

2016

# MID-YEAR REPORT



AUGUST



## Message from the Chairman

**Assistant Sheriff Mitch Lucas**  
Charleston County Sheriff's Office

In my more than 30 years in law enforcement, I have never witnessed such a collaborative effort to improve our local criminal justice system. I am honored and proud to be a part of the efforts of the Charleston County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC).

Thanks to national recognition, Charleston County is part of a national discussion on jail reform and data-driven criminal justice initiatives. We have an opportunity to be a model community, for not only our state, but our country and I'm hopeful we will leave a lasting legacy in the Lowcountry criminal justice community.

I would like to thank all of the CJCC members for their dedication and spending so much time on making our system better. I know the future for us is bright and we will all continue working together for the greater good of this community.



*Charleston County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) is a collaboration of elected and appointed officials, law enforcement leaders, judicial and court leadership, behavioral health professionals, various community leaders and many more. Our mission is to assist in making sustainable, data-driven improvements to our criminal justice system and thereby improve public safety and community well-being.*

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# SUMMARY

This is the first issue of the Charleston County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) interim report intended to summarize year-to-date progress at midyear. Throughout 2016 the CJCC has focused on advancing its three-year transformation plan. The plan includes six strategies to improve the local criminal justice system while safely lowering the jail population by 25%.

In the first quarter, the CJCC submitted a \$3.37 million application for funding to the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge (SJC); enacted bylaws; publically launched its three year transformation plan; and signed onto the White House Data Driven Justice Initiative.

By April of 2016, the CJCC was awarded a \$2.25 million SJC grant to fund implementation of the transformation plan. The Charleston County CJCC was one of only 11 jurisdictions in the nation chosen to receive this prestigious grant, which also provides access to expert technical assistance.

Between April and July, the CJCC revised its plans to maintain as much consistency as possible with the original transformation plan despite the budget difference. Overall, the six strategies originally proposed have remained largely intact. However, necessary modifications were made to the staffing plan and details of the various tasks and timelines to make them more manageable within the resources available. As a result, the transformation plan has a modified start and end date, May 1, 2016 to April 30, 2019.

The CJCC also became part of the White House Data Driven Justice Initiative which provides additional resources for the group to continue its mission. The national initiative is a bipartisan coalition of 67 city, county, and state governments who have committed to using data-driven strategies to provide alternatives to jail for low-level offenders with mental health and substance use disorders and to enhance the pretrial process.

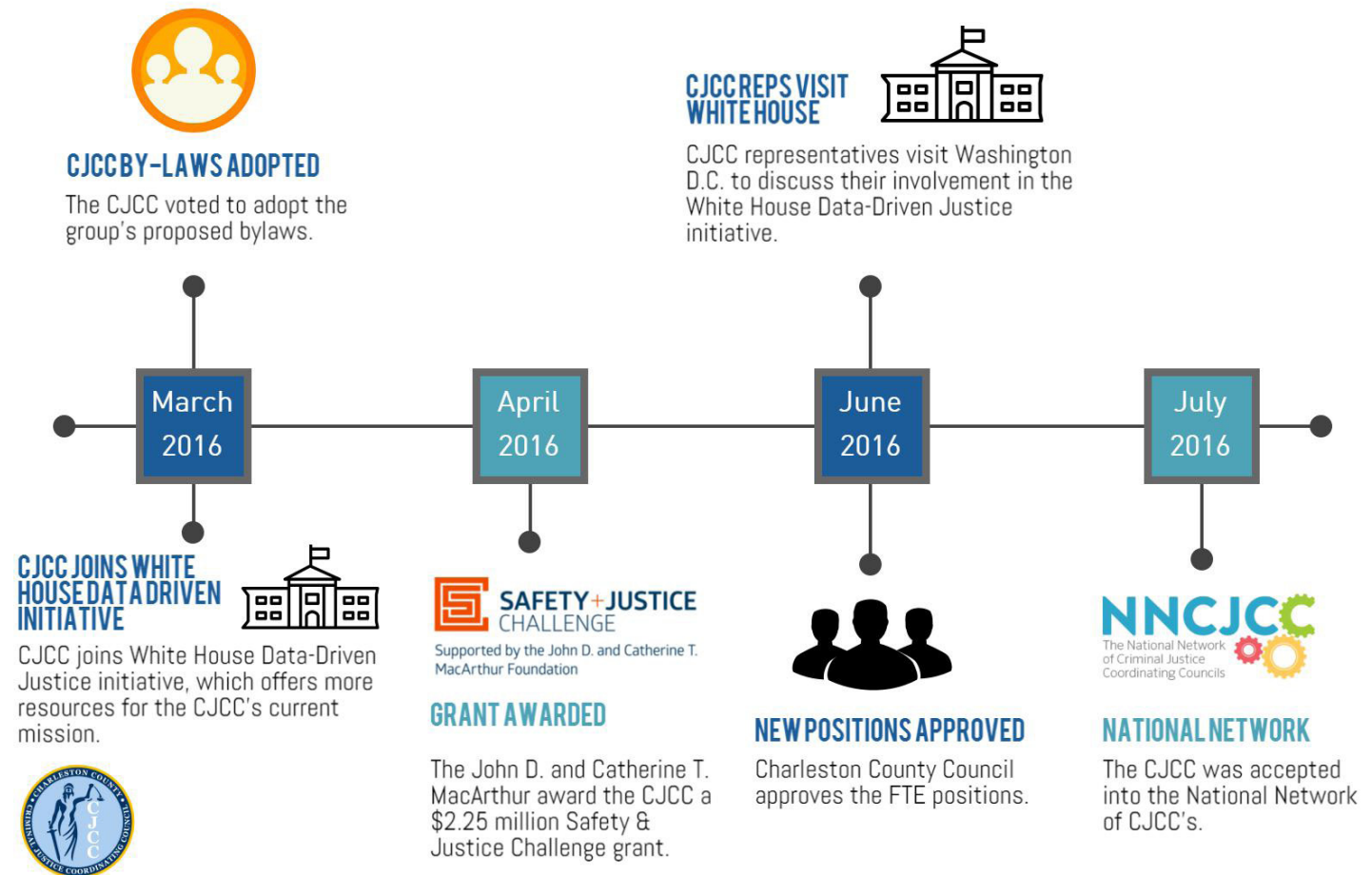
The CJCC also became part of the National Network of CJCC's, a formal network of staff and leadership of local CJCCs that provides a forum for peer-to-peer learning among Network members and information sharing nationally to build capacity for CJCCs around the country.



Dr. Chanda Brown and Kristy Danford visited the White House in June for the kick-off the Data Driven Justice Initiative.

In the interim, strategy teams have been working diligently to launch the respective strategies, ramp up staffing, and install the infrastructure necessary to carry out implementation efforts. ***Please see page 5 for updates on each strategy.***

# TIMELINE



# PRESENTATIONS

CJCC representatives have made presentations about the CJCC mission and strategies to several organizations listed below.

## National Association of Counties (NACO)

*Presentation by Clerk of Court Julie Armstrong*  
Long Beach, CA; JULY 2016

## S.C. Judicial Conference

*Presentation by Project Director Kristy Danford*  
Columbia, SC; AUGUST 2016

## American Corrections Association

*Presentation by Project Director Kristy Danford and CCSO Assistant Sheriff Mitch Lucas*  
Boston, MA; AUGUST 2016

## Illumination Project Forum

*Presentation by Project Director Kristy Danford*  
Charleston, SC; AUGUST 2016



# STRATEGY UPDATES

## Team 1: Officer Risk Tool

The City of Charleston Police Department and North Charleston Police Department have been piloting the use of cite and release practices on low-level offenses and have begun a quantitative and qualitative review of the pilots. The results will be used to inform development of the decision tool and related training.



CJCC meeting in July 2016.

## Team 2: Triage Center Services

This team is conducting an in-depth review of a subset of the target population to further define specific service options and protocols within the resources available for the Triage Center Service.

## Team 3: Automated Court Reminders

This group has been defining the specifications for the automatic court reminder technology for General Sessions Court and Charleston Municipal Court. The team is also reviewing additional ways to impact criminal bench warrants. Related training material and protocols are also under development.



CJCC meeting in July 2016.

## Team 4: Pretrial Risk Mitigation

The team has developed a plan for providing indigent counsel at bail setting and continuous representation throughout the judicial process, which will be piloted in the near future. The group is also developing its protocols for performing pretrial risk assessment.

## Team 5: Reengineer Case Processing in General Sessions

This team has been working on the installation of the technology necessary to improve the transmission and timeliness of evidentiary data from law enforcement to the prosecution. The group has already expedited first and second appearance dates. Also, they continue to prepare for the installation of the Chief Judge for Administrative Purposes, to be assigned by the South Carolina Supreme Court.

## Team 6: Central Data Warehouse

The team is working on defining protocols for data sharing and has begun efforts to operationalize the data warehouse.

# IN THE NEWS

The CJCC has received media attention from its announcements and progression. A Communication Strategy and Action Plan has been developed with the assistance of M+R, a public relations firm provided by the Safety and Justice Challenge grant, in order to reach a wide audience throughout the launch of strategy implementations and other events.

Media coverage has been earned from local TV networks and newspapers as well as national exposure.



Dr. Chanda Brown, Vice-Chair of the CJCC, appeared on WCIV-TV to discuss the CJCC's involvement in the White House Data-Driven Justice Initiative in July 2016.



Magistrate Chief Judge Ellen Steinberg is interviewed by WCBD Reporter Rebecca Collett in August 2016 about how the CJCC is working to create a more effective local justice system.  
\*As of this publication, this story has not yet aired.



Articles and op-ed's have appeared in the Post and Courier regarding the announcement of the CJCC's three-year plan and strategies, the MacArthur Foundation's grant award announcement, the CJCC's involvement in the White House Data Driven Justice Initiative.



CJCC Project Director Kristy Danford is interviewed on WCBD about the Safety & Justice grant award in April 2016.



Ninth Circuit Public Defender Ashley Pennington and CJCC members during an April 2016 press conference to announce grant award.

# NEW HIRES

The CJCC has hired four staff members to fill its 15 positions. **Kristy Danford** is the Project Director and was hired in June 2015. She analyzes system functioning and directs the CJCC's system transformation efforts. **Jesse R. Colon** was hired as the Database Administrator (DBA) in July 2016. Mr. Colon will manage the central data warehouse and coordinate data collection and analysis for the CJCC. **Lisa Chapman** was hired as the Manager of System Utilization in August 2016. Ms. Chapman will serve a critical role in launching efforts to target frequent and chronic offenders and sustain risk-based decision making at bail-setting. **Christina Parnall**, of the Public Defender's Office, was selected as the Senior Defense Counsel and will begin her duties in September. Ms. Parnall will be managing representation for indigent defendants at bail-setting.



*Kristy Danford*



*Christina Parnall*



*Jesse Colon*

*Meet the  
team!*



*Lisa Chapman*

# STAY TUNED

In 2016, the CJCC will continue working to implement its strategies, increase community outreach and provide more opportunities for community input.

CJCC representatives will also continue presentations to local, state and national organizations to increase the reach of our message and mission.

During FY2017, the CJCC will fill its remaining 11 positions.