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Team works to make justice system more efficient

The county is one of seven nationwide gaining support from the National Institute of Corrections to make it's system, as a whole, more effective from start to finish.

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Eau Claire County is one step closer to creating a more efficient criminal justice system.

The county is one of seven nationwide gaining support from the National Institute of Corrections to make it's system, as a whole, more effective from start to finish.

The goal is to have less crime, fewer offenders and fewer victims.

From the time of arrest to the judge's sentence, Eau Claire County wants to make sure it's doing things right.

"It's not about being soft on crime, or just trying to get rid of cases. It's about individualizing the approach so we're smart about what we're doing," Eau Claire Police Chief Jerry Matysik said.

That's why leaders from departments throughout the county are taking a close look at their procedures and creating new, more efficient habits.

"Eau Claire County and a number of criminal justice communities around the country have been moving down the road of implementing what we call evidence based practices," Becki Nay, Principal of The Center for Effective Public Policy, said.

"It truly does involve adoption of techniques and methods that the research says is effective. Doing things that work, and stopping things, that the research shows, do not work," Eau Claire County Judge Schumacher said.

Chief Matysik says it's important for all departments in the county to work together and make sure they're not simply using a "one size fits all" approach.

"Making sure we're not clogging up the system with first time offenders that can be more easily corrected outside the system," he said.

With the new jail construction underway, the team is planning how it can use the space wisely and offer the most effective programs for the people of Eau Claire County.

"Citizens are demanding that the criminal justice system be more accountable and more transparent and serve the needs of people who live here and that we should be doing things that are based on research and not things we think work well," Ney explained.

"This is something that's gonna go on for years and the end result for all of this we hope is certainly a safer community," Judge Schumacher said.

Judge Schumacher says by next summer, the county will move forward with implementing the more efficient system.

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