

Megan Quattlebaum:

When it comes to critical issues like economics and public health, Americans generally trust that their elected leaders are operating with up-to-date information.

Marsha Curry-Nixon:

But criminal justice is a different story.

Sen. Whitney Westerfield:

For a system that is vast, complex and expensive, elected leaders and the public have so little information.

Captain Lee Eby:

The justice systems should be built upon the principle of fairness, effectiveness, and efficiency.

Amy Bach:

You can't change what you can't measure.

Justin Forkner:

We need more timely data so we can move quickly.

Romain L. Alexander:

We need actionable insights to make better informed decisions.

Anne L. Precythe:

To deliver better justice, we need better data. Safety and justice deserve better data.

Marsha Curry-Nixon:

Justice Counts is a movement made up of an unprecedented coalition of state and local leaders.

Mary Jo McGuire:

From every corner of our nation's state county and municipal justice systems.

Chief Paul Williams:

Law enforcement leaders and officers.

Sheila Polk:

District attorneys, prosecutors, and states attorneys.

April Frazier Camara:

Defense attorneys, and public defenders.

Ruby Qazilbash:

People who care.

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Olivia Koukoui:

Mothers, fathers, families, and children.

Kristen Mahoney:

We are committed to improving how data is used to understand and guide our justice system to dramatically improve people's lives.

Commissioner michael Nail:

And dramatically improve the safety of our communities.

Anne Jordan:

We are ready to be part of the solution.

Mandy Lambert:

Justice Counts is a belief that a better justice system is possible.

Megan Quattlebaum:

A justice system that is fair.

Abigale Jasinsky:

Effective.

Shelby Kerns:

Efficient.

Humphrey Obuobi:

And person centered.

Amy Solomon:

A better justice system is possible. Safety and justice deserve better data.

Kareemah Hanifa:

My community counts.

Tony Kitchens:

My community counts.

Chris Poulos:

People count.

Bernice N. Corley:

People count.

Tony Kitchens:

I count.

Kareemah Hanifa:

I count.

Anne L. Precythe:

Justice Counts.

Sheila Polk:

Justice Counts.

Tony Kitchens:

Justice Counts.

Mandy Lambert:

Justice Counts.

Chief Paul Williams:

Justice Counts.

Romain L. Alexander:

Justice Counts.

Kareemah Hanifa:

Justice Counts.

Shelby Kerns:

Justice Counts.

Abigale Jasinsky:

Justice Counts.

Bernice N. Corley:

Justice Counts.

Sen. Whitney Westerfield:

Justice counts.

Cam Ward:

Good afternoon, everyone. Welcome to how to make justice count. Introducing consensus driven metrics for criminal justice data. I'm Cam Ward. Currently the Bureau of Pardons and Paroles director here in Alabama. I'm a former member of the Alabama State Legislature. I know from experience in

those roles, how crucial timely, actual data is to making good decisions. And I'm thrilled to be here with you today, Justice Counts. This is the data available to more and more policymakers that helps make our decisions. It's great to see hundreds of you tuning in today from across the country to mark the public introduction of exciting consensus driven criminal justice metrics the Justice Counts, tier one metrics.

Cam Ward:

As many of you attending already know, Justice Counts is a bold nationwide initiative that seeks to strengthen states [inaudible 00:03:29]. And today you'll hear more about tier one metrics and how that [inaudible 00:03:34] from the policymakers in the criminal justice field, like me on their feasibility and utility in our day-to-day roles as decision makers.

Cam Ward:

Today's event is hosted by the Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance or BJA, and the Council of State Government's Justice Center. You'll also hear some exciting new opportunities that BJA is offering to support states in participating in Justice Counts.

Cam Ward:

Before we dive into the conversation, I want to share two quick housekeeping matters with you. First, we encourage you to join in today's discussion with comments or questions. You can do this in two ways on social media using the hashtag #Justice Counts or in Mio comments at the bottom of the screen. Our team is standing by ready to respond. Finally, a recording and a transcript of today's event will be made available on Justice Counts website in the coming days. We have a great program lined up for you today. I can assure you one thing, over the course of the next hour you're going to hear the word data a lot and over and over again. But remember this, when we say data, we're not talking about data. We're talking about people. When we say data, we're talking about information. Information that policymakers need to make informed decisions.

Cam Ward:

When we say data [inaudible 00:04:54] lead to the public accountability and strengthen public safety. At the heart of Justice Counts, our goal is to ensure that every person's journey through the criminal justice system is captured instead of falling through the cracks. We want decision makers to have a full picture of the real people on the other end of those decisions. We want to make sure people count.

Cam Ward:

To illustrate this, we're going to have a full video by remarks from principle deputy assistant attorney general of the United States, Amy Solomon. She leads the Office of Justice Programs, Department of Justice and principle funding research and statistical component overseeing about \$5 billion annually in grants and other resources to support state local and tribal criminal and juvenile joint victim services programs.

Cam Ward:

Before she was appointed to lead OJP, Amy was vice president of criminal justice at Arnold Ventures where she launched and led a corrections performed portfolio. The new investment portfolios aim to transform the culture of prisons, spark a fundamental shift in focus of community supervision from catching failure to promoting success and expand economic opportunities for people with a criminal

record. Prior to joining Arnold Ventures, Amy served seven years in the Obama administration as director policy for OJP and a senior advisor to OJP's assistant attorney general.

Cam Ward:

Amy was also executive director of the Federal Interagency Reentry Council, a cabinet level body established by president Obama and comprising more than 20 federal agencies. She worked to shape launch and implement a broad range of domestic policy initiatives focused on criminal justice reform. She's an incredibly skilled and effective litigator and leader has spend her career championing [inaudible 00:06:37] rights, data and criminal justice reform. Amy Solomon principal, deputy assistant attorney general. We welcome you.

Amy Solomon:

Good afternoon. I'm very pleased to welcome all of you to today's release of the first set of Justice Counts metrics. Today's event is a culmination of months of hard work from so many partners to develop criminal justice metrics that can be adopted and used by jurisdictions across the country. I'm thrilled that we have reached this important stage of this exciting initiative. The demand for timely, reliable and actionable data in the public safety sector has never been greater. For far too long, the narrative around crime and justice has been driven by incomplete, sometimes misleading and often inaccurate information.

Amy Solomon:

Agency leaders, agency leaders, legislators, budget officials, and criminal justice professionals have been forced to make critical decisions in the back. And those decisions fail to hit the mark we risk compromising the safety of our communities and losing the confidence of those we're entrusted to protect. One of the biggest challenges we face is getting information into the hands of those who need it when they need it.

Amy Solomon:

Much of the data that we have about public safety information about arrest rates, jail populations, and probation and parole is often months if not years old. That may be fine for big picture analysis and looking at long term trends, but it leaves a void for state and local leaders who are looking for real time data that can help shape their everyday decisions. In many cases, the data's there, but no one has a time, the resources or the charge to access it, to analyze it and to share it with those who need to know.

Amy Solomon:

So the goal of Justice Counts is to leverage the data that we have in police departments and Sheriff's offices and corrections agencies and court systems to help leaders make informed fiscal and policy decisions without expensive upgrades in technology and manpower. It's time that we give practitioners the tools and policymakers, the data that they can use to confront the dynamic challenges that they face in real time.

Amy Solomon:

The Justice Counts data scan was the first step in that direction. The team consolidated key corrections metrics published across all 50 states to help stakeholders access timely information and identify critical gaps in data. Then we began working with our partners to develop a set of metrics for every sector of

the criminal justice system. What you'll see today is a product of that hard, more than 100 experts in organizations over the last few months. You'll hear about 65 key metrics that span law enforcement, prosecution, defense courts, jails, corrections, and community supervision.

Amy Solomon:

Now that the metrics have been developed, we're calling on each of you to start putting them to work. We're inviting agencies across the country to join us and creating a stronger data infrastructure by learning how to mobilize these metrics in your own states. We'll tell you today about the tools and opportunities to help you do that.

Amy Solomon:

We plan to select 10 states to receive no cost technical assistance, to adopt these metrics and to use the Justice Counts framework, to consolidate and publish those metrics. I'm very pleased that we'll be funding Justice Counts for an additional three years. That funding will allow us to support grants and technical assistance to an additional 15 states. Our ultimate goal is to take this initiative to scale. Our hope is that all states embrace the vision of a criminal justice system, whose actions are grounded in evidence and informed by real time data.

Amy Solomon:

I want to thank all of our partners for bringing us this far and for positioning us [inaudible 00:10:44]. A special thanks to the Council of State Government's Justice Center for managing the many pieces of this initiative, and to Chief Justice Boggs for his outstanding leadership as chair of the steering committee. A big thanks as well to BJA director, Karlhlon Moore, and the amazing team from the Bureau of Justice Assistants for their leadership and support.

Amy Solomon:

And finally, thanks to all of you for your commitment to making data central to justice system decision making Justice Counts represents a significant step towards achieving this long sought goal. I'm grateful for your contributions. And I look forward with excitement to where this initiative will take us. So thank you all. And we will now hear from Dr. Heather Tubman-Carbone at BJA and our Justice Counts partners who will introduce the metrics and the resources.

Bernice N. Corley:

Other government sectors, such as public health jobs, real estate, school performance, the public receives regular data to inform their day-to-day decisions. But in the criminal justice system, stakes are high. People's Liberty, their freedom are at stake as well as the safety of our communities and our neighborhoods. And yet the entire system seems to operate in the shadows. Data such as how many people are in jail, how many people are going to be released onto supervision? How many people successfully completed their restitution? All of that is not available to the public. Most state policymakers are unaware of how many people are arrested or in jail though, this data is readily available. These problems are not intractable, but if we don't have the data, then we won't be able to solve the problems.

Dr. Heather Tubman-Carbone:

Thank you, Principal Deputy Attorney General Solomon, and thank you to everyone for taking time out of your busy schedule to attend today's event. It is an exciting time for Justice Counts for everyone involved in the initiative and for the field. I'm joined today by Dr. Sema Taheri from Measures for Justice. Ben Shelor and Katie Mosehauer at the CSG Justice Center, and Humphrey Obuobi at Recidiviz.

Dr. Heather Tubman-Carbone:

At our January launch event, we told you about a problem. We told you that we all want a more fair, effective and efficient justice system, but we need better data to ground our decisions. We also said that while no single agency created these challenges, we can work together so that every agency is a part of the solution to deliver better data for improving safety and justice. And we promise to develop a set of metrics that agency can use to provide consistent, timely and actionable data to policymakers.

Dr. Heather Tubman-Carbone:

Today, we want to share with you the first set of Justice Counts metrics, which has been in development for more than a year. Shortly, you will hear about the development process, the metrics themselves, and the tools and resources that we will begin releasing today to help agencies use the metrics. Justice Counts has a partnership between the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the CSG Justice center. Part of BJA's job is to support strategies and tools to build agency's capacity across the country. We develop Justice Counts to provide states and agencies and localities there in with guidance to make criminal justice data more accessible and useful for policymakers in your state and tools to put them to work. We are proud to partner with the CSG Justice Center, a membership association of the state leaders from all three branches of government to co-lead this initiative.

Dr. Heather Tubman-Carbone:

And this initiative is bigger than us. There are 21 national partners backing Justice Counts, 14 partners are associations or groups representing stakeholders in specific sectors of the criminal justice system or state and local policymakers with oversight of criminal justice agencies or systems. We also are joined by seven research, technical assistance and technology partners who have lent their knowledge and expertise to building the Justice Counts, metrics and tools since its inception in 2019, Justice Counts has been envisioned as a comprehensive effort to improve the availability and utility of criminal justice state of policymakers. A key component of this vision is the identification and development of a set of consensus driven criminal justice metrics that can be critical information to state and local partners [inaudible 00:15:52]. After more than a year of work involving many organizations and individuals, we are excited to release first set of those metrics today.

Sema Taheri:

As Heather pointed out, Justice Counts brings together a coalition of elected leaders and staff from 21 partners, including Measures for Justice and Recidiviz, and many of others who you'll hear from today. National steering committee of 27 state and local leaders who advise and counsel the direction of the metrics. We also engage seven issue specific subcommittees of more than 70 practitioners including folks from agencies and organizations across the country with experience in data and data informed decision making in their specific fields. And then of course, the glue of the BJA and CSG Justice Center teams.

Sema Taheri:

Together, we embarked on identifying the high level and then coming this year, the weedier metrics needed to provide an overall picture of the criminal justice system across the country. We knew that agencies would come to this work with different baselines, but the ability to compare would need to be balanced with the feasibility of an agency to meet definitions and balance the utility and concision of what's reported with a need to provide enough context that would allow for fair and accurate use of what is reported. 1200 metrics that could possibly be useful for policymakers and spent the rest of our six to eight months from there identifying what could be most feasible while maintaining utility agencies that they could start reporting today.

Sema Taheri:

That led us to the tier one metrics that you now all have access to. So these metrics, as I mentioned, cover seven specific sectors within the system from law enforcement to release to supervision and will be shaped further as we move forward by three additional groups. Those will be focused on victim services, behavioral health, and reentry.

Ben Shelor:

So here we see the six categories that drove the creation and development of the Justice Counts metrics. These categories are oriented around key questions that face policymakers, agency leaders, and the public with regard to criminal justice. For example, under capacity and costs, how large and expansive is our system, how much are we spending under operation and dynamics? What key decisions or actions are taking place at various points in the system. Under population movements, who's coming in out or remaining in various stages of the system, local county and state criminal justice agencies. There are also three categories here that seek to answer more aspirational questions that policymakers are faced with every day. To what extent is our system and the operations in our system impacting public safety. How are we performing with regard to fairness with regard to equity in terms of people engaged or involved in our system?

Ben Shelor:

So again, these categories really drove and oriented the metrics. They provided a framework for our seven subcommittees, again, that involved leaders and practitioners from across the nation, our national steering committee and our project partners as we sought to refine the metrics as Sema outlined. So applying this framework, we ended up with about 10 metrics per area within tier one. So as you can see here, again, those seven areas are law enforcement, prosecution, defense courts and pretrial, jails, prisons, and community supervision. So really the system from beginning to end. When you apply the six categories that we just talked about, you end up with a matrix like this one that allows you to look on multiple dimensions. So for example, if you wanted to look at population flows across the system, you can do that. You simply look in the population's category, and again, it shows you the number of individuals or cases coming into contact with agencies in each of these sectors, across your criminal justice system.

Ben Shelor:

Conversely and relatedly, if you wanted to look at a single area of the system or aspect of the system, such as courts and pretrial, you could look at all of these categories for courts and pretrial operations, how much they're costing, what's happening in those areas, their impact on public safety, how they're performing with regard to equity and fairness, et cetera. So worth noting here that while there are only 10 metrics per area, they are leveraged by multiple data points within those operational areas. It's

typically around 40 individual data points that drive the Justice Counts metrics within each sector. So while many of the metrics rely on only one data point, some of them rely on multiple. For example, if we look at equity metrics, those are broken down by different categories of race or ethnicity. And so they require multiple data points.

Ben Shelor:

Again, these metrics were built with feasibility and utility in mind. So that feasibility was really important in terms of considering what agencies were actually able to do based on the data that they currently collect. So here we see the tier one metrics that we are releasing today in their totality. Again, around 65 metric, we see here within tier one and outlined by those categories that I just talked about capacity and costs, populations, dynamics, and then other categories around public safety, equity, and fairness.

Ben Shelor:

Again, these are the result of more than a year of work by a ton of people in agencies. And we're really excited to release them today. Now we're going to quickly walk through the metrics within each area, and we're going to hear from leaders and stakeholders in the field about why those metrics are important to the development [inaudible 00:21:15] why agencies within that sphere should consider adopting these Justice Counts metrics and the tools and resources that are associated with them. When we're done with that, we'll turn things over to Katie Mosehauer with our routine to talk about the tools and resources being developed and released as part of Justice Counts today.

Rebecca Graham:

We represent the nearly 500 municipalities within the State of Maine, and there are 135 different law enforcement agencies, the vast majority of which are municipal. However, the sizes of those municipalities and agencies is very widespread as well as their access to local resources. So one of the key pieces of the tier one metrics that we wanted to achieve was to provide some level that any agency, regardless of size or administrative staff could report on in a timely way. Our legislature has very little data that is from the local level data and federal data. And they're often making policy decisions either based on old data or data that is not even associated or reflects the actual pressures within our community. This is really, really important. And it's a challenge to collect some of that pressure data, though it can be told anecdotally, and those stories are extremely powerful.

Rebecca Graham:

We'd also like agencies if they are looking at these pieces of data and decide that they want to participate in this effort, to be asking what does that metric say about the pressure within my agency? And are there additional metrics that maybe advocates and legislators need to see to tell that story in a better way that [inaudible 00:23:02] us advocate better, but it also helps hopefully them make better decisions about reform and where they're putting investment, or also taking away from local investment to make sure that they're taking away from places that are not going to be disproportionately impacting other communities in other ways. So this is really important for us, and we're delighted with this launch and grateful to be a part of it and hope that you will find that time legalized data will also be powerful within your communities to help you tell your stories.

Commissioner michael Nail:

Hello, my name is Chip Coldren. I'm the director of the CNA Center for Justice Research and Innovation. I'm encouraging you to give the prosecution oriented metrics embodied in the Justice Counts initiative,

your serious consideration, as you collect and analyze information in your field, as you think about ways to measure your own working performance. And as you think about ways to advance and improve your field. A quick look at the prosecution metrics and Justice Counts will reveal that they touch on important areas of activity and performance, organizational capacity, case processing, public safety impacts, providing service to crime victims, discretion and ethics, and more. Please join your colleagues throughout the justice system in advancing and working with the Justice Counts, prosecution metrics.

Bernice Corley:

Hello, my name is Bernice Corley. I'm the executive director of the Indiana Public Defender Council. Each year, millions of people rely on the public defender system for representation. A system which is often under-resourced in every measure. In order to give meaning to the right to counsel, it is important that defenders and allies to this constitutional right champion its cost. The use of data is critical to inform funding requests, to analyze a performance of any indigent defense program, or even an individual attorney. The Justice Counts measures for indigent defense were developed by experts in the field. The measurements will empower programs around the country to advocate for resources, as well as building public trust through self examination and reporting. I encourage you to use the Justice Counts measures, and I will advocate the use for them in the state of Indiana. Thank you.

Bennet Wright:

Hello, I'm Bennet Wright, the executive director of the Alabama Sentencing Commission. I'm excited about the launch of Justice Counts. This new initiative will provide access to information about court operations from across the country. The ability to review common and important pieces of information will benefit everyone seeking to improve court operations and to gain a better understanding of not only current trends in your current state, but also from across the country. I would encourage you to participate in this effort and also access the broad array of information supplied by Justice Counts. Thank you.

Captain Lee Eby:

Captain Lee, Jail Commander of Clackamas County Sheriff's Office. Justice Counts and jail metrics are important in necessary pieces in helping give decision makers, accurate data to guide program and financial decisions to better serve the communities we live in, and the populations in our custody. As a jail commander, tier one metrics are easily understandable and a huge step in the progress of our profession to better gauge success and help standardize languages across the criminal justice system. But to help give a measurement to each facility on basic information of the organizations we run this data will help guide important decisions and in the end make for more informed criminal justice system.

Beth Skinner:

Hi everyone. I'm Beth Skinner. I'm the director of the Iowa Department of Corrections. And I'm happy to be here today to talk about the Justice Counts initiative. I will tell you of the last 20 years working in corrections and research that we've had lots of starts and stops in terms of building consensus around measures and operationalizing those measures. I really see this as an opportunity to establish a baseline of consistent measures we believe are important and can help us make more informed decisions.

Beth Skinner:

So how is Justice Counts going to change the face of criminal justice data? One, developing consensus driven metrics, develop consistent measures. We can operationalize the same way. Make data driven,

informed policy making and assisting in decisions around our daily operations. It'll help us with budget decisions and resource allocation. It can help us answer where are the gaps and what we need to shore up to see better results in our systems. Finally, it's an opportunity to increase public safety, career fairness in our system. This is a game changer for the field of criminal justice. I'm excited. I am thrilled and honored to be a part of this initiative. For the first time we will, we all will be speaking the same language around data in this country. Thank you, Justice Counts.

Dr. Brian Lovins:

As we try to better understand the impact of the criminal justice system across the United States, one common limitation continues to plague us. We don't share a common language to talk about what the system does, who is impacted by it and how effective it is. Without a common set of metrics, we're often stuck with comparing the apples to Tuesdays. Justice Counts sets out to fix this across system collaborative approach, to help develop and implement a universal set of metrics that can be used across the United States. Over the past year, APPA has been at the table helping to define the tier one community supervision metrics. These metrics were designed by probation and parole people for probation and parole departments. We believe that having a uniformed, field driven set of data will help us better describe the populations we work with and help us tell the true story of our impact on people's lives.

Dr. Brian Lovins:

We live in a data rich environment, but up until now, we've not been able to leverage those data to paint an accurate picture of our work. Justice Counts provides an easy to access web-based interface that will allow our departments to quickly upload key indicators that are standardized across the country. Allowing us to finally compare apples to apples. I encourage all community supervision departments to take advantage of Justice Counts. This platform will provide us with the means to collect and share information to better our field and demonstrate the great work that we're all doing to help change people's lives and protect our communities.

Katie Mosehauer:

Wow. It was so exciting to see the level of enthusiasm and support from leaders across the criminal justice system. Thank you all so much for helping to develop these consensus driven metrics and for helping us bring them to the fields. You can all learn more about these metrics at our website. That's justice-counts.org. And on the website, you'll find that at a glance view that Ben mentioned, which puts all of the metrics side by side so that you can see how they relate to one another. There's also much deeper dives on the websites. You can actually get into the individual data elements that make up each metric. We're developing one additional piece called the technical implementation guide that we'd like to invite agencies to participate in that process with us.

Katie Mosehauer:

On the website, you'll see signups for work sessions for each individual criminal justice system sector. And we'd like agencies to participate in the discussion around the definitions and calculations that will construct the back end of the metrics. These conversations are critical to make sure that we're accounting for the level of nuance and variation across agencies, and are really allowing the right level of context and [inaudible 00:33:20]. Justice Counts. But they're not all that we're bringing to bear. We're going to turn things back to Heather so that she can talk a little bit more about the opportunities that BJA is providing for states to get involved in Justice Counts.

Dr. Heather Tubman-Carbone:

Thanks, Katie. As Katie mentioned, a lot of energy and focus has gone into developing resources and materials to help states and agencies adopt the Justice Counts metrics. There are three pathways to become a Justice Counts state, independent adoption, and two assisted adoption pathways. All states and agencies they're in can access on demand tools to assess their readiness, build interest, and begin using the Justice Counts metric. And then I am thrilled to announce that we have two programs to provide direct and tailored assistance to states. The founding states program and the implementation grant program. We'll talk more about those in a moment. And in addition to those resources, we at BJA partners, backing Justice Counts are here to help.

Katie Mosehauer:

We wanted to first talk a little bit about those resources that are available for everyone. You can see here on the slide there's quite a lot of them, a big list, because we know that there's a lot that goes into making Justice Counts a reality. So on the left, there are resources that are available on the Justice Counts website. There is an assessment to help individual agencies understand their data readiness. There are tools to understand how to implement the metrics. And then there's also a toolkit to help mobilize other agencies in your state to really achieve the cross system view that's so integral to Justice Counts. Now on the right hand side of this list are on demand tools and [inaudible 00:34:48] that you can request of the Justice Counts team. We can offer briefings to legislatures or to member associations, and we're also staffing a help desk to just help address any of the questions that come up along the way.

Katie Mosehauer:

Now we know this a list can be a little abstract. So we wanted to give you a tangible example of the depth of these tools and how they can help. So this is an excerpt from the Justice Counts self assessment, which helps agencies understand their readiness to share Justice Counts metrics. Now we've prepopulated this tool to the best of our ability with every criminal justice agency in the country. So you can simply select your agency and then receive a tailored set of data specific questions that individual sector.

Katie Mosehauer:

So hopefully you can see the text on the screen here shows individual data elements, and then a range of responses about the data associated. We wanted to make sure we could catch the nuance of yes, our data is fully ready, available, and able to be reported on demand to we input that data. But we can't export that data to that data is housed with somebody else. Maybe nobody has the data, or maybe you don't know because each of those responses is really critical and means that there's a different action item associated. So based on the responses to each of these questions, the assessment will generate a custom score for you.

Katie Mosehauer:

Now, the custom score will be presented to you at the end of the assessment, along with a really simple and clear list about which metrics you are fully ready to share, which metrics you are partially ready to share, and which metrics might not be ready for sharing just yet. It'll also include the individual data elements that might be missing from your system. So you may know exactly [inaudible 00:36:27] you can dive in and do a little digging to help increase your data capacity. The good news is that you don't need to be able to report every single data element to participate in Justice Counts. We know that even

with a bunch of data elements, there's a lot of information and data that can be provided that will have valuable insights for policymakers.

Dr. Heather Tubman-Carbone:

BJA is funding two programs to help you become Justice Counts state. The founding states program will provide intensive assistance to 10 states, including hands-on assistance from the CSG Justice Center to recruit agencies within the state to participate, to help them adopt and share the metrics using the Justice Counts digital infrastructure. The implementation grant program will provide grant funds and technical assistance to 15 states to develop and implement adoption plans and begin communicating results with policymaker. I'll now turn things over to Humphrey Obuobi with our Justice Counts technology partner [inaudible 00:37:25] to preview that digital infrastructure, the way it works and how it will power Justice Counts.

Humphrey Obuobi:

On the technical side, the state office is working with all partners and agencies involved to help this digital infrastructure provide three things. First is a way for agencies to share Justice Counts metrics in a way that is trivial for any member of an agency staff, including non-technical members such as police officers, clerks, or otherwise. Second, we want to build this in a way that's scalable, extensible and open. It should be easy for any member of the criminal justice ecosystem from agencies to the record management systems to assist in publishing these metrics. And lastly, we want to build a way for them to look good while doing it through visually appealing dashboards that tell the story behind the data.

Humphrey Obuobi:

Shown here is an example of the developing infrastructure. You can see here that there are opportunities to both share metric data, as well as provide agency specific context that will be important to shape how the data is displayed and explained. Once an agency shares Justice Counts metrics, that data will populate a state specific dashboard with a range of clear, concise and informative visualizations that policymakers can rely on to be up-to-date and useful in their decision making. We look forward to working with the founding states and members of the implementation grant program to shape these data visualizations and begin sharing metrics later this year.

Dr. Heather Tubman-Carbone:

Thanks, Humphrey. I'm sure many of you want to know where and how you can find more information on the TA grant opportunities that we've been discussing here. For more information on the founding states program, please visit the Justice Counts site at justice-counts.org. To learn about the implementation grant program, please visit bja.gov/funding. We will post links to both of these opportunities in the chat now so that they're easily accessible. Those who registered for this event will also receive a follow up email, including links to these sites.

Dr. Heather Tubman-Carbone:

And now it is my honor to turn things over to Director Anne Precythe to facilitate two panels with leaders and experts from the field. Director Anne Precythe has led the Missouri Department of Corrections since early 2017. She's the current president of the Correctional Leaders Association, a Justice Counts partner, and a member of multiple national boards and advisory committees, including the National Institute of Corrections. It is my honor and pleasure to introduce Director Precythe and the members of our panel.

Anne L. Precythe:

Thank you, Heather and Katie, Ben, Sema and Humphrey, that was incredibly informative. I think it really sets the stage for what we want to talk about now. It's amazing to think about how expansive the Justice Counts coalition is and how much expertise went into developing these metrics. What I really want to do now is dive deeper into how they were developed. And then how do we plan to utilize the data?

Anne L. Precythe:

Today, our first three panelists each serve on the Justice Counts [inaudible 00:40:39] metrics and work directly with criminal justice data in their day-to-day work. With us first is Kelly Lyn Mitchell. Kelly's the executive director, Robina Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice at the University of Minnesota. Welcome Kelly. Second with us is Abdul D. Pridgen. He's Chief of Police in the San Leandro Police Department in California. Abdul, we're glad to have you today. And then finally we have Kashif Saddiqi, Director of Fiscal Operations with the Middlesex County Sheriff's Office in Massachusetts. Welcome Kash, we're glad to have you. So Kelly, I want to start with you. What makes approach as embodied by the metrics new and different?

Kelly Lyn Mitchell:

Well, a couple of things. First of all, Justice Counts is really here to lean into the utility of data to help policymakers make better decisions. Oftentimes states have a lot of data on hand, they just don't necessarily produce it on a regular basis or put it in a single place. And so when you really need to know the answer, you don't have access to the data. And so the goal of the metrics that were created here at Justice Counts is to help policymakers have the real time data that they need to make policy and budgeting decisions, to help them understand what is the size and scale of their criminal justice system, to help them understand whether that system is actually effective or whether there are areas that need improvement and need changes in policy.

Kelly Lyn Mitchell:

The metrics are built around data that most systems already have. They just aren't producing it on a regular basis, or they're maybe not putting it in a central location to make it easy to access. All of the metrics here were developed by the coalition that you've talked about today, the experts. Individuals, agencies, other entities that came to the table to provide, lend their expertise to developing these metrics and helping figure out which ones would be most important for states to have on a regular basis. And they're designed first and foremost, to be simple, feasible, and effective for policy making.

Anne L. Precythe:

I think those are great points. Thank you. Kash, so based on your experience, would your agency have had the data readily available for these metrics? I mean, can you give us examples?

Kashif Saddiqi:

Sure. Yeah. I think the data is definitely available in our agencies and a lot of agencies around the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, but around the country as well are tracking a lot of the metrics, which is what's great about the Justice Counts metrics and how they've been developed. They've been developed with feedback from practitioners. And I think that is what makes this metric, the tier one metrics stand out is that they've taken into account the importance of what people and what jails and

what systems are capable of tracking and leverage that information into these metrics. So these data are absolutely available.

Kashif Saddiqi:

And we utilize these data in a number of ways, including our admissions and the average daily population. Some of the things that the metrics will show are incorporated into what we do on a daily basis. Data that we have to report to the state house, data that we have to provide to external partners that we have. So a lot of the work that we do on a day-to-day basis, jails around the country are doing on a day-to-day basis are the same exact metrics that you're seeing here in this first tier

Anne L. Precythe:

Interesting points. Kelly, I want to come back to you to set the stage for us. So when we think about the criminal justice system and how expansive it is as a whole, so many different areas of work. You have state, you have county, you have just a multitude of areas. Can you talk to us about how Justice Counts started? Where did you begin in identifying and developing the initial set of metrics?

Kelly Lyn Mitchell:

Yeah. These metrics are really a combination of research and experience. So the Justice Counts staff did extensive literature reviews to bring to the table what type of information did state and local agencies typically have available? We also talked to people in the field to figure out what do you wish you had available? Because we didn't want to build metrics that were just what was already there, we were trying to improve the system and make better decisions. Right? So we also needed to have some stretch goals in there to think about, well, what should be there as well as what's already there.

Kelly Lyn Mitchell:

So starting with that research, we then brought a starter list of metrics to the table. The people on the subcommittee, the people who served on the subcommittees actually then added to that list. That was the worst part because we wanted more, not less. So we added to the list. And then we had to go through and start to wrangle for those what should be on the list and what shouldn't be on the list. And we all had an opportunity to put our knowledge on the table to bring real examples into the decision making process about how this might be helpful and how that might be helpful. Like, what does the legislature need to know when they're figuring out how to fund prisons? What do corrections officials need to know when they're trying to figure out where to put their resources? So all of those things came to bear and eventually we whittled it down to what we really thought were the most essential things. And it was a consensus based process to get to that point.

Kelly Lyn Mitchell:

So starting with research, adding a lot to the table, talking it through and reaching consensus, that was really the process that got us here today.

Anne L. Precythe:

Fascinating, because as a corrections leader, I know how protective we can be of our data and wondering what could happen to it when it gets out there. So it is a real education piece. So you all did yeoman's work to get to the points that you did. So that's great. Abdul, I want to shift to you for a second. San Leandro is a relatively small workforce. Talk to us about how you plan to use these metrics.

Abdul G. Pridgen:

Thank you for the question. So with the goal towards making good criminal justice decisions based on data and experience, the Justice Counts metrics helps me as a chief and our city council. So for the city, this can help our city council answer important budget allocations, staffing, and other resource questions. These are data that policymakers already regularly ask for to make major decisions. And we want them to have the data in the most comprehensive and consistent manner possible so they can make decisions with better information.

Abdul G. Pridgen:

So it's helpful for us to one, already have this data ready, available, and accessible, and to have them in a clear and easy to understand form because at the end of the day, we want to be able to make fair comparisons between agencies. So we're comparing apples to apples and not apples to oranges.

Anne L. Precythe:

That is so great. And hearing it on a smaller scale compared to a larger state scale, it's a very similar translation. So thank you for that. Kash, I want to end with you by just helping you show us what is the next step? So looking ahead, how can we build on this initial set of data to paint a more nuanced picture of the system as a whole?

Kashif Saddiqi:

Sure. That's a great question. So as any good researcher, any good scientist will tell you data and collection of data baseline. You have to start somewhere. You can't know what you don't know. You actually do the work to collect some information. Now at the Middlesex Sheriff's Office with Sheriff Koutoujian, we are very proud of where we are with our data and our data collection, but it had to start somewhere. And I think this tier one metrics is a great place to start for a lot of agencies that are looking to track data.

Kashif Saddiqi:

Now, where we go from here, director, is trying to get the data to answer more nuanced questions, trying to understand more subtle trends within your system, within your facility, within your state and so on and so forth. And I believe that tier two metrics are going to be able to tackle those things. But one of the great parts about tier one, it establishes a baseline that everybody is working with, that everyone is looking at the same metrics and tracking the same information. And then tier two, those agencies with more resources or different areas of expertise can really answer those subtle nuanced questions that are necessary for our criminal justice system.

Anne L. Precythe:

That's great. I think you've definitely helped set this tone, all three of you for the importance of data and really making justice count with identifying these key metrics. I'd like to thank all three of you for being here today and sharing your perspective and helping us understand how the metrics came about. And I'd like to invite the people on the call to stick with us for the second panel because now we're going to talk about what's possible with better data. So thank you all for being here and everyone else stay tuned.

Anne L. Precythe:

All right. So thank you to our panelists for that great discussion that we had. I'm really impressed with the efforts made by the steering committee. I know it took some time and with some really extensive work, but it's exciting to see us moving forward. Listening to the panel, I really started thinking about what are the next steps? So now that we've identified the metrics, how do we put them into play? Once we've implemented them, what does it mean to have current, up-to-date, timely, accurate data? How can we use it to inform our policy decisions moving forward?

Anne L. Precythe:

I mean, another simple way to look at it is how will justice count? The next group of panelists that we have with us are all members of the Justice Counts national steering committee, and they each make policy decisions using criminal justice data in their own day-to-day work. So let's talk about policy possibilities that can result from timely and accurate data. I'm sorry to say that Abigale Jasinsky is not able to be with us. She's a Deputy Director of Policy in Governor Bill Lee from the great state of Tennessee. She works closely with him and all the great things happening in Tennessee. And we're going to miss her this afternoon.

Anne L. Precythe:

We do however have Justin Forkner, who is the Chief Administrative Officer of the Indiana Supreme Court. Justin, we're glad to have you. And then we also have Nicole Sullivan, Deputy Secretary for Analysis, Programming and Policy with the North Carolina Department of Public Safety. And it is very good to see my dear friend from the great state of North Carolina. Welcome Nicole.

Anne L. Precythe:

So I want to start this panel with a simple question to Justin. Talk to us about the biggest challenge that you face in finding and then utilizing criminal justice data.

Justin Forkner:

Hi Anne. Thanks. Glad to be here. The question is simple, but I think the answer is in the question, the challenge is finding it. We have finally in Indiana, one statewide case management system. It's taken us 10 years to get all of our courts on one case management system, which is tremendous. Now we can get snapshot data statewide on criminal justice cases, but we still have 26 different jail management systems. We have three or four different supervised release systems for community supervision. Child services has a system. Mental health has a system. So the same data points on the same individuals are scattered across those systems and trying to connect them as dots for policymaker is incredibly challenging. Even when we have the actual data point itself, it could be in five or six different places.

Justin Forkner:

And then our next challenge is making sure that we know what it means. Once we have that data point, is it defined the same from one data system to the next so that we can actually compare apples to apples and we're not looking at apples to oranges or sometimes I'm stuck saying that's apples and dump trucks. We're totally different universes. So the biggest challenge is finding it and actually being able to use it.

Anne L. Precythe:

Those are great points. And I think it's important for the people on the Zoom to understand that it's not one unified system, but that is the ideal dream that I think we would all love to see one day. So Nicole, let me shoot to you. Why are the metrics that are across all these systems that Justin described, why are they important to the criminal justice field? I mean, why now?

Nicole Sullivan:

Oh, that's a great question. And it's really good to be with you and to be on this panel, have this conversation with everyone. I think the biggest thing really, and Justin was touching on it, it's about getting really good baseline data that's research based, it's practical, we can get to it, we can use it, people have it. We're just not able to share it and we're not able to utilize it to make decisions. And so I think this is the first time this is being done. And so it's going to be really important that we're able to get folks to utilize this data, but it has to be easy to use. And again, combining these elements together in a consistent way is really going to move the field forward in terms of being able to do the work and to share information and really to tell the story, because we actually just need to tell our story better. We need data to do that.

Anne L. Precythe:

That's a great point. And I know you have a little experience about highlighting data during COVID and what that meant. Do you want to just talk about the benefits there?

Nicole Sullivan:

Yes. It was really important during COVID that we were still able to share information. And again, that situation was so dynamic and changing all the time. So data was the way that we were able to figure out how we needed to manage our system, manage what we were seeing, manipulate in terms of where do we have folks, where do we need resources, where do we need staffing? And the data really helped us to do that so that we could do a better job of mitigating that risk, continuing to provide some level of service in our facilities, but we were always having to pay attention to those metrics and keep.

Anne L. Precythe:

Right. So let me ask you as a leader in the executive branch and you're responsible for making policy decisions in North Carolina, tell me the benefit of having timely and accurate data from a local or county system or even the court system. I mean, how can that help you shape policy?

Nicole Sullivan:

Now, that data is really important coming in on what I would say the front end. So we're getting that information and we're then able to use it to do projections. That's how we do it here in North Carolina is we get a lot of information in our projection process that looks at local arrests, it looks at local decision making. And then from there we're able to plan better, look at our resources, figure out what we need to do, and then that's going to help some of our service providers as well. So everyone needs that data to plan. We need it for beds, we need it for resources, we need it for staffing and we use it in those ways, but also it just really helps to connect all of the partners together so that they can do better planning on the back end.

Anne L. Precythe:

Sounds like it could really help reduce a lot of duplication because everybody's trying to fill a gap they think exists when really someone else could probably do a better job at it if we knew what we needed and where the resources were.

Nicole Sullivan:

Exactly. Exactly.

Anne L. Precythe:

Yeah. So Justin, let me shift to you because you come at it from a different perspective being with the supreme court, how would better data practices or access impact policy making in your field?

Justin Forkner:

I think probably in the same ways Nicole talked about just obviously a slightly different field. I mean, we look at our court case data to make sure that we have the right resources and the right places, that we're treating the right cases with the right amount of time, that the right people are getting the right outcomes. So we obviously we're looking for the same predictive data points that let us see around to be the next legislative session, 10 years down the road, where do we need to have courts and policies in place?

Justin Forkner:

But then we work really closely in Indiana with our other two branches of government on just a lot of different initiatives. Mental health, problem solving courts, we have a statewide justice reinvestment advisory council that's interbranched that all looks at data points to make statewide across branch policy decisions. So being able to pull that snapshot data as legislators, the executive branch, they look to us at least in the courts as having that frontline, premier grade data. So they look for it, they ask it to make any of their decisions and the better we can provide it, the faster, the clearer, the better off we all are.

Anne L. Precythe:

I think it's interesting. I'm going to ask both of you just to talk briefly. Justin, you first, you mentioned the legislature and I think that that is really key because we know that the legislatures are responsible for shaping state policy and we are responsible for implementing in the executive branch, but how is it beneficial for them to really understand good data that's accurate and today as they shape the policies and the statutes for the states?

Justin Forkner:

Well, at least for me, I like to think that we don't want them to be necessarily data-driven, but data informed. We want to make sure that they understand the conditions on the ground as clearly as possible when they're talking to us, at least as they flow through the court system. And one of the things we talk about here is that courts in a local community are like the ER, that's where the ills pop up very frequently first. So being able to go to them or have what is happening, what are you seeing? I'm hearing this, is that correct? And allowing them to understand whether that's the correct perception, maybe it's something else that they don't see lets them make those statewide decisions with a little more clarity. And it behooves all of us to make sure they're doing that as much as possible.

Anne L. Precythe:

That's a great analogy for the courts. I had not really thought about it like that. Nicole, what do you think about how it benefits or is meaningful to the legislature?

Nicole Sullivan:

I think that's the crux of what they need to know is what's happening in the system, what is happening on the ground. And to follow with Justin's analogy about the ER, then I guess the correction system is like the hospital, right? We're trying to fix people. And so to really know what people need and how best to address those problems, then you need data about that. And then of course we need resources to do that. And so the legislature needs to understand those problems and have that information and be data informed as Justin said. So that they need to understand the story, they need to understand the scope of the problem so then we can apply right resources so that we can actually get people into the hospital, maybe help fix them.

Anne L. Precythe:

Well, that's great from both of you. Nice job. Because people just don't think about the criminal justice system from a data standpoint, but we know that people today rely on data for funding, for all kinds of expansion and different things. I think you all have done a super job highlighting just how important data is to stakeholders, policymakers. And thanks so much for taking your time. I think this has been a great discussion. I'm excited to see where we go from here and what states continue to build out and be able to share among each other, but then also to be able to share within their own systems. I think having a data-driven approach is going to make us achieve greater success in all of our states and utilize funding in much better ways. So with that, I'm going to turn it back for closing. Thank you.

Thomas J. Stickrath:

Thank you to our presenters and panelists, and especially to Director Anne Precythe for a really fascinating and insightful conversation. And thank you to all of you who have tuned in. I'm Tom Stickrath, Director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, and I'm honored to be here today to close out this exciting and informative event.

Thomas J. Stickrath:

A few quick notes before we sign off today. The Justice Counts metrics we discussed today are all available now on the Justice Counts website by visiting the page listed. And you can view all the metrics or navigate to your sector in more detail. This page also includes many of the resources we mentioned during today's presentation, including the online self-assessment that Katie highlighted, as well as the opportunity to sign up for forthcoming work sessions on the technical specifications. On the website, you will also find a page to become a Justice Counts state with a toolkit and many resources, including templates for executive orders, legislative resolutions, letters of request, working group coalition building guidance, fact sheets, decision making briefs, and a link to request legislative briefings or presentations to your state or association from the Justice Counts team.

Thomas J. Stickrath:

There is also more information about the founding state and implementation grant programs which have limited spots. And finally, if you have not already done so, please join the Justice Counts email list to learn about future events and resources. You can sign up via the Justice Counts website on the page listed, get involved. You will also find pathways for your next steps for joining Justice Counts according to your position. If you preregistered for today's event, we will send an email with a recording of today's

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discussion. If you did not preregister, you can access this recording on the Justice Counts website. Again, that is justice-counts.org.

Thomas J. Stickrath:

If you could, please take a minute to tell us what you thought about this event. A survey link is available now on social media and in the Vimeo chat. This will also be delivered to you by email if you registered for this event. We value your feedback and it will help us improve our... And with that, thank you again for joining us today. It has been a pleasure being with you all. Stay safe and have a pleasant week.