



CHARLESTON COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

DATA-GUIDED CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT

WHO WE ARE:

We are a collaboration of elected and senior officials, law enforcement leaders, judicial and court leadership, behavioral health professionals, victim and legal advocates, and community leaders. Our mission is to assist in making sustainable, data-driven improvements to the local criminal justice system and thereby improve public safety and community well-being throughout Charleston county.

WHAT WE ARE DOING:

The CJCC is implementing a comprehensive transformation plan developed through an exhaustive effort to analyze data from across the local criminal justice system, study racial and ethnic disproportionality and/or disparity, assess jail use, and review successful practices in other jurisdictions. The plan includes six strategies designed to improve Charleston's criminal justice system. These strategies include:



Implement a risk assessment for law enforcement officers that enables greater uniformity in arrest decisions for low-level charges.



Implement a pretrial risk assessment for bond setting to be more risk-based and less dependent upon the financial circumstances of defendants. Public defenders are available to provide representation at bond hearings for those that qualify.



Identify and create appropriate real-time alternatives to jail for individuals living with addiction, mental illness, and/or homelessness through a triage service located within the Tri-county Crisis Stabilization Center.



Redesign expectations for the timeliness of case processing in General Sessions (felony and high-level misdemeanor) cases with the leadership of a Chief Judge for Administrative Purposes, expedited movement of core case processing milestones, and technology.



Launch an automated court date reminder system to increase court appearances and lower the need for criminal bench warrants.



Create a centralized database where all agencies can share information and use data analysis to guide ongoing improvements.

Every decision matters and every decision maker matters.

CJCCs help to enhance public safety
and improve cost-effectiveness.

