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# INNOVATIVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE STRATEGIES

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

JUNE 2020

## Behavioral Health

Where: San Luis Obispo County, California

Program: Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program Grant

<https://stepuptogether.org/updates/jmhcp-grant-helps-san-luis-obispo-step-up-to-improve-lives-of-people-with-mental-illnesses-in-jail>

San Luis Obispo, California was awarded a Justice and Mental Health Collaboration (JMHC) grant from the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance in 2018 to improve responses to people with mental illnesses in their local criminal justice system. The grant was used to open a behavioral health unit in the jail that features specialized classrooms that are used to help individuals build their life skills as well as host counseling sessions, group therapy, and anger management classes. The grant also enabled the county to provide CIT training to deputies in jails, launch a jail-based competency program that provides intensive services to anyone deemed incompetent to stand trial to restore their competency so their case can be resolved more quickly, and other beneficial programs.

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## Policing

Where: Southfield, Michigan

Program: Strategies for Defeating Community Harms

[https://www.theoaklandpress.com/news/local/southfield-police-identify-community-harms-and-strategies-for-defeating-them/article\\_4779c23a-3d64-11ea-920e-a766c6ba36dc.html](https://www.theoaklandpress.com/news/local/southfield-police-identify-community-harms-and-strategies-for-defeating-them/article_4779c23a-3d64-11ea-920e-a766c6ba36dc.html)

The Southfield Police Department has adopted seven "community harms" — areas that officers can focus on to be proactive and achieve greater quality of life for residents including domestic violence, illegal drug use, traffic safety, active shooter preparedness, human trafficking, school/youth engagement, and police presence. Police Chief Elvin Barren has also outlined strategies to combat these areas through training, procedural guidance, communication with citizens, and collaboration with other agencies.

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## Technology

Where: Folsom, California

Program: Vitals Technology

<https://www.kcra.com/article/new-tech-lets-folsom-pd-help-people-with-cognitive-disabilities/30463463>

Folsom police are the first in California to launch Vitals technology, a new program that enables law enforcement officers to better help people with cognitive disabilities. The program allows individuals with cognitive impairments to carry a keychain fob that sends out a signal to any Folsom police officer who comes within 80 feet. The signal triggers a notification on the officer's phone providing the individual's name, condition and de-escalation techniques to help them. Folsom police paid \$7,500 for one year of the program. They are giving out 50 devices for free. Participants have to pay a monthly subscription fee of \$4.99 after receiving the device.

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