



2023 Tennessee Pretrial Symposium Series: Clarksville

Clarksville Symposium Summary

In May 2023, the Crime and Justice Institute (CJI) hosted a series of pretrial events across Tennessee with funding and support from the Office of Criminal Justice Programs (OCJP). Local leaders and pretrial practitioners from county and state agencies came together to hear the latest from the field and share ideas on how to improve system and community outcomes.

This document highlights key takeaways and lessons learned from panelists participating in the Clarksville event.

Panel 1: Innovative Programs & Cross-Agency Partnerships in Tennessee

Panelists included: **William Wall**, Executive Director, Tennessee Corrections Institute; **Kim Parker**, Director of Crisis & Family Services, Pathways Behavioral Health; and **Nikki Green**, Regional Coordinator, Lifeline Peer Project

Key Takeaways:

- Tennessee Lifeline Peer Support and Behavioral Health provides justice-involved individuals with wraparound services and access to a continuum of care. Lifeline has worked to normalize seeking mental health services through programs like the Stop the Stigma Campaign.
- Communication and relationship building is key to effective interagency collaboration and partnerships.
- To comprehensively address the needs of the whole person, and create an attainable plan for success, agencies need to utilize individualized and often creative solutions.
- Making support services more accessible is necessary for agencies to respond appropriately when a person is in crisis.
- Jail is not the right place for everyone. Agencies should understand their population — who needs to be in custody, and who doesn't.

Panel 2: Creating a Successful Pretrial Services Agency: Nashville's Journey

Panelists included: **Diana Brady**, Pretrial Director, Davidson County; **Viranda Smith**, Booking Supervisor, Davidson County; and **Johnny Tunstall**, Program Manager, Davidson County

Key Takeaways:

- Davidson County Pretrial Services has evolved significantly since 2015, exemplifying the hard work, collaboration and data-driven decision making necessary for success. The program offers a balance of supervision (office check-ins, court reminders) and supportive services (case management referrals, transportation).
- It is crucial that all pretrial decision makers work together and speak with one voice when trying to advance change.
- Agencies should continue expanding community partnerships to further increase response options for people with behavioral health needs.
- Data collection is an essential part of improving programs, engaging stakeholders, generating staff buy-in, and driving future pretrial success.
- Agencies should track and publicize data and encourage the community to proactively drive pretrial conversations forward.