IMPLEMENTING SMARTER SENTENCING
TIPS AND ADVICE FROM THE FRONTLINES

September 25, 2013 at 1:00pm ET to 2:30pm ET
What are the objectives today?

To use the experiences of two jurisdictions to illustrate some of the lessons learned and outstanding challenges in translating evidence-based practices into day-to-day practices and systems.
How will we reach those objectives?

- Tiana Glenna: Eau Claire County, Wisconsin as an Evidence-Based Decision-Making (EBDM) site for the National Institute of Corrections

- Risë Haneberg: Johnson County, Kansas as a model for the state to introduce risk and needs assessments during sentencing and corrections.

- Highlight key, common lessons across both jurisdictions and point to the some pitfalls

- You, the audience, will be active participants in your learning by asking questions and offering your own experiences.
Resources in addition to this presentation

• The Evidence-Based Decision-Making Framework for Local Criminal Justice Systems

• The Research-Based Smarter Sentencing Handbook

• The Justice Management Institute blog at http://www.jmijustice.org/about/justblog/
Background: Eau Claire, WI

• Nineteen miles east of Minneapolis and St. Paul, MN
• Population: 100,677 with 18 cities, towns, and villages
• Over 90 percent white community
• 15 percent live below poverty line
• Criminal courts: 6,356 case filings in 2012
• Jail: 360 jail bed capacity; 650 ADP 2012
Background: Johnson County, KS

- Suburban county in Kansas City metropolitan area
- Population: 550,000
- Historically white, middle/upper class
- Increasing Hispanic and low-income population
- Criminal courts: 4,462 case filings in 2012
- Jail: 1,100 jail bed capacity; 650 ADP 2012
Both of your jurisdictions began integrating evidence-based practices, such as risk and needs assessments and interventions responsive to criminogenic needs, in the early 2000s.

What was happening in your communities that got you started down the road of implementing what some call *smarter sentencing*?
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• Piloting a new risk assessment
• Objective assessment tool
• Training on smarter sentencing important to mobilize local community
• Crisis in jail overcrowding
• Community interest or push to improve practice
• Convene CJCCs
What is striking about both of your stories is the importance of bringing together diverse stakeholders around a common, broad agenda.

How did you identify the right people in your counties to promote and sustain an agenda for more evidence-based practice?
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• Strategic thinking about who needs to be represented for what decisions

• Diversity in the membership – system stakeholders and other allies like community members, treatment providers

• Meetings oriented to discussing issues

• Common goal(s)

• Regular meeting/ frequent meeting
Both of you have been strong proponents of using the CJCC model for effecting change. The role of interdisciplinary leadership and consensus building seems at the foundation of your success to date.

What is it about the CJCC model that works particularly well? What can jurisdictions without CJCCs learn from your experiences?
• Strong coordinator role (relationships, trust, organized, good writing, facilitation)
• System-mapping and reviewing the data and research
• Addressing “how is this going to help me”
• Shared responsibility and cover
• Easy wins/ low hanging fruit
These are all nice ideas in theory, but how do we pay for them when our systems are strapped for cash? I know you both faced these issues head on in your communities.

How did you make the EBP work possible in Eau Claire and Johnson Counties even with limited funding?
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• National Institute of Corrections/ Evidence-Based Decision-Making (EBDM)
• Justice Management Institute
• Center for Effective Public Policy
• Crime and Justice Institute
• Pretrial Justice Institute
• National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies
• Justice Reinvestment
• Council of State Governments
Other Questions or Comments

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