

http://lacrossetribune.com/la-crosse-county-moves-to-implementation-phase-of-evidence-based/article_ba47d2af-e852-5de3-a7b8-491483de690f.html

La Crosse County moves to implementation phase of evidence-based decision making initiative

Angie Cina Oct 27, 2016

Following a competitive application process, La Crosse County, along with seven other counties and the state of Wisconsin, has been invited to partner with the United States Department of Justice, National Institute of Corrections (NIC) to start Phase VI of the Evidence-Based Decision Making in State and Local Criminal Justice Systems Initiative (EBDM). NIC's EBDM initiative aims to apply "empirical knowledge and research-supported principles to justice system decisions to equip criminal justice local and state policymakers with the information, processes, and tools that will result in measurable reductions of pretrial misconduct, post-conviction reoffending, and other forms of community harm resulting from crime."

"Through the involvement and engagement of stakeholders from across Wisconsin's criminal justice system, Wisconsin's EBDM teams have developed a shared vision for criminal justice system reform in Wisconsin," Attorney General Brad Schimel said. "NIC providing Wisconsin their expertise and an opportunity to continue this shared vision is a big win for our state."

Phase VI of the initiative will build off of recent collaborative planning efforts to enable state and local teams in Wisconsin to partner in implementing evidence-based strategies to improve the criminal justice system. At the state level, Wisconsin's EBDM efforts have been supported and led by the State Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC), which is co-chaired by Schimel and Department of Corrections Secretary Jon Litscher. The CJCC has created an EBDM subcommittee dedicated to the project, which includes state and local membership from multiple disciplines within the traditional criminal justice system as well as many non-traditional criminal justice stakeholders.

In La Crosse County, the Criminal Justice Management Council appointed an EBDM subcommittee, chaired by Lisa Kruse, which identified local priorities including: utilizing risk and needs assessment to inform plea negotiations, minimizing the use of jail for failure to pay fees and fines, and enhancing diversion and deferred prosecution process.

Other counties involved in the initiative are: Chippewa, Eau Claire, Marathon, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Rock, and Waukesha. As these teams move into Phase VI of the initiative, the work of the state team in collaboration with these local teams throughout Phase V has created a strong consortium of stakeholders moving forward towards common goals for criminal justice system reform.

During Phase VI, Wisconsin's EBDM teams will work to implement the goals and initiatives identified during the Phase V planning process. The state and local implementation plans are centered on three overarching goals for the criminal justice system: 1) increase public safety, reduce harm, and improve the quality of life; 2) promote fairness and equal treatment; and 3) use resources effectively. To advance these goals, each county has developed a multi-faceted plan that will implement a variety of approaches at different decision points across the criminal justice system. These approaches and decision points include such things as creating or expanding pretrial or diversion programs, increasing the use of risk and needs assessments at different points in the system, and developing model policies and training programs for use across the state. Through this approach, the state team seeks to implement criminal justice improvements that have a true system-wide impact.

Phase VI will begin Nov. 1, and is funded through December 2017.

Angie Cina

Currents

Photos: Indians defeat Cubs in Game 4 of the World Series



DUN & BRADSTREET

Programmatic Adv for B2B

— **Photos: Celebrating 75 years of Mount Rushmore**

↺ **QUIZ: How well can you spell?**

Today's Birthdays, Nov. 3: Roseanne Barr

Today In History, Nov. 3: Sputnik 2

Today's top pics: Day of the Dead celebrations and more

Today's Birthdays, Nov. 2: Scott Walker

Venice in the sky? Proposal envisions aerial gondolas in DC

Report: Gay characters hit record high on network TV

Google speaker is secretary, radio ... and work in progress

Cubs return to Chicago hours after winning World Series

TODAY'S TOP VIDEO

Video: Iraqi forces enter Mosul in ISIS fight

Video: Iraqi forces enter Mosul in ISIS fight

Video: Colorado county could reverse course on legal pot

Video: Colorado county could reverse course on legal pot

Video: African Americans may decide North Carolina

Video: African Americans may decide North Carolina

Video: Pop the champagne! Cubs celebrate World Series win

Video: Pop the champagne! Cubs celebrate World Series win