

Pretrial Justice Network Meeting Minutes
Clatsop County, Warrenton, Oregon
5/23/19 1pm-5pm

Attendees: Kristen Hanthorn, Clatsop County; Wende Jackson, Multnomah County, Jessica Beach (via phone) and Pricilla Villa, Yamhill County; Eric Anderson, Clackamas County, Marie Gainer and Jeffery Hoey, Lincoln County; and Rick Hathaway, Multnomah County

Guests: Jeff Kilpatrick, NAPSA President

Guest Speakers:

Joel Bishop, NAPSA Southern Regional Director and Executive Director of Pretrial Services in El Paso County, Texas

Jim Sawyer, NAPSA Executive Director

Pretrial Risk Assessment Validation/Recidivism Presentation: Joel Bishop began his presentation with a question to attendees about their local jurisdiction and state data barriers resulting in a good discussion. Joel then provided an overview of the El Paso, Texas Pretrial Justice System, organization, funding and past and present experiences with data collection and research. See attached power point presentation and below bullet points for highlights.

Overall recommendations Joel made to the group included:

- hiring internal data analyst (#1 most important asset),
- use outside consultants as able,
- develop relationships with nearby universities who are often willing to complete research projects for free,
- data collection is imperative to knowing outcomes and guide pretrial reform and implement system improvements.

El Paso County research findings include:

- correlation of days of pretrial jail stay with increased recidivism,
- all dynamic criminogenic risk factors (specifically the top three factors) are certainly negatively impacted by pretrial jail incarceration,
- past future court appearance rates in El Paso County are not correlated with future court appearance rates,
- development of El Paso-specific pretrial risk assessment tool and local validation (now only asking those questions that are directly correlated with local risk),
- development and implementation of local matrix tool to assist with jail release recommendations based on appearance and violence potential (signed by all criminal justice stakeholders).

Future research study questions in El Paso county include:

- whether homelessness is directly tied to court appearance in order to support resources allocation to assist this population to attend court vs. pretrial jail incarceration (i.e., provide phones for court notification, what level of supervision or treatment referral that may assist with court appearance, etc.),
- El Paso County risk assessment evaluation continues (are there other factors that could be correlated with pretrial risk? focus on racial, gender and socioeconomic issues, etc.)

Failure to appear definition:

- “any act of failing to appear in court that results in a warrant request.” If the act is not severe enough to document and result in a warrant, then why is it worth measuring? Also this definition is the only way to consistently finding FTA and combats the potential problem at the state-wide level that each court defines and captures FTA differently. In fact, Texas legislatures are being pressured to pass law requiring courts to consistently measure court appearance rates.

Joel is very open to sharing any material or consultation that may assist Oregon in movement toward pretrial program implementation.

National Overview of Pretrial Reform: Jim Sawyer, the Executive Director of the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies (NAPSA), provided an overview of NAPSA, a national membership association dedicated to pretrial release and pretrial diversion. NAPSA’s mission is to make pretrial justice the norm by training, supporting and educating pretrial stakeholders and line staff. NAPSA believes that financial conditions of release are non-constitutional, least restrictive conditions should be imposed on yet innocent defendants and bail decisions should be fair and equitable to all defendants. NAPSA provides training and education through an annual conference, individual agency training and consultation. A line pretrial practitioner certification program and agency accreditation are also offered. Currently four sights are NAPSA accredited: Main, Connecticut, DeKalb County and Mecklenburg County. NAPSA also works with NIC and others to develop various publications to guide pretrial justice best practices. Topics include the difference between pretrial and probation, essential elements of an effective pretrial justice program, measuring what matters in pretrial justice, and national standards for both pretrial release and diversion (news standards pending release sometime this summer, they haven’t been updated since 2004). NAPSA also holds numerous partnerships with the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA), Pretrial Justice Institute (PJI), National Center for Court Innovation, Center for Effective Public Policy (CEPP), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), etc. NAPSA is currently in partnership with the Arnold Ventures in an five year effort to advance pretrial policy and research nationally. Its primary goal is PSA implementation and provide research on the Public Safety Assessment (PSA) as well as local/national PSA validation including implementation of 200 medium sights and even more low touch sights to enhance pretrial practices nationwide. The next NAPSA conference is offered in August in San Diego 9/8-9/11 at Sheridan Hotel; registration just opened last week. Conference scholarship opportunities are available regionally for each of the six NAPSA regions covering hotel, conference registration and transportation.

National Institution of Corrections (NIC) Essential Elements Discussion: Wende Jackson guided the meeting participants through the NIC Essential Elements document that acts as best practices for pretrial justice programs. This document is something that Oregon State Public Safety Taskforce is considering recommendation of to the Governor as a guide to local jurisdictions in implementation and development of local pretrial services programs. A scoring form was sent out as a way for local jurisdictions to consider their adherence to best practices and measure improvements.

Agency Updates: During this time period, attendees provided an overview of their agency including organization, processes, policies and funding. There are currently 13 counties as part of the network meeting membership.

Next Meeting Agenda Items: Wende, did we have any?

Next Meeting:

8/22/19 1-5pm, Lincoln County

11/21/19 1-5pm, Clackamas or Multnomah County