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CHARLESTON COUNTY JOINS WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE IN NATIONAL EFFORT TO USE DATA TO IMPROVE LOCAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS

White House Fact Sheet: <http://bit.ly/DataDrivenJustice>

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C., July 1, 2016 – Charleston County’s Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) has joined the White House’s Data Driven Justice initiative to implement reforms to safely reduce the jail population and create a more effective local criminal justice system. These efforts were already underway by the CJCC. The White House initiative will now provide even more 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 Data-Driven Justice communities are leading by example by committing to adopt these proven strategies that reduce unnecessary arrests and incarceration," said DJ Patil, the U.S. Chief Data Scientist.

The CJCC’s initiatives in jail reform were launched earlier this year when the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation awarded the group \$2.25 million to implement reforms. Charleston County is one of 11 jurisdictions in the country that was chosen by the MacArthur Foundation to receive funding and access to expert technical assistance to implement a plan for reform. The CJCC’s goal is to reduce the jail population by 25 percent in the next three years.

“Since our group had already been working together and laying the ground work for the implementation of our strategies, joining the White House’s efforts was a no-brainer,” said Dr. Chanda Brown, Director of the Charleston Center and CJCC Co-Vice Chair. “We will now have even more access to resources in order to implement our current initiatives and create a more effective local criminal justice system.”

The six initiatives the CJCC is working to implement include:

- A court-reminder system
- Providing law enforcement with risk-assessment tools to assist during decision to arrest for low-level offenses
- Providing alternatives to jail for individuals suffering from mental health and substance use disorders
- Sharing information with each other to better analyze the local criminal justice system and further improve it
- Reduce the time it takes for cases to reach resolution



- Enhancing the bail setting process to be more risk-based and providing judges comprehensive information about defendants

CJCC Project Director Kristy Danford and CJCC Co-Vice-Chair Dr. Chanda Brown recently visited the White House, where they met with staff and were provided tools to assist in the CJCC's current mission. They also had the opportunity to meet with representatives from other communities, who are part of the White House's network, and continue being accessible through the initiative.

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About the CJCC

The 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. For more information, visit cjcc.charlestoncounty.org.