

FRANKLIN COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADVISORY BOARD

2020-2023 STRATEGIC PLAN

Mission: Our mission is to create a forum in which leaders can collaboratively address the immediate and future needs of the county's criminal justice system by researching, planning and recommending solutions that will integrate and prioritize the best approaches to criminal justice policies and program planning.

Vision: Our vision is to have the Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB) provide a forum for key criminal justice decision makers to collaborate and prioritize approaches for criminal justice policies and programs in order to meet current needs and focus on future issues in Franklin County.

Our Values:

We value integrity. Integrity is paramount for the Board as a whole and for all community representatives. We are the vanguard for the citizens of Franklin County in our efforts to make our communities safe and secure.

We value communication. CJAB appreciates the necessity of stakeholders at every level and office that is responsible for the initiation, prosecution, adjudication, disposition, and resolution of criminal cases as well as those who work to prevent criminal activity through intervention and programs to reduce recidivism to strive for open and transparent communication in the ongoing effort to keep our communities safe and achieve the criminal justice initiatives which will further those goals.

We value the Rule of Law. We value that criminal justice is grounded in the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and remain cognizant that as we collaborate on criminal justice initiatives we always do so within the our constitutional framework.

We value collaboration. CJAB broadly encompasses many government and non-government community organizations. We believe in collaborating and communicating with county and non-government agencies to work as a team so that the Board's efforts achieve tangible results. It matters that we work together to support Franklin County's criminal justice initiatives.

We value accountability. The Board works as a team in determining both policy and procedures and we insist on measuring performance. The data is used to validate the Board's efforts to keep it accountable.

We value dedication. Our staff and our community partners share a selfless commitment to make successful the mission of the Board; and to make the Franklin County Criminal Justice Advisory Board a leader among CJABs in the Commonwealth.

We value diversity. We appreciate the diverse composition of our community and as a result the diverse views and opinions of stakeholders and community members who work within the criminal justice system.

Priorities

PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION

- 1. Develop, implement and evaluate youth-focused prevention programs.**
This includes prevention strategies for youth, families of incarcerated individuals, and collaboration with services outside the criminal justice system such as housing, employment and education.
- 2. Develop, implement and evaluate early interventions**
This entails intervening early with youth at-risk for delinquent or criminal behavior, including changing behavior, changing mindsets and improving resiliency of the youth.
- 3. Provide effective recidivism prevention and reentry services**
This priority entails bringing together criminal justice, human services and community partners to assure a system of supervision which assures a safe and successful transition from jail to life in the community.
- 4. Incorporate the balance of treatment and punishment approaches throughout our work**
This includes strengthening the partnerships with Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Programs to bring more resources to those in the criminal justice system – before, during, and after incarceration.
- 5. Provide services and support to victims**
This entails a commitment to assuring restoration, restitution, and support available to victims.
- 6. Research and respond to drug and alcohol issues in Franklin County**
Given the continued high rate of DUI arrests and convictions, this new priority requires analysis of the causes and the development of appropriate prevention and treatment options. Government and non-government offices and agencies will work to find possible solutions to reduce the number of DUI offenders and target recidivism to create a safer community.
- 7. Strengthen existing diversion programs**
This objective entails looking at already existing programs (Get Back Up, Mental Health Co-Responder) and bringing even more resources to bear.

ADJUDICATION AND JUDGMENT

- 8. Support resources for timely adjudication.**
This entails supporting resources for the timely processing of criminal cases, including the resources for the courts, prosecutors, defense counsel and probation and parole offices so that those convicted of crime are not delayed in receiving essential incarceration, supervision and efforts to reduce future recidivism.

JUSTICE REINVESTMENT

9. Enhance pretrial services

This requires the careful scrutiny of evaluative tools that provide information regarding risk factors to make crucial bail and diversion decisions, within the framework of the rules and statutes that govern bail making by issuing authorities and the judiciary.

10. Strengthen data-driven decision making

This priority refers to the collection, synthesis and analysis of data regarding those arrested, the convicted and those on supervision. The data will be analyzed with an effort to identify trends and ways in which to achieve the goals and priorities of the CJAB board. Key indicators and other measures will be identified and collection systems established with a goal of providing key stakeholders in the criminal justice system with valid and reliable data to inform decisions regarding the disposition and supervision of criminal offenders.

11. Continue the balance of treatment and punishment approaches throughout our work

This includes strengthening the partnerships with Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Programs to bring more resources to those in the criminal justice fabric.

NEW PRIORITIES

12. Implement effective recidivism prevention

This priority entails bringing together criminal justice, human services and community partners to assure a system of care which assures for a safe and successful transition from criminal court to the community.

13. Research and develop strategies for diverse populations in the criminal justice system

This includes looking at the unique needs of various populations within the criminal justice system and developing services to address them while mindful that all individuals are assured equal protection under the law.

14. Strengthen understanding of CJAB by both external and internal stakeholders.

An ongoing challenge, there is agreement that a plan for both external and internal communication should be developed and implemented.

These priorities will serve as the basis of the deliberations and work of CJAB and its subcommittees in the next three years. More detailed annual/action plans will be developed by the committees at the direction of the CJAB Executive Committee and will be used as the basis of their reporting progress.

Shawn D. Meyers

Shawn D. Meyers, President Judge
CJAB Chair

D. S. Keller

David S. Keller, Chairman
CJAB Vice-chair

Approved by CJAB: February 27, 2020