
INNOVATIVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE STRATEGIES

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

JULY 2020

Courts

Where: Comal County, Texas

Program: Client Choice Program

http://www.jmijustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/The-Power-of-Choice_29-MAR-2017.pdf

The Client Choice Program was a pilot project in Comal County, Texas in which indigent defendants may select an attorney rather than be appointed an attorney through the county's existing rotational assignment process. The Justice Management Institute (JMI) worked with Comal County stakeholders, the Texas Indigent Defense Commission, and indigent defense scholars to provide an initial assessment of the indigent defense system and then evaluate the impact of the Client Choice Program. The Program has been found to improve certain measures of quality of a defendant's Sixth Amendment's Right to counsel, including timeliness of first meetings and responsiveness between defense lawyers and clients.

Policing

Where: Los Angeles, California

Program: Community Safety Partnership

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-05-13/lapd-community-policing-program-prevented-crime-made-residents-feel-safer-study-finds>

The Los Angeles Police Department's signature community policing program has prevented crime and made residents feel safer in public housing developments with entrenched gang problems and troubled relationships with law enforcement, according to a study by UCLA researchers. CSP launched in 2011 as a radical departure from traditional policing. Instead of arresting suspects, CSP officers would talk to residents and help solve their problems, and engage regularly with citizens in positive, non-crime response interactions to build trust and rapport. Community policing initiatives are extensively supported by research.

Technology

Where: Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina

Program: UV Lighting

<https://www.secondwavemedia.com/epicenter/devnews/UVLightTech.aspx>

When it comes to protecting police officers and members of the fire department from COVID-19, a task made all the more important for a group of people who are unable to work from home, Mt. Pleasant has taken many precautions - outfitting officers with personal protective equipment like N95 masks and gloves. Squad cars and fire engines are sanitized at the end of their runs. So, too, are the vehicles in the fleet of the Department of Public Works. The City has also taken the extra step of applying ultraviolet light to the departments' equipment and vehicles, a practice recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, further helping to eliminate the presence of the virus.
