
INNOVATIVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE STRATEGIES

A monthly newsletter brought to you by the CJCC Strategic Planning Committee

DECEMBER 2019

Diversion

Where: California

Program: Diversion Program

<https://www.kpbs.org/news/2019/jul/10/california-diversion-program-lets-victims-confront/>

An experimental program is being run in California to assist with jail diversion. The program allows victims to directly confront their offenders. The program was started from a \$5,000,000 fund that was given on July 1st, 2019. This program has been tried in other counties, however it is most often used with juvenile offenders. California's program will be available to offenders of all ages, and give them a chance to avoid having a criminal record. Offenders in the program face a suspended prison sentence that can be reinstated at any time during the program, unless they complete it. Treatment or training is also an option for offenders in the program. Another focus of the program is to provide victims with the tools and power to become more involved in the justice system.

Recidivism

Where: Cass County, Minnesota

Program: Recidivism Reduction

<https://www.pineandlakes.com/news/4633593-cass-county-board-recidivism-reduction-program-has-high-inmate>

In Cass County, Minnesota, a voluntary program is being used in the jails to reduce recidivism. The program screens participants for substance abuse issues, chemical dependency, and mental health issues. Once screened, participants are referred to a treatment that is suitable for their needs. The goal of the program is to get enough people the treatment they need so that they will not reoffend. Only 26% of offenders refused to participate in the months of May and June. 146 of the 267 individuals booked into the prison completed the screening during those same months. According to the county administrator, the jail has booked less inmates since the beginning of the program. Ideally, offenders are screened within 24 hours of arrest, and before they go to court.

Addiction Recovery

Where: Routt County, Colorado

Program: Substance Abuse Recovery

<https://www.steamboatpilot.com/news/recovering-addicts-in-routt-county-to-benefit-from-expanded-treatment-program/>

This program, funded by Colorado marijuana tax dollars, aims to provide medication-assisted addiction treatment programs across Colorado. According to the Colorado DHS, more than 550 people died from opioid overdoses in 2017. This program uses opioid antagonists that help cravings subside, and to get users on the right track. This program aims to help fight the opioid crisis, and provide support for those suffering from addiction to opioids. According to Nancy Beste, an owner of a clinic in Steamboat Springs that practices with medication-assisted treatment, the program has a 90% recovery rate.
