SMART PROSECUTION

SPOTLIGHT ARTICLE

July 2017

Academy Fellows (left to right): Aisha Greene, Project Director of Brooklyn Justice Initiatives; Ameen Beale, Restorative Justice Facilitator for the DC OAG; Roman Haferd, Restorative Justice Coordinator for the DC OAG; Seema Gajwani, Project Lead for the DC OAG's Smart Prosecution Initiative; Patrick Motsay (kneeling) Project Lead for Baltimore City's Smart Prosecution Initiative; Sarah Labus, Project Coordinator for Baltimore City's Smart Prosecution Initiative; Margo Badawy, APA Smart Prosecution Staff Attorney; and Alex Lambert, Restorative Justice Facilitator for the DC OAG.

The Smart Suite Researcher Practitioner Fellows Academy of the Michigan State University (MSU) School of Criminal Justice welcomed its 5th class on July 25, 2017. Smart Suite Subject Matter Expert (SME) and MSU Professor Ed McGarrell led the welcoming remarks and introduction to a class of over 70 attendees, who attended the four-day Academy representing six Smart Suite programs: the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation[1]; Smart Policing[2], the Police-Prosecution Partnership Initiative (3PI), and Smart Prosecution; Smart Reentry[3]; Smart Supervision[4]; and Encouraging Innovation—Field-Initiated Programs[5].

Six team members from two Smart Prosecution offices were present at the Academy: Baltimore City State's Attorney's Division Chief of Central Booking and Project Lead Patrick Motsay, and Project Coordinator Sarah Labus; and Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia's Special Counsel for Juvenile Justice Reform and Project Lead Seema Gajwani, who attended along with Restorative Justice Coordinator Roman Haferd, and Restorative Justice Facilitators Ameen Beale and Alex Lambert. Other criminal justice researchers and practitioners represented the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs/Diagnostic Center, the Medical College of Wisconsin; and, the City of the District of Columbia.

In his welcoming remarks, Dr. McGarrell explained that the Smart Suite programs[6] create capacity for local crime prevention and the "fair and effective delivery of justice." He explained that Smart Suite's three main goals aim to: 1) develop capacity for research

integration into state and local Smart Suite Initiatives; 2) support implementation of evidence-based practices; and, 3) enhance public safety and improve the delivery of justice.

Dr. Faye Taxman, Director of George Mason University's Center for Advancing Correctional Excellence, and Smart Prosecution SME, led an academy-wide session entitled "Contextualizing Implementation Challenges and Key Data to Collect." Dr. Taxman's session focused on "transportability" as part of implementation science. Transportability is a research term grounded on whether a research study could be similarly successful in another jurisdiction. When aiming for transportability, Dr. Taxman stressed it is important for researchers to determine why they are conducting the study, how compatible the study could be in a dissimilar jurisdiction, and recognizing the "it" theory of why research may tell a different story in another area. Dr. Taxman explained successful implementation science builds capacity and resiliency, while building foundations and developing knowledge. As part of the class, participants examined a research paper and answered questions to determine whether the research would be transportable in their own jurisdictions. To determine this, participants: examined the logic behind the study; explained how the study was structured; considered the characteristics of the target population, the issues the study targeted, the demographic setting, and sample size; determined whether the study included a follow-up period; identified what measures were used in the study; determined what mechanisms researchers used to ensure the collected data was high quality; recognized potential threats to internal validity; and studied success measures. Participants then compared this information to their own jurisdictions by answering the following questions: how similar is the research setting; was the sample typical of populations in their jurisdictions; how did the study's population compare to their jurisdiction's population; and recognizing unique factors in their own jurisdictions that may otherwise affect transportability. Baltimore City's Project Lead Patrick Motsay found the session helpful as his site implements a risk assessment tool, stating, "This session was on point to where our site is in relation to the development and implementation of our Risk Assessment project. I could directly relate our project to the practices discussed. Professor Taxman's coverage of the concepts of Contextualization and Guiding Principles were very interesting in the context of building a framework and building resilience. Knowing the core components of our project is essential, but I left this session with a better understanding of how guiding principles help identify expectations and identify the process and resources needed to develop guides for daily practice." DC's Restorative Justice Coordinator Roman Haferd explained Dr. Taxman's session will help him with the procedural justice component of his site's initiative, as it "broke down the process of establishing program guiding principles."

The Urban Institute's Senior Research Associate and Smart Prosecution SME KiDeuk Kim led students through a break-out session entitled "Using Risk and Needs Assessments: Research and Analytic Approaches." First, he defined three key concepts inherent to Risk and Needs Assessments (RNA); he explained that

"risk" was both theoretical and empirical, and that "high risk should receive intensive supervision and treatment." The "need" concept is grounded on theoretical framework, to address criminogenic needs in problem areas, and finally, "responsivity" also theoretical in nature, is consistent with the ability and learning style of each individual. Mr. Kim also explained how the Area Under the Curve ("AUC") validation tool measures recidivism and the overall efficacy of the assessment. For validation, the RNA tool must show an AUC recidivism risk of .6 (for comparison, the chance of landing tails during a coin toss is a .5). Mr. Kim encouraged practitioners and researchers to ask the RNA developer to provide the AUC number, as most are not widely-published. However, the AUC is just one factor when choosing an RNA. Other factors to consider: 1) A bias checklist— Mr. Kim stated most stakeholders initially tend to value equity over public safety when calculating bias—however when given concrete examples, most tend to value public safety over equity. 2) The Inter-rater reliability (IRR) bias tool measures the levels of consistency between different raters conducting a risk assessment instrument (for example, if all the raters agree, the IRR level would be 100%; if none of the raters agree the IRR level is 0%). Although a 100% IRR level is preferable, it may not be feasible and practitioners should determine suitable IRR levels based on their data and how many raters are in their chosen model. 3) Affordability and Maintenance— sometimes free RNAs are not always the best, and may cost more over time with high maintenance costs. 4) Data support and staff-buy-in. 5) Performance criteria that includes predictive accuracy and equitable performance.

Many Academy courses focused on the evaluation/implementation process. Sarah Labus, Project Coordinator for the Baltimore site, learned applicable knowledge from the Academy she can directly apply as her site begins implementation of a risk assessment tool to study recidivism of offenders. The Academy provided her with three key takeaway points: 1) the processing of introducing and implementing change which is a "vital step" for her team to "address in order to receive acceptance of change"; 2) understanding that the ability to maintain change is important- "for our team this means that a balance must be maintained within the organization, solo thinking should be prevented, and any problems must be addressed when the change occurs"; and 3) understanding "specific implementation drivers such as staff confidence and organizational supports that are vital to the success of a project."

Ms. Labus further explained a session entitled "Quality Improvement: 'Making Toast'" by GMU Research Assistant Shannon Magnusson, was her favorite session because it related "directly" to her office's Smart Prosecution Initiative. She explained the course offered guidance to help an entire researcher/practitioner team, sharing the same goals, achieve success through many channels. "[We learned] it's very important to always consider the input and suggestions of the entire team through the entire implementation process. This session discussed the specifics of implementation and the factors needed to be considered during the implementation phase. Alex Lambert, Restorative Justice Facilitator the DC site, explained his favorite session was "Focused-Deterrence: Addressing Domestic Violence", taught by retired High Point Police Department Chief of Police Marty Sumner. "The session really showed how to effectively use procedures and smart policing to reduce serious crime. It also really helped us use data effectively in "real-world" terms to address community concerns with most efficiency and least harm to low level offenders," Mr. Lambert explained.

Aisha Greene, Project Director at the Brooklyn Justice Initiatives, Center for Court Innovation, and partner for King County District Attorney's (Brooklyn) Smart Prosecution Initiative, led another break-out session "Procedural Justice, Client Satisfaction, and Compliance." Ms. Greene first explained the difference between procedural and distributive justice: procedural justice is the perceived fairness of court procedures, which includes how attorneys, judges, and other courtroom officials treat parties appearing in court. Distributive justice is the outcome of the case. Ms. Greene explained that parties are more likely to accept 'losing' a case if they perceived fairness with the outcome. According to Ms. Greene, the four components of procedural justice are: dignity/respect; having a voice in the courtroom; neutrality from court officials; and understanding the language and the process of the court. Procedural justice is symbiotic too. Ms. Greene discussed an Australian traffic stop study: when law enforcement pulled random vehicles over, drivers were grouchy, unsympathetic, and rude. However, when officers treated the drivers with dignity and respect by asking "good evening, how are you today?", explaining how the stop was randomized (neutrality), and why it was occurring (process) to combat increased dangerous drunk drivers in the area, the drivers were more agreeable and sympathetic.

Julie Wartell, Founder of the Analysis Group and a SME for Smart Prosecution led another breakout session, "The Crime Analysis Problem." Ms. Wartell discussed Geographic Information Systems ("GIS"), as a way of strategically looking at crime for both law enforcement and the community to better understand crime through "problem-oriented policing." Ms. Wartell defined "problem" as "two or more crime incidents related in one or more way."She further explained the following factors (instead of just focusing on offenders) can help solve the crime problem: Victim, Time, Location, and Behavior. For example, in Charlotte, North Carolina, many undocumented immigrants were being targeted and mugged for small amounts of cash ($30 or less). She then led the class through the four-factor analysis: Victim: undocumented, migrant workers walking home in the dark after a long workday; Time: at night, after the field shift ended and followed by drinks at local bars; Location: proximity to the bar district, walking towards their neighborhood; Behavior: workers were usually intoxicated and walked home with their daily cash earnings, minus the bar tab. Using this information, the police understood suspects were targeting undocumented workers because the suspects knew undocumented workers could not access bank accounts, and thus had their cash daily earnings on them. The suspects also knew these victims were vulnerable on their way back home, because if they were walking home after dark near the bar district, they probably were intoxicated. Thus, law enforcement, keenly tuned in to these incidents, set up spatial diagrams and visual assessments, and after interviewing the victims to understand the crime problem, worked with Bank of America to create a program allowing undocumented workers to open bank accounts. Once workers could deposit their day's earnings, the muggings decreased. Ms. Wartell also explained it is important for the community to pay attention to 'rhythms' and gave the example of a police department expecting increased drag racing (and increased patrol) on April 14, 2017. Why? Because the latest installment of "The Fast and the Furious" had opened in theaters.

Rutgers University professors Joel Caplan and Lester Kennedy led a session on Risk Terrain Modeling (RTM), a concept of spatial risk analysis which they created. RTM measures risk from landscape features to predict where crime is and where it will go. The researchers explained RTM is a lot like hotspot analysis, but is a "very micro-level spatial analysis" that adds the component of finding out "why" crimes happen just not "where" they happen. RTM refocuses law enforcement's lens away from people and toward problem places, which alleviates due process concerns for law enforcement; the researchers noted a three-month experimental study in Newark using RTM: crime was down 35% with no increased arrests. Thus, RTM also fosters Risk-Based Policing, which helps many law enforcement programs strapped on financial resources and manpower. RTM also assists cities such

as Atlantic City, New Jersey, a city with many crimes of opportunity and both transient victims and offenders—the city is home to only 40,000 residents, but it welcomes more than 20 million tourists per year. Thus, to combat the crime, the researchers focused on areas, not people. Using Risk-Based Policing, law enforcement assessed risk, deployed resources, checked for success using 'sign-in sheets' and were able to see a statistically significant drop-in crime.

Creating and maintaining community engagement was another theme of the Academy. Ms. Labus explained there were "many key points regarding community engagement and partnership buy-in that will be helpful for our project. The phrase 'people don't buy what you do, they buy why you do it' is very useful and helpful as we begin implementation of our site's risk assessment." Smart Prosecution researchers Craig Uchida and Shellie Solomon, researchers at Justice & Security Strategies, Inc., discussed Collective Efficacy and micro engagement during another breakout session. The researchers discussed how to: reduce violent crime; encourage communities, neighborhoods and people to assist in crime control; and, increase trust in law enforcement. They defined Collective Efficacy as "a willingness to intervene, building off social cohesion and trust through a sense of belonging and social investment in the neighborhood, and the ability to mobilize informal social control to reduce crime." Dr. Uchida explained that police should proactively promote public trust by initiating positive, non-enforcement activities. Ms. Solomon added that residents should take pride in their communities, and showed examples of lower rates of crime in areas with increased community policing. Both researchers discussed the three-step "ACT" guide to building Collective Efficacy: Asset Identification, Coming Together, and Taking Action. Mr. Lambert called the session provided "great insight to community buy-in and how to use [the community] effectively when dealing with crime." He added that the session particularly "shed light on the ways to make the community part of the crime solution and on ways we can engage the community for reducing violence without being responsible for leading the effort." Mr. Motsay also enjoyed and learned from the session, "I left this session knowing that communities need to be organized and not built to have the greatest impact. This is done through social activities like cleaning up a park where the members get to know each other and develop relationships and trust. This helps develop a collective willingness to intervene. Addressing the community will assist in rebuilding public trust and their belief that the strategy pursued is the right one. Using collective efficacy is already a practice our office pursues via community liaisons. We will work closely with these liaisons to develop a strategy for gradual buy in by community leaders with whom they have established relationships of trust and social investment."

Dr. James "Chip" Coldren, Managing Director for CNA's Institute for Public Research, and TTA provider for Smart Policing, also discussed community engagement tips for both law enforcement and the community in his breakout session. Dr. Coldren's tips for law enforcement from his SPI Police-Community Collaboration Principles. 1) Strong Leadership. 2) Orient People Towards Services and away from the "stuff 'em and cuff 'em" mentality. Dr. Coldren explained this means police must work with people to help themselves, a philosophy especially true when dealing with opioid users. Dr. Coldren explained when dealing with suspects with mental health issues, arresting first is not the best solution; he noted officers who drove suspects to treatment centers or took them to medical appointments after release from jail. 3) Transform Training to include social interaction and communication, procedural justice, cultural awareness, collaboration, and problem solving. 4) Build Community Relationships through 1-on-1 face time with citizens and stakeholders. 5) Engage with Diverse Communities where the trust is usually the lowest and the risk is highest.

6) Improve Communication and Messaging— it is important for law enforcement to positively brand themselves and disseminate outreach and success stories through social media. 7) Understand Community Perspectives by polling and canvassing the community through surveys, focus groups, and informal "street corner sessions" that gives the community a voice and the police a greater understanding of community priorities and perspectives and the impact of crime fighting strategies. Dr. Coldren also discussed Principles for the Community when interacting with law enforcement: 1) Identify Leaders with Credibility and support the community to talk regularly with the police. 2) Provide Input on Officer Training curriculum and the impact of crime strategies. 3) Participate with Police in training exercises and problem-solving projects. 4) Define Public Safety and Neighborhood Priorities through common perspectives 4) Recognize Officers who do good work, such as de-escalation. 5) Create Goals for joint problem solving. 6) Ask Police to Share Information regarding civilian complaints and use of force investigations.

Ms. Labus referred to her time at the Academy as "a tremendously educational and informative experience" and "felt it was a great way to experience first-hand the exciting new changes that are being put in place throughout the criminal justice field across the country." Mr. Lambert added that the DC team appreciated the diversity of the sessions and that it was a "thoughtful and well-planned week." Mr. Haferd appreciated the opportunity to meet with the Baltimore City team to share experiences and "learn from each other." He added that networking with all the attendees was a valuable experience as he "learned more shared language to use with allies and stakeholders to help build common understanding, particularly around risk assessment and research methods."

[1] These programs invest in the development of practitioner-researcher partnerships that use data, evidence, and innovation to create strategies and interventions that are effective and economical. Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs. Available at: **https://www.bja.gov/ProgramDetails.aspx?Program_ID=70**

[2] The Smart Policing Initiative is a collaborative consortium composed of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, CNA, and 31 local law enforcement agencies that are testing solutions to serious crime problems in their jurisdictions. Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs. Available at: **https://www.bja.gov/ProgramDetails.aspx?Program_ID=80**

[3] The Second Chance Act of 2007 (SCA) was enacted to break the cycle of criminal recidivism; improve public safety; and help state, local, and tribal government agencies and community organizations respond to the rising populations of formerly incarcerated people who return to their communities. Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs. Available at: **https://www.bja.gov/ProgramDetails.aspx?Program_ID=90**

[4] The Smart Supervision Program provides grants and assistance to states, units of local government, and federally recognized Indian tribes to develop and implement more effective and evidence-based probation and parole practices that effectively address individuals' needs and reduce recidivism. Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs. Available at: **https://www.bja.gov/ProgramDetails.aspx?Program_ID=122**

[5] Through Encouraging Innovation: Field Initiated Programs, BJA builds partnerships with law enforcement and other criminal justice practitioners to leverage innovative strategies for preventing and reducing crime. BJA's Field Initiated Program is an opportunity for criminal justice practitioners to identify an emerging or chronic criminal justice challenge and propose evidence-based strategies to strengthen public safety. Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs. Available at: **https://www.bja.gov/ProgramDetails.aspx?Program_ID=105**

[6] The Smart Suite programs are comprised of: Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), the Smart Policing Initiative (PSI), Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation (BCJI), the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), the Second Chance Act Demonstration Program (also referred to as Smart Reentry), Smart Defense (Indigent Defense), the Smart Supervision Program (SSP), the Smart Prosecution Program, the Police-Prosecution Partnership Initiative (3PI), and Encouraging Innovation—Field-Initiated Programs. Read more about BJA's Smart Suite here, : **https://www.bja.gov/Programs/CRPPE/smartsuite.html.**

SITE ACTIVITY

FY '14 SMART PROSECUTION SITES

HARRIS COUNTY *(HOUSTON)*

PROJECT: *SURVIVORS ACQUIRING FREEDOM AND EMPOWERMENT (SAFE) COURT*

SITE HIGHLIGHTS:
The SAFE Court program utilizes supervised, targeted intervention, and treatment designed upon a therapeutic-based model for young adults between the ages of 17 and 25 years old, charged with misdemeanor prostitution. Safe Court meets twice monthly.

WEEKLY NEWS:
Houston ISD: 'Laser-focused' on turning around failing schools...READ MORE

LOS ANGELES

PROJECT: *INTRODUCING NEW TOOLS USING EVIDENCE AND RISK ASSESSMENT TO CONFIRM ELIGIBILITY FOR PROSECUTION TREATMENT (INTERCEPT)*

SITE HIGHLIGHTS:
The Los Angeles City Attorney's Office continues utilizing best practices and evidence-based tools to successfully develop better-informed engagement plans for pre-filing restorative justice diversion participants. Each participant's obligations are based on their own unique history and needs.

The site's research partners at Justice and Security Strategy (JSS) and the Center for Court Innovation (CCI) are preparing the final evaluation report.

WEEKLY NEWS:
County approves a new panel to study criminal justice reform: What's the impact of downgrading felonies and releasing inmates early...READ MORE

COOK COUNTY (CHICAGO)

PROJECT: *MISDEMEANOR DEFERRED ENHANCEMENT PROSECUTION PROJECT (MDEPP)*

SITE HIGHLIGHTS:
MDPEP continues to process low-level defendants charged with non-violent misdemeanor offenses and refers them to treatment and other resources for case dismissal upon successful program completion.

WEEKLY NEWS:
Rauner signs law removing sex crime statutes of limitation ...READ MORE

SAN FRANCISCO

PROJECT: *CRIME STRATEGIES UNIT (CSU)*

SITE HIGHLIGHTS:
The CSU promotes predictive analytics for strategic prosecution, using analytic tools to make connections between criminal events, defendants, witnesses, and victims to facilitate more effective investigations, charging decisions, and case dispositions.

On July 13-14, CSU Managing Attorney Frank Carrubba, Principal Analyst Maria McKee, and San Francisco Police Department Commander Greg McEachern traveled to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to visit the Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) Intelligence Fusion Center to learn about their Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC). According to Ms. McKee, "Over one and a half days, MPD Captain David Salazar, Crime & Intelligence Manager Stephanie Sikinger, and their very skilled and knowledgeable team covered all aspects of the Fusion Center's activities, including their exemplary CGIC program. It was a very productive site visit for the San Francisco team, which came away with a much better understanding of CGIC processes, challenges in establishing a CGIC program, and how Milwaukee has overcome those challenges, and created a model program for addressing gun crime and gun violence."

On August 1, San Francisco's CSU Principal Analyst Maria McKee traveled to King County to meet with members of the Seattle team and representatives from the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office's Domestic Violence Unit. Ms. McKee met with King County's CSU Crime Analyst and discussed current and potential uses of Social Networking Analysis (SNA) and the Shots Fired Database. She later met with CSU prosecutors to discuss using NIBIN data, organizing and using data from social media and cell phones, as well as mining gang affiliation data, and using priority offender worksheets.

WEEKLY NEWS:
Man Killed In Early-Morning Shooting Is SF's 41st Homicide For 2017...READ MORE

FY '15 SMART PROSECUTION SITES

ST. LOUIS

PROJECT: *YOUNG ADULT FELONY OFFENDER DIVERSION PROGRAM*

SITE HIGHLIGHTS:
The St. Louis Circuit Attorney's Office is developing a Prosecutor-led Young Adult Felony Offender Diversion Program, offering first and near first-time, non-violent felony offenders, ages 18-25 years old, the ability to participate in a comprehensive program, which includes robust supervision

and services referral component, in lieu of traditional court processing. Stakeholders—such as prosecutors, the defense bar, and law enforcement— will identify potential participants. The initiative will afford opportunities for program participants to: (1) obtain future employment, (2) pursue educational and vocational prospects, (3) provide a means to prevent future recidivism, and (4) become a law-abiding citizen. Program participants will be assessed to determine risk and need, a strategy that will provide appropriate community-based services referral for strength-based, trauma-informed and evidence-supported educational, vocational, and counseling opportunities, in conjunction with court supervision to prevent future reoffending. The Program is designed to be delivered in four highly structured phases for a period of ten to eighteen months. The goal is to enhance public safety and reduce recidivism by working in partnership with young adult non-violent felony offenders and supporting them to make a safe and successful transition to adulthood. The site's research partners are Dr. Scott Decker of Arizona State University and Dr. Noelle Fearne, of St. Louis University. Due to a recent change in Missouri's Unlawful Use of Weapons statute, most of the prohibitions against carrying a concealed weapon were decriminalized; therefore, the new initiative replaces the previous one, the Gun Redirect Program.

WEEKLY NEWS:
Veterans, volunteers team up to revitalize St. Louis Division of Youth Services campus...READ MORE

BALTIMORE

PROJECT: *IMPLEMENTING EVIDENCE-BASED RISK ASSESSMENT DURING THE PRETRIAL PHASE*

SITE HIGHLIGHTS:

The site continues to develop an automated risk assessment for charging prosecutors to determine appropriate release or hold recommendations for the Bail Commission and Court; The State's Attorney's Office, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS), and research partners are exploring a potential collaboration to develop a uniform risk assessment to be used by both agencies. Throughout the spring and summer, the team has been meeting with officials at DPSCS to discuss pretrial risk assessment for use by the State's Attorney's Office and Pretrial Services.

The site received data-sharing from DPSCS in May, and is in "constant contact" with the agency regarding this data. The site has grouped the data by crime type, ranked the data accordingly, and has developed a model building process to help its researchers complete its risk assessment measurement by August. The site's researchers at Applied Research Services, Inc., are collaborating with DPSCS to determine predictive factors to be used for the risk assessment. The site will be providing DPSCS an MOU of its algorithm in August.

Maryland's new bail law was effective on July 1, 2017. Since then, the Charging Division has provided training at District Court (where the bail hearings are held) and for prosecutors at Circuit Court.

Two team members attended the four-day Michigan State University (MSU) Smart Suite Researcher Practitioner Fellows Academy from July 25-28, in Lansing, Michigan. Breakout sessions included: Contextualizing Implementation Challenges and Key Data to Collect; Researcher Roles, Practitioner Roles and Building a Partnership that Adds Value; Risk and Needs Assessments; Analyzing the Crime Problem; Field Examples of Violence Reduction Efforts; Evidence-Based Practices in Crime Control; Social Network Analysis; Directed Intervention; Risk Terrain Modeling; Community Engagement and Collaboration; and Collective Efficacy. The Academy also provided an opportunity for all Smart Suite Programs to meet one another, attend trainings, discuss project implementation and evaluation, and network. The team also participated in a breakout session with the Smart Prosecution team from the DC Office of the Attorney General, and both teams discussed their projects' implementation, challenges, successes, and tips for better researcher/practitioner relationships.

WEEKLY NEWS:
Pugh's plan for free community college gets warm reviews ...READ MORE

KINGS COUNTY *(BROOKLYN)*

PROJECT: *THE BROOKLYN YOUNG ADULT JUSTICE INITIATIVE*

SITE HIGHLIGHTS:

As of July 19, the site reports 1,761 open cases pending in the Adolescent Diversion Court Part, and 222 open cases in BYAC. BYAC offers diversion instead of prosecution for young adults, 16-24 years old, charged with misdemeanor offenses, who are at the greatest risk for re-offending and/or are facing more serious criminal consequences.

The site credits case reduction with ongoing training designed to target and divert cases at arraignment - and not later in the criminal justice process. The site reports more defendants are taking pleas at arraignment (as part of its program expansion) and complying with Brooklyn Justice Initiatives (BJI) while and taking advantage of BJI services. BJI provides treatment service referrals to program participants, and new participants proceed directly to BJI's courthouse-based office to sign up for services at arraignment.

The site also reports that the defense bar has increased buy-in and the next stakeholder meeting is September 14 with judge, defense bar, and BJI.

The site is also working with BJI and the Brooklyn Defenders to hold early case conferencing each month. The site reports the Brooklyn Defenders 'love these early case conferences' that enable quick pleas, and the site may expand this practice to Legal Aid. Seventeen cases were pled out during the last monthly conference.

Aisha Greene, Project Director at Brooklyn the Justice

Initiatives, presented a session entitled "Procedural Justice, Client Satisfaction, and Compliance" at the Smart Suite Researcher Practitioner Academy in Lansing, Michigan on July 26th. Ms. Green discussed the core principals of procedural justice: using dignity and respect for defendants appearing in court; letting defendants have a voice in the courtroom; judges instilling neutrality for both the defense and prosecution; and, ensuring defendants understand the criminal justice process. Once these conditions are met, defendants are much more likely to accept the judge's decision, even if it is unfavorable, explained Ms. Greene.

WEEKLY NEWS:
How a Gang Member Became an Anti-Gun Violence Advocate: 'Anything Is Possible'...READ MORE

SAN DIEGO

PROJECT: *THE COMMUNITY JUSTICE INITIATIVE (CJI)*

SITE HIGHLIGHTS:

CJI uses data and evidence-based practices to restore justice and increase effectiveness and efficiency through a post-plea, city-wide diversion initiative to provide accountability, early intervention, and swift consequences for participants charged with eligible misdemeanor offenses.

As of July 19, the site reports that: 5,176 offers made; 3,943 offers accepted; 1,293 offers rejected; 2,048 offers completed; and 423 participants failed out of the program.
These numbers reflect enrollment since November 2016.

The site is rolling out a new computer program to collect data and run automated reports on participants, and is working closely with program designers to customize the platform. This program will "make life easier for partners and vendors by integrating piecemeal information and cutting down on side communications." Its dashboard allows users to see progress in real-time.

The San Diego City Attorney's Office launched its San Diego Misdemeanants At-Risk Track (SMART) Program in December (unaffiliated with Smart Prosecution). Due to increased grant funding, the program will provide in-house recovery treatment for 80 individuals per year (up from 10 individuals when it began in December 2016).

WEEKLY NEWS:
Heroin dealer sentenced in overdose death...READ MORE

FY '16 SMART PROSECUTION SITES

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

PROJECT: *USING OUR BRAINS: REDUCING RECIDIVISM AMONG YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS*

SITE HIGHLIGHTS:

The site is furthering collaboration with the DC US Attorney's Office (USAO). Both offices plan to develop a diversion-based initiative, using restorative justice, for youth (ages 12-17) and young adults (ages 18-24) who commit certain crimes, such as theft, destruction of property and non-injury simple assault cases with victim consent. The team is evaluating USAO data for program development.

The site currently has 12 open cases from its juvenile unit. The site also reports a total of 32 referrals, 20 of which went to restorative justice conferences since the initiative began. The conferences feature three newly-hired, in-house restorative justice facilitators.

Throughout the spring and summer, the site continues meeting and participating in conference calls with the USAO. In July, the DC USAO discussed five types of eligible cases for the program.

The OAG and its research partners at CCI continue to evaluate data to determine suitable candidates for potential diversion.

Four team members attended the four-day Michigan State University (MSU) Smart Suite Researcher Practitioner Fellows Academy from July 25-28, in Lansing, Michigan. Breakout sessions included: Contextualizing Implementation Challenges and Key Data to Collect; Researcher Roles, Practitioner Roles and Building a Partnership that Adds Value; Risk and Needs Assessments; Analyzing the Crime Problem; Field Examples of Violence Reduction Efforts; Evidence-Based Practices in Crime Control; Social Network Analysis; Directed Intervention; Risk Terrain Modeling; Community Engagement and Collaboration; and, Collective Efficacy. The Academy also provided an opportunity for all Smart Suite Programs to meet one another, attend trainings, discuss project implementation and evaluation, and network. The DC OAG team also participated in a breakout session with the Smart Prosecution team from the Baltimore City State's Attorney's office, and both teams discussed their projects' implementation, challenges, successes, and tips for better researcher/practitioner relationships.

WEEKLY NEWS:
Campaign Encourages D.C. Kids to Put Best Foot Forward ...READ MORE

JACKSON COUNTY (KANSAS CITY)

PROJECT: *JACKSON COUNTY MISSOURI PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE SMART PROSECUTION INITIATIVE*

SITE HIGHLIGHTS:

The site's geographic-based initiative targets hotspot areas in the "East Zone," the most violent area within Kansas City. Team members collaborate with law enforcement, community partnership specialists, and community members to assess crime-related problems in the East Zone and implement strategies to address them.

On July 25, the site welcomed its new Site Champion, Chris Ryan, Chief of Violent Criminal Enterprises Unit (VCEU) at the Manhattan District Attorney's Office.

The site is busy enlarging victim services and fostering community initiatives, and is working closely with Kansas City Police Department's community officer. The team is planning to hold a community event in every hotspot, such as "door knocks" for community building. The site is also working on its Abandoned Housing Project and is contacting Legal Aid about housing rehabilitation and demolition of problem, vacated structures.

Researchers at California State-Fresno are assisting the site Prosecution Data/police network analysis; the researchers are identifying twenty people from each hotspot. Hotspot implementation is underway.

WEEKLY NEWS:
KC teen convicted of murder sentenced to 24 years in prison... READ MORE

ESSEX COUNTY (NEWARK)

PROJECT: *ESSEX COUNTY SMART SOCIAL MEDIA INITIATIVE*

SITE HIGHLIGHTS:
A specialized unit has been developed to investigate and prosecute cases based on suspects' usage of social media. The site envisions a systematic, proactive approach to social-media mining that will reduce crime, empower victims, promote fair and impartial justice, and instill the public's confidence in criminal justice. The site targets violent crimes with a firearm component.

The site continues screening about 3-6 potential cases per week, and reports that most cases have a social media connection as many witnesses identify defendants through social media. The site added a new prosecutor to its initiative in July.

The site continues networking with other criminal justice providers interested in violent crime. In mid-July, members from the site met with a state police representative who is a member of the Rapid Offender Control (ROC) squad. A partnership with ROC will allow the site access to many resources, especially intelligence information and data, and identifying main gang leaders. The site is also attending federal meetings with the local U.S. Attorney's Office, ATF, and Homeland Security to discuss violent crime.

Since June, the site has approximately 20 confirmed cases in the treatment group, and another 50 tentative cases. The site's researchers at Rutgers University report approximately 80 treatment cases so far, and "plentiful data to work with." The researchers are "pleased with the accumulation rate of these cases."

WEEKLY NEWS:
Crips gang member had 'mini drug store' in her apartment, sheriff says...READ MORE

CHATHAM COUNTY (SAVANNAH)

PROJECT: *THE CHATHAM COUNTY SMART PROSECUTION PROGRAM*

SITE HIGHLIGHTS:
The initiative aims to reduce gun, local group, and gang violence by focusing on: identifying and targeting a geographic hotspot for gun violence in the Savannah area and most violent offenders within it; tracking and prioritizing prosecution and individuals within the hotspot; diverting non-essential cases (e.g. theft and simple drug possession) to alternative programs; and engaging with community groups within the hotspot through meetings, social media forums, and other outreach strategies.

As of July 24, there are 25 active cases in the target zone area, including both new charges and probation violations.

The site continues its work with engaging community members, by attending neighborhood association meetings. The site continues to meet with community leaders, touring the hotspot and discussing ways to get young men involved in the community. The "End Gun Violence Program" Director is also assisting with community engagement efforts.

The site's researchers at Georgia Southern University are receiving data from the site and working on Social Network Analysis and Spatial Analysis.

WEEKLY NEWS:
Savannah-Chatham police department welcomes 26 new officers...READ MORE

MIAMI

PROJECT: *THE GUN VIOLENCE REDUCTION INITIATIVE*

SITE HIGHLIGHTS:
The Gun Violence Reduction Initiative places a team of prosecutors, investigators, and a community outreach and victim witness specialist to work directly with police and the community to combat shootings and homicides at the Northside District Station. The Initiative's four goals include: 1) prosecute and convict individuals involved in gun/gang related crimes to reduce crime and victimization in the Northside District; 2) rely on data-driven methods to proactively identify gang members and chronic offenders; 3) analyze data from law enforcement agencies and use geographic information systems (GIS) to target "hotspots" and crime generators in the Northside District; and 4) work with the community to dispel the "anti-snitch" mentality.

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Please contact us to recommended articles for inclusion in the upcoming Smart Prosecution Weekly News.

FY '16 3PI SITE

KING COUNTY (SEATTLE)
PROJECT: *SHOTS FIRED*

SITE HIGHLIGHTS:
The team continues its work to establish a Crime Strategies Unit (CSU) for its "Shots Fired" Initiative aimed at addressing increased firearm violence in the jurisdiction, through institutionalizing standardized intelligence gathering and sharing to concentrate resources on reducing shots-fired incidents and identifying those involving chronic victims and offenders in hotspot locations.

The site's Shots Fired database is now using its growing, easier-to-use Access platform, with eight agencies contributing to the database. The database allows prosecutors and related agencies to see what is happening in real time and to directly contact detectives about any new crime developments.

On August 1, San Francisco's CSU Principal Analyst Maria McKee traveled to King County to meet with members of the Seattle team and representatives from the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office's Domestic Violence Unit. Ms. McKee met with King County's CSU Crime Analyst and discussed current and potential uses of Social Networking Analysis (SNA) and the Shots Fired Database. She later met with CSU prosecutors to discuss using NIBIN data, organizing and using data from social media and cell phones.

On August 2-4, the King County CSU team attended a training by Crime Analyst Julie Wartell and Researcher Dr. Fox. The training covered: the Shots Fired Database Review; crime mapping techniques and geographic information systems (GIS); review of social networking analysis (SNA), SNA initiatives and data collection so far in King County; and other components of running an effective CSU.

WEEKLY NEWS:
Debate: What if Seattle police stopped ticketing people who live in their cars?...READ MORE