

PRETRIAL NEWSLETTER

The Wisconsin Pretrial Program Manager's Quarterly Newsletter



Wisconsin Evidence-Based Decision Making (EBDM) Pretrial Pilot County Spotlight: La Crosse County

La Crosse County is one of the Pretrial Pilot Sites participating in the Wisconsin EBDM initiative. With a population near 120,000, La Crosse is one of the most populous counties on Wisconsin's western border. The county is 480 square miles.

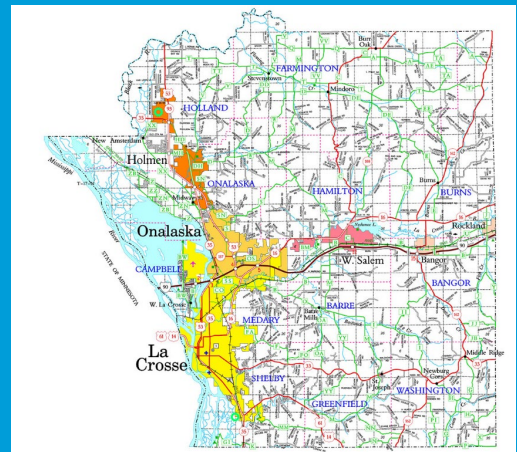
Historically, La Crosse County has offered pretrial supervision since approximately 1999. Pretrial supervision is provided by the Justice Support Services (JSS) section of the La Crosse County Human Services Department. Pretrial defendants are provided screening, assessment, and case management. The county implemented the Public Safety Assessment (PSA) actuarial pretrial risk assessment tool on March 1, 2019. For more information about JSS:

<https://www.lacrossecounty.org/humanservices/jss.asp>

JSS Offers the Following Services for Adults Involved in the Criminal Justice System:

- Screening-Assessment for Risk and Needs
- Case Management
- GPS Monitoring
- Drug and alcohol testing
- Cognitive-Behavioral Groups
- SMART Recovery Groups
- Employment assistance
- Gender-specific programming
- Orientation to Treatment Courts
- Drug Treatment Court
- OWI Treatment Court
- Ophelia's House
- Pre- and Post-Charge Diversion Programs
- Intoxicated Driver Program

La Crosse County Map



Source:

<https://www.wisconsin.com/wisconsin/counties/lacrosse.php>

Advancing Pretrial Policy & Research (APPR) Pretrial Educational Resources

APPR compiled a collection of pretrial resources to help build knowledge of and support for pretrial improvements. The resources include short videos on pretrial justice principles, pretrial research summaries, and glossaries of pretrial terms. These resources may be shared with policymakers, practitioners, community members, and local reporters. See the new [Pretrial Education Resources](#).

National Association of Pretrial Services (NAPSA) 2021 Annual Conference

NAPSA's 2021 Annual Conference and Training Institute is going virtual after their successful 2020 Annual Conference. NAPSA teams are developing an interactive conference where attendees can participate virtually while maintaining a positive work/home life balance.

The conference will be held over four days (**September 28 and 30, and October 5 and 7**) from noon to 5:00 pm CST.

Please send questions about the conference to NAPSA Executive Director Jim Sawyer at execdirector@napsa.org.

Registration will open after the Fourth of July holiday.

Introducing the Wisconsin Court System Pretrial Program Website

<https://www.wicourts.gov/courts/programs/altpretrial.htm>

Share additional resources and updates with Wisconsin Pretrial Program Manager Rhonda Frank-Loron via Rhonda.Frank-Loron@wicourts.gov.

National Center for State Courts (NCSC) – Additional Resource for Ability to Pay Hearings

The National Task Force on Fines, Fees, and Bail Practices created a bench card for judges on the Lawful Collection of Legal Financial Obligations found here:

https://www.ncsc.org/_data/assets/pdf_file/0026/17396/benchcard-reformatted-3-13-19.pdf

What's Happening in Our Neighboring States?

Ramsey County, Minnesota

In 2020, Ramsey County, Minnesota, was selected by APPR to become a [Research-Action Site](#) to advance effective pretrial policies and practices. APPR and its partners provide each site with support over five years that includes:

- Research on pretrial policies/practices and measures of outcomes
- Collaboration with stakeholders and the community to work together to consider and implement improvements
- System assessment of policies and practices to identify opportunities for improvements
- Implementation the PSA and other pretrial improvements
- Increase data capacity

[JusticePoint](#) conducts jail screenings of all Ramsey County arrestees facing a bail setting decision and provides Conditional Release Supervision of those ordered to supervision as a condition of bail.

Michigan Reforms

State and county leaders in Michigan previously launched a bipartisan [Michigan Joint Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration](#) to explore how laws, policies, and budget decisions affect jail populations.

According to the [Jails Task Force Newsletter, Volume 6 – March 2021](#), in January 2021, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed into law a bipartisan package of 20 bills that fundamentally reshape how Michigan utilizes county jails. As a result of these bills, Michigan residents will:

- Face few license suspensions for issues unrelated to driving safety;
- Be more likely to receive a citation for a misdemeanor and a summons for a missed court appearance rather than being arrested;
- Be less likely to receive a jail sentence for a non-serious offense; and
- Receive a probation term and conditions proportional to their offense.

Pew Charitable Trusts and the Boston-based [Crime and Justice Institute](#) provided technical assistance to the Michigan Task Force.

Ohio Reforms

New Ohio Supreme Court Rule

In March 2021, Ohio Supreme Court adopted rule changes requiring:

- Counties establish as their first choice the release of an individual on non-monetary personal recognizance before resorting to cash bail.
- Counties with more than one municipal or county court must adopt a uniform bail schedule. The change is designed to provide each county's citizens continuity and equal treatment across

jurisdictional lines within the county on bail issues.

The new changes go into effect July 1, 2021. For more information, check out [Court News Ohio](#). These changes expand upon bail reforms implemented last year.

Ohio Supreme Court [Rule 46](#) 2020 amendments, directed judges to release defendants “on the least restrictive conditions that, in the discretion of the court, will reasonably assure the defendant’s appearance in court, the protection or safety of any person or the community, and that the defendant will not obstruct the criminal justice process.” The amendment also instructed that “financial conditions should be the least costly to reasonably ensure the defendant’s presence at future proceedings.”

These reforms came from recommendations by the [Task Force to Examine the Ohio Bail System](#).

Proposed Ohio Bail Reform Legislation

According to the May 20, 2021, [Weekly Legislative Report by the Ohio State Bar Association](#), companion bail reform bills [HB315](#) and [SB182](#) were recently introduced in the Ohio House and Senate. The bills would create the presumption of release from incarceration without cash bail and strengthen pretrial detention for violent crimes, like felony domestic violence or a felony violation of a protection order. Notably, the bills do not address county data collection or require an Ohio Supreme Court study of risk assessment tools, two provisions that Chief Justice Maureen O’Connor had previously advocated for, in line with [recommendations](#) from the Task Force to Examine the Ohio Bail System.

Do you have pretrial news or updates for your county, our state, or our neighboring states?

Share updates with Rhonda Frank-Loron, Wisconsin Pretrial Program Manager, via email at Rhonda.Frank-Loron@wicourts.gov. Thanks for reading!



Office of Court Operations

OFFICE OF JUDICIAL EDUCATION
2021



You're invited to a

Pretrial Webinar Lunch Series



FOUNDATIONS OF PRETRIAL

Thursday,
July 1
12 - 1:30PM

This 90-minute webinar, presented by the Justice Management Institute (JMI), provides a brief history of bail, an overview of the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) Essential Elements of an Effective Pretrial System and Agency, as well as an overview of NIC's Evidence-Based Decision Making (EBDM) framework.

Presenters: *Spurgeon Kennedy*, Program Director & *Natalie Michailides*, Program Manager
The Justice Management Institute

WHAT "DOING PRETRIAL" MEANS

Thursday,
July 8
12 - 1PM

This webinar outlines the role of pretrial services; what an actuarial risk assessment tool (specifically the Public Safety Assessment (PSA)) provides in the pretrial process; discusses the concerns of racial bias within risk assessment tools; and talks about sequential bail review. It also will provide a Pretrial Pilot Program update.

Presenters: *Rose Baier*, Criminal Justice Services Director, *Chippewa County*
Mandy Bisek, Deputy Director of Human Services, *La Crosse County Human Services*
Rhonda Frank-Loron, Pretrial Program Manager, *Office of Court Operations*
Hon. Benjamin Lane, *Chippewa County Circuit Court*
Hon. Elliott Levine, *La Crosse County Circuit Court*
Beth Robinson, Deputy Director of Criminal Justice Treatment Services, *Outagamie County*

PRETRIAL ISSUES: A JUDGES PANEL

Thursday,
July 22
12 - 1PM

This webinar hosts a panel of Wisconsin Circuit Court Judges to speak candidly about Wisconsin-specific pretrial issues (in other words, what judges can and cannot do with regard to pretrial and bond). Other topics discussed are the differences between cash bond vs. signature bond, and monitoring of conditions. *Time will be devoted at the end of the webinar for a question and answer session.*

Presenters: *Hon. Jennifer Dorow*, Chief Judge - District 3, *Waukesha County Circuit Court*
Hon. Steven Gibbs, *Chippewa County Circuit Court*
Hon. Elliott Levine, *La Crosse County Circuit Court*
Hon. Nicholas McNamara, *Dane County Circuit Court*

CLICK THE FOLLOWING LINK TO REGISTER FOR ONE (OR MORE!) OF THE WEBINARS:
<https://forms.gle/hvTvLZXElvxTfmpv8>

Judicial Education Credits are available for those who are eligible.