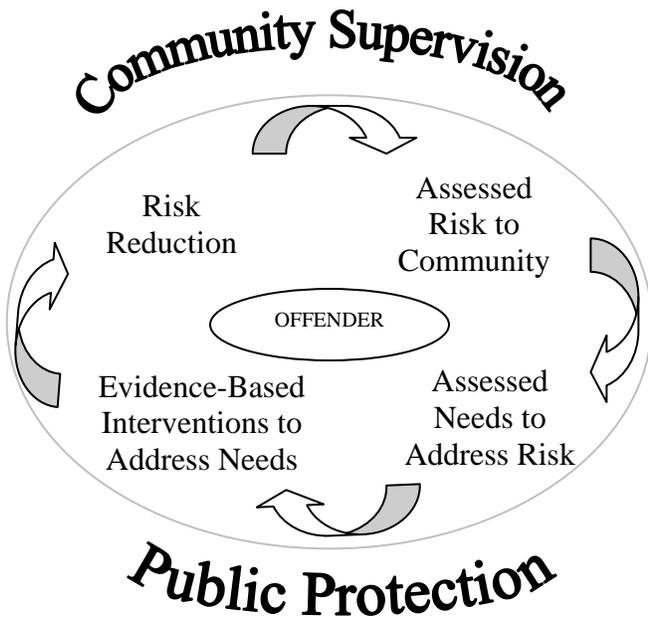


Assess, Inform and Measure (AIM) Proposed Pilot Project

Report by the PPAC Effective Justice Strategies Subcommittee

Introduction: Over the past several months the PPAC Subcommittee on Effective Justice Strategies membership has dedicated a significant amount of time to studying the key factors in determining when or if an individual is appropriate to be safely diverted from a jail or prison sentence. Critical to this determination is the nature and value of the information provided to the court in advance of a sentencing decision.



The EJSS developed a process model titled *Assess, Inform and Measure (AIM)*. This model is intended to provide the court with valid and reliable information that will have value in the case disposition process. This information would include a summary of the following information: risk assessment (an individual's risk to commit further crime in the community); needs assessment (assessing criminogenic needs - needs that are directly related to the individual's criminal behavior); responsivity assessment (taking into account the individual's unique characteristics such as motivation to change, learning style, gender and cultural needs); and community-based treatment programs that address the assessed needs and reduce the offender's risk to the

community.

Additionally, the *AIM* model includes the development of a "feedback loop." The first component, the process feedback loop, provides information on the value of the information being provided to the court. The next component, the outcome feedback loop, provides aggregate data back to the court and local criminal justice system about case outcomes, such as success/failure rates (recidivism) of offenders targeted for this project and validation of the screening/assessment process.

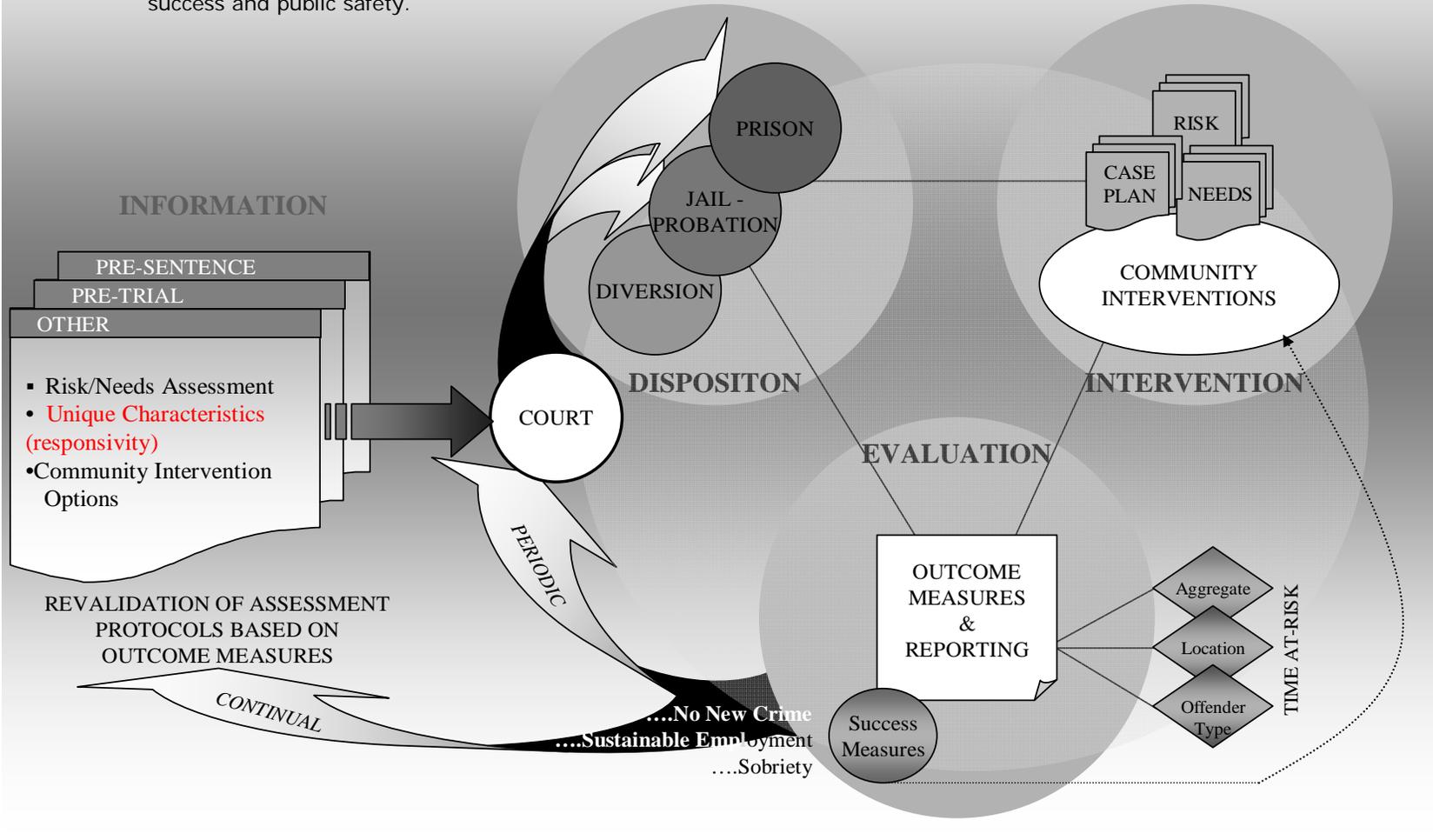
The following page provides a conceptual overview of the *AIM* model - illustrating the enhanced upfront assessment information, connection with court dispositions, unified case planning and community-based interventions, collection of outcome data and feeding this information back to the upfront assessment process information and providing aggregate outcome data back to the court and other criminal justice and community-based organizations.

The remainder of the document includes a visual illustration of the 5 primary components of *AIM*, including specific goals and objects for each phase and a project timeline. Many of the details related to implementation have developed collaboratively between the EJSS and the involved county representatives.

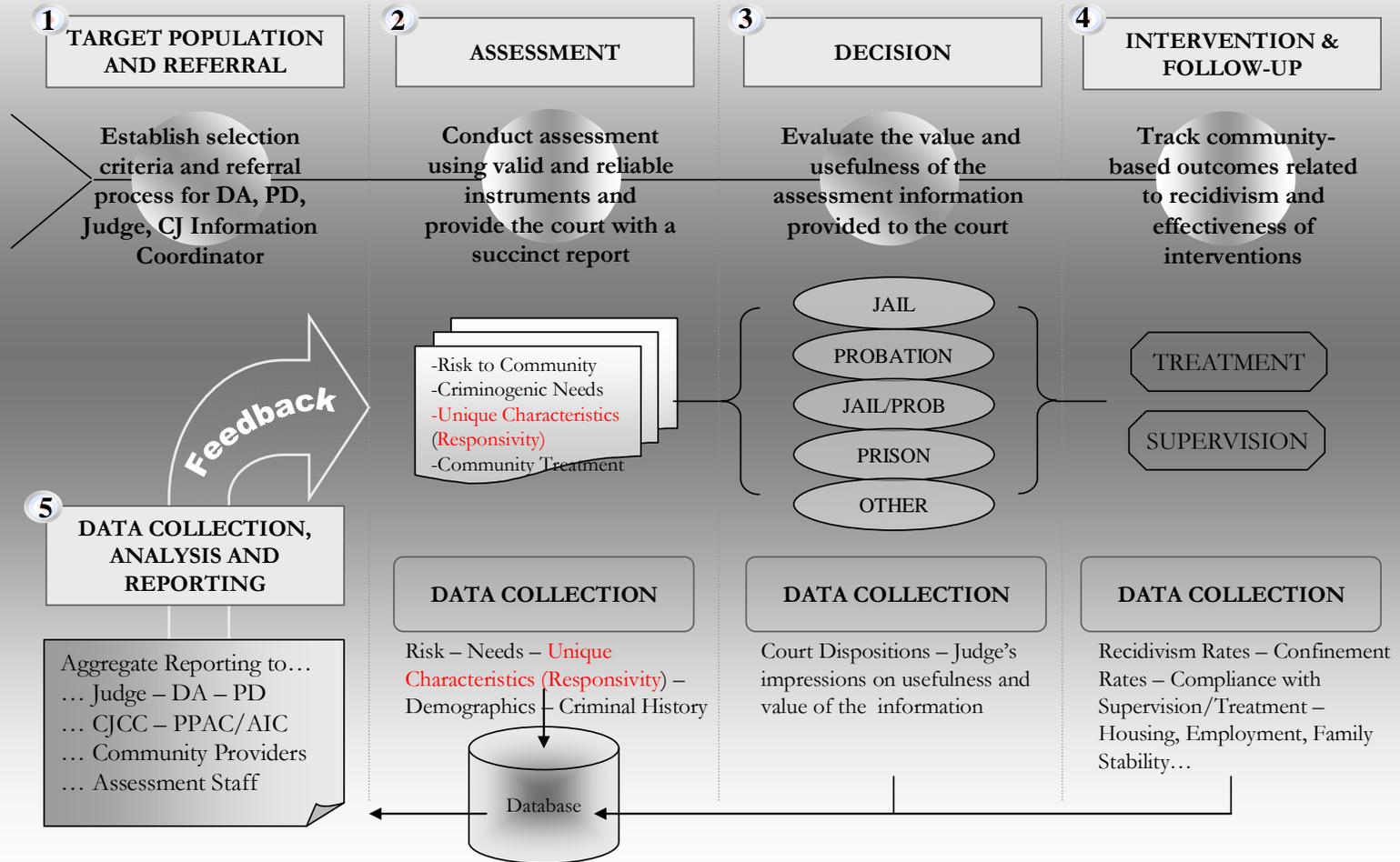
Assess, Inform and Measure (AIM) Conceptual Model for Pilot Projects

G O A L

To provide the sentencing court with Wisconsin normed and validated risk, needs, **unique characteristics (responsivity)** and community intervention assessment information for sentencing purposes, while creating an outcome feedback loop that provides information on the success of court dispositions and community interventions in promoting offender success and public safety.



AIM - PROJECT COMPONENTS



AIM Project Goals:

- Provide the sentencing court with a valid risk, needs, unique characteristics (responsivity) and community intervention assessment, while creating an outcome feedback loop that provides information on the success of court dispositions and community interventions in promoting offender success and public safety.
- Put into practice and evaluate a process that offers the court reliable information that will have value in the sentencing process, and may lead to the safe diversion of some persons, who may have otherwise received jail or prison confinement time, to community-based supervision and treatment.

Objectives:

Target Population, Referral and Assessment Components

- a. To establish a process to effectively provide the court, prior to sentencing, with reliable and valid assessment information about an offender's risk to the community, assessed criminogenic and unique characteristics (responsivity) needs, and the availability of appropriate community-based treatment programs to address the needs that will reduce the offender's risk.
 - i. Identify criteria for selecting the target population that will participate.
 - ii. Create case identification and referral process, and related procedures to involve the Judiciary, District Attorney's office, Public Defender's office and others as determined appropriate.
 - iii. Select a validated risk and needs assessment that will provide the court with reliable information.
 - iv. Provide judge with an AIM report, generated by the AIM web-based information system, which contains the necessary information for the court in a succinct and understandable format.
 - v. Designate staff that are qualified and who will undergo specialized competency-based training to accurately complete the assessment document for the court.
 - vi. Ensure process and procedures conform to state law and established court rules and protocols.

Decision or Case Disposition Component

- b. To evaluate the value and usefulness of the assessment information provided to the court and make changes, as needed or necessary, to ensure accuracy and effectiveness of the assessment process.
 - i. Obtain regular feedback and comments from the judges, through periodic brief surveys, who are receiving the assessment and aggregate outcome information to determine if the information adds any value to their decision-making and criminal justice coordination and planning efforts.

Intervention and Follow-up Phase

- c. To document and track community-based treatment and supervision interventions and measure outcomes related to recidivism.

- i. Develop a process to collect salient information from involved community providers, probation and parole and other sources outside of the created software.

Data Collection, Analysis and Reporting Component

- d. To provide baseline recidivism data to each pilot jurisdiction based on historical cases that were placed on probation and were ultimately reconvicted of a new crime within three years. Scope of the data will span from 1980 – 2004.
- e. Use the web-based data collection system and repository of data from CCAP, the DOC, the chosen risk/needs assessment, court dispositions, and community-based treatment and supervision interventions to measure outcomes related to recidivism.
- f. Follow established software guidelines for collection and reporting of aggregate data and establish a protocol addressing frequency and distribution of information.
 - i. Establish a protocol for information sharing that is compliant with established laws, rules and standards.
 - ii. Utilize the AIM software system to create regular information sharing among and between all pilot counties CJCCs, the DOC, PPAC/EJS, community providers and other stakeholders.