Safety + Justice Challenge
Grant Overview and Renewal Update

Presented by

Tiffany Iheanacho, Justice Services Director
Hannah Legerton, SJC Grant Manager
Presentation Agenda

- Overview and Background of the Safety and Justice Challenge
- SJC Challenge Strategies for 2018-2020
- SJC Challenge Progress
- SJC Challenge Strategies for 2021-2023
- Recommended Motion & Requested Action
A $246 million national initiative to reduce over-incarceration and advance racial equity in local criminal justice systems by changing the way America thinks about and uses jails.

The grant brings the Foundation’s total investment in Buncombe County to $3.55 million to date.

There are 21 implementation sites nationwide, including Buncombe County, implementing reforms to make their local justice system more equitable and more effective.

Buncombe County has surpassed the original SJC goal to reduce the jail population by 15% with the average monthly population declining by 30% between February 2019 and January 2021.
Timeline + Progress of Work

- **SJC Innovation Site**: November 2016 to April 2018
- **Infrastructure Development**: November 2018 to April 2019
- **Implementation**: September 2019 to Present
- **SJC Implementation Award**: October 2018 to March 2021
- **Planning + Logistics**: May 2019 to August 2019
- **Grant Renewal Proposed**: April 2021 – March 2023
# Current SJC Positions

## County Positions
- 5 FT and 2 PT Pretrial Screeners
- 1 Grant Manager
- 1 Management Analyst

## Contracted Positions
- 1 Assistant Public Defender
- 1 Assistant District Attorney
- 1 Jail Re-entry Diversion Case Manager
2018-2020 SJC Strategies & Activities

**Deflection at Arrest & Booking**
- Implement Public Safety Assessment at magistrate
- Review local booking processes
- Review use of criminal summons

**Diversion to BH & SA Treatment**
- Improve law enforcement drop off process
- Enhance supportive services for familiar faces
- Continued collaboration between BH and CJ partners

**Enhancing Pretrial Services**
- Examine pretrial supervision assignment practices
- Utilize Public Safety Assessment
- Modify violation policy and supervision practices

**Increase Efficiencies in Case Processing**
- Expand jail based case processing
- Implement automated court date reminder system
- Implement a bail alert report
- Create alternatives to custody for civil non-support

**Improve Data Utilization**

**Increase Community Engagement**

**Address Racial & Ethnic Disparities**

BUNCOMBE COUNTY
SJC Key Outcomes 2018-2021

• Safely reduce the jail population:
  • Original goal of 15% reduction (target of 327).
  • Lowest point in July, when ADP reached 262 (a 42% decrease).
  • Current ADP hovering around this level (1/25/21 ADP was 330).

• Not seeing related increases in crime:
  • Total incidents reported from Mar-Aug 2020 was 5.6% less than in 2019
  • Lower recidivism rates for those released: 14% of those released on own recognizance/unsecured bonds between Mar-Jun 2020 returned to custody in 2 months, compared to 17% prior to COVID.
SJC Outcomes 2018-2021

• Racial Equity
  • Racial Equity Tool
  • JRAC and County Leadership’s Declaration of [Racism as a Public Safety Crisis](#)
  • Education & training

• Community Engagement
  • 9 events, 500+ participants
  • Virtual town hall on justice in time of COVID with over 4,250 views

• Community Safety & Violence Prevention
  • SPARC, Umoja, My Daddy Taught Me That and the Racial Justice Coalition
SJC Goals 2021-2023

• Awarded $1.75 Million
  • Sustaining Jail Population Reductions
  • Reducing Racial & Ethnic Disparities
  • Building Community Engagement and Trust
## 2021-2023 SJC Renewal Stakeholder Engagement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collected 100+ ideas</th>
<th>Survey</th>
<th>JRAC Work Sessions</th>
<th>Community Input</th>
<th>Alignment w/SJC Goals</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community listening sessions</td>
<td>Surveyed JRAC and SJC workgroup members to prioritize strategies</td>
<td>JRAC work sessions to discuss top strategies and confirm support</td>
<td>Community Engagement Workgroup phone calls and survey</td>
<td>Conferred w/Vera (site coordinator) + MacArthur</td>
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<tr>
<td>Existing SJC workgroups Renewal workgroup Interviews with JRAC members</td>
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2021-2023 SJC Renewal Strategies

Enhancing Pretrial Release Strategies
- Implement PSA at magistrates
- Maintain use of non-financial release conditions at the levels seen during COVID
- Increase pre-arrest and jail diversion strategies

Increasing Efficiencies in Case Processing
- Continue Jail Review Team
- Increase use of court notification system
- Increase early access to defense counsel

Advancing Racial Equity
- Hire Racial Equity Consultant
- Use Racial Equity Tool
- Ongoing education and training
- Partner with community to identify root causes driving increasing racial inequities and co-design solutions

Increasing Community Engagement
- Increase understanding of justice system
- Partner with community to identify root causes and develop interventions to address drivers of incarceration, including FTAs and violence
- Support establishment of Drivers' License Restoration Initiative

Advancing Community Safety and Violence Prevention
- Partner with community organizations to address community safety
- Develop Strategic Plan with justice stakeholders
## SJC Renewal Positions

<table>
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Recommended Motion & Requested Action

1) Accept grant
2) Approve related budget amendment
3) Approve one (1) new and extend nine (9) grant-funded positions, as long as grant funding available.
Questions?