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# INNOVATIVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE STRATEGIES

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

MAY 2020

## Pretrial

Where: Albuquerque, New Mexico

Program: Pretrial background checks/risk assessment

<https://www.abqjournal.com/1411794/pretrial-program-aims-to-provide-more-information.html>

New Mexico's state court system is working to give judges better access to information they may need when determining whether to release or detain criminal defendants as they await trial. The Administrative Office of the Courts wrote that a new pretrial services program will conduct background checks and risk assessments on behalf of magistrate and district judges in Sandoval and San Juan counties. The agency said the program will expand to additional courts as funding permits. The AOC is also expanding a program that sends defendants text and email reminders about upcoming court hearings. It is piloting the program in San Juan and Sandoval counties with plans to make it available in more courthouses by late June.

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## Juvenile Substance Abuse Prevention

Where: Wasilla, Alaska

Program: Youth 360

<https://www.ktuu.com/content/news/Alaska-pilot-program-tackles-youth-substance-abuse-before-it-starts-567301041.html>

A pilot program in the Mat-Su Valley is working to prevent the onset of substance abuse in teen-aged youth, modeling a successful Icelandic program. Youth 360 launched in the summer of 2019 at Houston and Wasilla high schools. Program director Tyler Healy says they're increasing access to after-school activities, essentially shepherding kids away from trouble and towards productive outlets. The program is really a social network, connecting parents to the Mat-Su Borough School District to identify how kids are slipping through the cracks and resorting to drugs and alcohol. They survey students anonymously to learn more about how they're spending their free time.

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## Vocational Training

Where: Santa Rosa Correctional Institution, Florida and Wynne Unit Prison, Texas

Program: Commercial driver's license training

<https://www.fleetowner.com/resource-center/driver-management/article/21121395/getting-inmates-ready-for-the-road>

The most recent CDL graduation class at Florida's Santa Rosa Correctional Institution included 45 men who had successfully completed the course. According to Mark Inch, Florida's Department of Corrections secretary, inmates tend to be loyal to their first job, which is beneficial to the commercial driving industry which struggles with retention. Inch would like to extend the CDL program to other institutions. The Texas Department of Corrections also has beneficial CDL programs, where inmates are able to work for the department itself once they finish the program. Unlike Santa Rosa, which uses simulators, the inmates at the Wynne Unit prison receive road practice under strict supervision.

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