resources

Goal: Reduce number of individuals with mental health conditions entering the criminal justice system



Introduce **post-booking stabilization (PBS)** to divert individuals with mental health conditions from jail into community-based services

Goal: Prevent individuals with mental health conditions from cycling through the criminal justice system



Provide training and promote **trauma-informed care** to increase recognition and response to trauma in the justice system

Goal: Foster an environment and system that appropriately responds to trauma



Increase **data capacity** and **information sharing** between criminal justice system agencies to inform response to system-involved individuals

Goal: Integrate data to allow for deeper analyses of criminal justice system populations and inform decision-making and policy

Book & Refer

- The Milwaukee Police Department implemented a book and refer policy to divert individuals to a district station for booking, release, and referral to the District Attorney's Office
- This process mirrors suburban practices and creates a non-custodial option to handle charges

CART, Crisis Mobile Team, Crisis Resource Center

- Added a 4th Milwaukee County Crisis Assessment Response Team (CART), which is the only CART to have countywide jurisdiction beyond the City of Milwaukee
- 10% decrease in CART mobiles ending in arrest or emergency detention between 2017 and 2018
- 129% increase in overall CART contacts, a 120% increase in CART mobiles, and Crisis Resource Center intakes have increased by 79.1%, **meaning more criminal justice system stakeholders are aware of and referring individuals to mental health resources**
- All Milwaukee Police Department patrol officers have received Crisis Intervention Training

Post-Booking Stabilization

- 139 individuals enrolled in PBS, with over half being successfully connected to wellness resources, secure housing, and other needs
- Going forward, Milwaukee County will refine its mental health diversion processes and introduce case processing improvements

Trauma and Family Violence

- 495 criminal justice system stakeholders have received training to recognize and understand trauma, and how to provide trauma-informed care in the criminal justice system
- 80% of Milwaukee County criminal division judges and all Department of Corrections (Region 3) staff have received trauma training
- 71% of eligible individuals receive a Domestic Violence Deferred Prosecution Agreement (DV DPA)
- Among closed DV DPAs, 87% of participants successfully completed their agreement

Data Capacity and Information Sharing

- A comprehensive dashboard, including racial and ethnic disparities data, will soon be available to support criminal justice system stakeholders in making informed policy decisions
- Court measures, jail, and pretrial data have been added to the dashboard

Milwaukee County was approved in 2019 for Phase III funding to continue these efforts. Phase III funds will focus on:



Community-based
mental health support



Further expanding
data capacity



Streamlining
case processing



Community-focused interventions
and reentry reforms

In Milwaukee County, the Safety and Justice Challenge is led by the Milwaukee Community Justice Council

MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY



Mandy Potapenko, **Director**
mpotapenko@milwaukeeecjc.org

Erin Perkins, **SJC Project Manager**
eperkins@milwaukeeecjc.org



facebook.com/milwcjc



milwaukee.gov/MCJC

Published: Jan. 30th, 2019

More information about the Safety and Justice Challenge is available at: www.safetyandjusticechallenge.org