



# Lake County Sheriff's Office Safety and Justice Challenge

**Sheriff John D. Idleburg**

**May 4, 2021**

**Lake County's Mission**

*Deliver exceptional, financially and environmentally responsive/responsible services that promote a safe, affordable, healthy, and resilient community.*



# Grant Overview



- **2018**
  - **LCSO recipient of Safety and Justice Challenge Grant**
  - **Sheriff's Office is the lead agency and key partners include:**
    - **State's Attorney's Office, 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial, Adult Probation, Public Defender, Nicasa Behavioral Health Services**
  - **Safety and Justice Challenge**
    - **To develop and model effective ways to keep people out of jail who do not pose a threat to public safety, more effectively reintegrate to community upon release, and help reduce recidivism**



# 2018-2020 Strategies



- 1. Jail High Utilizer Program**
- 2. Court Date Text Reminder to Public Defender Clients**
- 3. Education and Training on Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Criminal Justice System**
- 4. First Court Appearance**
- 5. JFA Institute Stress Test**



# Strategy Outcomes



- **Jail High Utilizer Program**
  - **Goals:**
    - Keep people out of jail who do not pose a threat to public safety
    - Effectively reintegrate those who must be confined into community upon release
    - Help them stay out of jail thereafter through navigation assistance to community resources
  - **Outcomes:**
    - Served 115 clients
    - Success rate of 51.3%



# Strategy Outcomes



- **Court Date Text Reminder to Public Defender Clients**
  - **Goals:**
    - Public Defender clients voluntarily opt-in to receive a court date text reminder with criminal misdemeanor and felony offenses
    - Effectively reduce the number of failure to appear (FTA) warrants issued for public defender clients who miss court dates
  - **Outcomes:**
    - 393 clients received 592 court date text reminders
    - 4.44% client failure to appear rate with text reminder is significantly lower than the national FTA average of 12.6%



# Strategy Outcomes



- **Education and Training on Racial and Ethnic Disparities**
  - **Goals:**
    - Identify target population
    - Reduce and eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in the criminal justice system
  - **Outcomes:**
    - Defined racial equity for Lake County
    - Increased membership participation to include community members
    - Increased technical assistance from MacArthur for R.E.D. education and training for Lake County
    - Development of Sheriff's Office Jail Population Dashboard
    - Launch of Criminal Justice Community Council



# Strategy Outcomes



- **First Court Appearance Criminal Investigations**
  - **Goals:**
    - Increase number of persons receiving comprehensive background checks to inform judiciary at first court appearance
  - **Outcomes:**
    - Increase non-cash bail release
    - Provide comprehensive pretrial bond investigations
    - Provide interview-based risk assessments
    - Provide bond reports at first court appearance



# Strategy Outcomes



- **Policy Changes Informed by the JFA Institute Stress Test**
  - **Goals:**
    - Evaluate criminal justice practices and design research-based approach policy solutions
    - Identify recommended improvements to criminal justice system processes
  - **Outcomes:**
    - State's Attorney drafted an internal policy directing ASA's to make firm negotiated plea of guilty offers with expiration dates to avoid prolonged or excessive continuances from defense attorneys, thereby reducing court appearances and length of time a case is pending pretrial
    - Creation of jail population review committee
    - Initiative to pilot PSA risk assessment





# 2021-2022



- **Lake County was invited to apply for a second round of funding**
- **Awarded funding with a total investment from MacArthur of \$1.4 million**



# 2021-2022 Strategies



## Equity Team

Engaging the Community in Monitoring our Jail Population Drivers and eliminating Racial and Ethnic Disparities

Increase the communication and trust between communities and stakeholders

Add community members to the decision-making table

Decrease the percentage of persons from communities of color admitted to the jail

## Wellness Center

Police Drop-Off Crisis Triage Stabilization Center

Divert 12-15 persons per month from entering the criminal justice system

Serve as the hub to partner community agencies to increase health, equity, and health literacy.

## COAST

Crisis Outreach and Support Team

Mobile Crisis Co-Responder Program (deputy and social worker) with 12-15 served per month

Peer Recovery Specialist provides 60-90 days follow up  
Increases community outreach  
Use of social media and community forums where there is racial, ethnic, and health disparity

## PSA

Public Safety Assessment Implementation

Judicial and Justice Partner Training

Reduce Cash bonds by 50%

Reduce over-reliance on Pretrial Supervision (884 Sept. 23, 2020)

Reduce the number of persons charged with technical violations by changing internal policies

Court Date Text Notifications \*  
•Public Defender  
•Pretrial

## CJCC

Criminal justice Community Council

Quarterly Meetings – Virtual

• Covid-19 Update/Trends  
• State's Attorney's Office Domestic Violence/Overdose Trends

Pretrial Reform

Data Presentations – Loyola Center for Criminal Justice Research, Policy and Practice

## Data Dashboards

Sheriff's Office Jail Dashboard

- 2019 Releases
- Race & Ethnicity
- Gender
- Most Serious Offense
- 2020 Admissions & Releases

State's Attorneys Office



# Questions