
INNOVATIVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE STRATEGIES

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

JULY 2019

Jail Diversion

Where: St. Louis County, Missouri

Program: Safety and Justice Challenge

<https://www.naco.org/blog/safety-and-justice-challenge-featured-jurisdiction-st-louis-county-mo>

In 2015, St. Louis applied for the Safety and Justice Challenge, a program that provides support to local leaders from across the country to address the issue of over incarceration in America, specifically the misuse and overuse of jails. Currently there are 52 States participating in the challenge. St. Louis is beginning to tackle the issue of over incarceration with four strategies. They are improving their pretrial release program to include more of their jail population, and are working with local service providers to provide mental health and substance use treatment post release. They are also seeking to expedite cases for those who have returned to jail for violating the terms of their probation. A Jail Population Review Team to identify best practices for effective, safe and just case processing has also been developed. Finally, they are increasing the use of treatment courts as an alternative to incarceration.

Policing

Where: New Orleans, Louisiana

Program: Group Violence Reduction Strategy

<https://www.crimesolutions.gov/ProgramDetails.aspx?ID=490>

The Group Violence Reduction Strategy aims to address persistent, citywide patterns of violence. It is a focused deterrence intervention. The program targets criminally active groups and members of gangs. Once these groups are identified, the New Orleans Police Department takes three steps to implement their program. Officers first apprehend identified gang members, and they conduct an “offender notification session.” During the session they warn them about heightened sanctions that they will receive if they continue any further violence, and they ask the individual to share this information within their group or gang. The Police Department also offers social service provisions during these sessions.

Community Corrections

Where: Washington State

Program: Mentally Ill Offender Community Transition Program (MIOCTP)

<https://www.crimesolutions.gov/ProgramDetails.aspx?ID=567>

This program focuses on offenders that have mental illnesses and have committed an offense because of their mental illness, and individuals that can qualify and benefit from community support and treatment. Candidates for the program are referred by Department of Corrections mental health-risk management specialists. There are several criteria that a potential candidate must meet to participate in the program. Some examples of criteria are: They must have a major mental illness that influenced criminal activity. The candidate is judged by the DOC staff as less likely to reoffend if provided ongoing mental health treatment. The candidate is a willing participant in the services offered. The overall all goal of this program is to reduce recidivism amongst these individuals.
