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**Infrastructure in place for changes in Charleston's Criminal Justice System
Criminal Justice Coordinating Council midyear report provides details**

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C., August 31, 2017 – The Charleston County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) is pleased to release the 2017 midyear report providing data findings and updates on six reform strategies. Of note, the CJCC has completed installation of key infrastructure necessary for each of the reforms.

The first major accomplishment was the merging of data from over a dozen different sources into a centralized database to evaluate the local criminal justice system and identify opportunities for improvement. Another significant achievement was the opening of the Tri-County Crisis Stabilization Center with a law enforcement triage service to provide immediate treatment for members of the community in need.

The central database and triage service are two of six strategies helping to improve the way our community uses its jail and how the local criminal justice system serves the people of Charleston County. Leaders from across the local criminal justice system continue to take a data-guided approach to address long-standing challenges such as recidivism, lack of adequate information to accurately assess risk at bond hearings, high caseloads, and too few options other than jail. As of June 2017, the average daily population of the jail is 7% lower than it was prior to the start of implementation of the three-year transformation plan to safely lower the jail population by 25%.

The report also identifies plans for additional strategies to go live before the end of 2017. Upcoming improvements include:

- Increased use of cite and release options for an identified group of lower level non-violent offenses. This will support efforts to increase consistency in treatment of similarly situated individuals.
- A risk assessment report to be supplied to bond-hearing judges in an effort to provide more information about the risk of flight and danger pending trial. And,
- An automated court reminder system to notify defendants of upcoming court dates by email and text in an effort to reduce the number of missed court appearances.

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About the CJCC

The mission of the CJCC is the assist in making sustainable, data-driven improvements to Charleston County's criminal justice system and thereby improve public safety and community well-being. The CJCC is a collaboration of elected and senior officials, law enforcement leaders, judicial and court leadership, behavioral health professionals, various community leaders and many more. The CJCC works collaboratively to improve the administration of justice and promotion of public safety through planning, research, education and system-wide coordination of data-driven criminal justice initiatives.



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About and the Safety and Justice Challenge

The CJCC's midyear report was developed with support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation as part of the Safety and Justice Challenge, which seeks to reduce over-incarceration by changing the way America thinks about and uses jails. Core to the Challenge is a competition designed to support efforts to improve local criminal justice systems across the country that are working to safely reduce over-reliance on jails, with a particular focus on addressing disproportionate impact on low-income individuals and communities of color.