

## **Minnehaha County**

### **2018 Safety and Justice Challenge Fact Sheet**

#### ***We've got a problem to fix:***

- Minnehaha County and the community need to develop more community-based responses for those with behavioral health needs, improve on case processing length, and address the racial disparities in the justice system.
- Roughly 24% of the jail bookings and 37% of jail bed days include those who self-identify as having a behavioral health or substance abuse issue. On average, individuals with behavioral health or substance abuse issues who enter the county's jail spend an average of 14 days in detention, while those who do not self-identify with a behavioral health issue stay an average of 7.5 days.
- There are a large number of individuals who are booked and released within a few hours or under 3 days. In an analysis of a recent 12-month period, 51% of individuals released from jail were there less than 24 hours and 27% were released within 3 days. On a given day in April, around 74% of the jail population was pretrial.
- Despite making up 8.4% of the general population, African Americans represent about 14% of jail releases and American Indians represent about 31%, totaling 45% of the jail releases, on average.
- Without referrals and utilization of research driven, community-based services, disruption in the stability of families and communities can occur, potentially leading to higher re-arrest rates. This also produces worse case outcomes with more back-end incarceration.

#### ***There are proposed solutions to create a fairer, more effective local justice system:***

- Minnehaha County will implement forward-looking, smart solutions, supported with \$700,000 from the Safety and Justice Challenge. Stakeholders will strive to implement community-based options at justice system decision points with the goal of reducing the local jail population by 18%, while not compromising public safety, over the next two years.
- The county's goal is to ensure effective and efficient systems by implementing five key strategies to address system inefficiencies and disparities, meet the needs of those with behavioral health and substance abuse issues, and institute community-based responses for low-risk offenders.
- Strategies include implementing pre-arrest diversion, developing targeted pretrial release options, improve case processing, creating warm handoff and access to treatment and support services for individuals with behavioral health needs, and further investigating the racial and ethnic disproportionalities.
- Specifically, over the next two years the county plans to:
  - Improve case processing efficiencies by creating a system map to identify points to inform case management plan implementation
  - Review pre-arrest options including referrals to enhanced services for people with mental illness or substance abuse issues involved with the justice system and investigate the citation process.
  - Develop a community engagement plan to identify strategies to engage impacted communities and address racial and ethnic disproportionalities.
  - Expand and build upon current pretrial release options to meet the needs of target populations and to expedite justice system processes.

***Who is helping to affect change?***

- The strategies and initiatives supported by the Safety and Justice Challenge are being led by Minnehaha County in partnership with South Dakota Unified Judicial System, 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit, Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office, The Sioux Falls Police Department, Minnehaha County State's Attorney's Office, City of Sioux Falls, Minnehaha County Office of the Public Defender, Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce, Minnehaha County Commission, Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation, Minnehaha/Lincoln County Human Services, and the Minnehaha County Office of Public Advocate.
- Locally, this work will also be supported by sub-committees, which focus on issues ranging from community engagement addressing racial and ethnic disparities, to evidence-based practices and technology, and are comprised of various representatives from the justice system, law enforcement, community-based organizations, and advocacy groups. Those who have assisted in the Innovation Fund project include Avera McKennan Hospital, Sanford Health, Southeastern Behavioral Health, the National Alliance on Mental Health Sioux Falls, Carroll Institute, Bishop Dudley Hospitality House, and Avera Behavioral Health.