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Multiple Agencies Team Up For Criminal Justice Reform

By [BRANDON SMITH](#)

Posted June 23, 2016

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The program includes judges, prosecutors, public defenders, mental health professionals and law enforcement. The end goal is a better justice system.



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The criminal justice improvement group has been meeting for about a year.

A multi-agency team – including judges, prosecutors, public defenders, mental health professionals and law enforcement – are using data-driven pilot programs to enact criminal justice reforms and improvements.

The criminal justice improvement group has been meeting for about a year. A national grant funded the pilot program, known as Evidence Based Decision Making, in six counties.

The program uses research to guide decisions made across the justice system. The group's co-chair Justice Steven David says the end goal is a better justice system.

“No adverse public safety consequences and there’s less recidivism and the right people are in jail for the right amount of time and the right people getting services,” he says.

David says, in the shorter term, the group is identifying achievable milestones – setting goals for reducing recidivism and directing more offenders to mental health services. He likens their effort to rebuilding a plane while it’s flying...but says having so many different people at the table makes that easier.

The group is applying for a second grant to expand the pilot program to more counties.

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