

# SUSTAINING REFORM MOMENTUM



Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation



Kate Vesely  
Director of Reform  
Initiatives  
Pima County, Ariz.



Robert Udell  
Sheriff  
Yakima County, Wash.



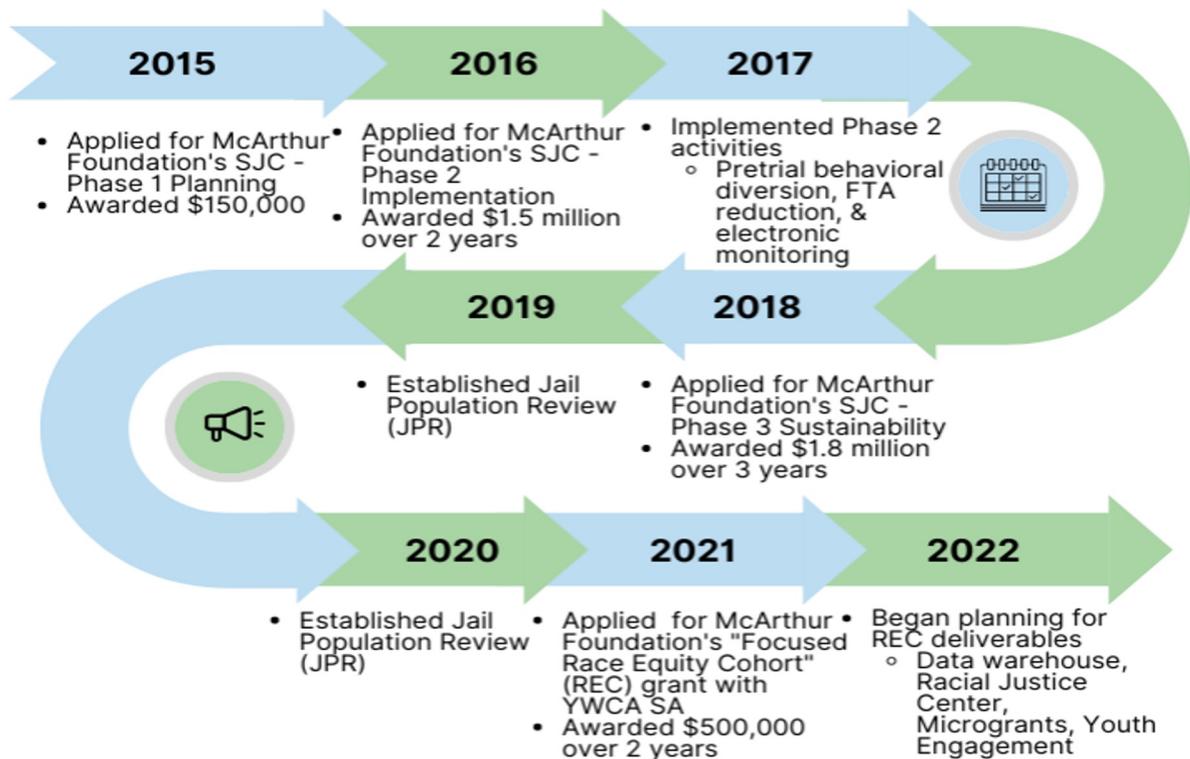
Mary Ellen Heng  
Deputy City Attorney  
Hennepin County/  
Minneapolis, Minn.

# SUSTAINING REFORM MOMENTUM



Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

# Timeline of Pima County's Safety & Justice Challenge

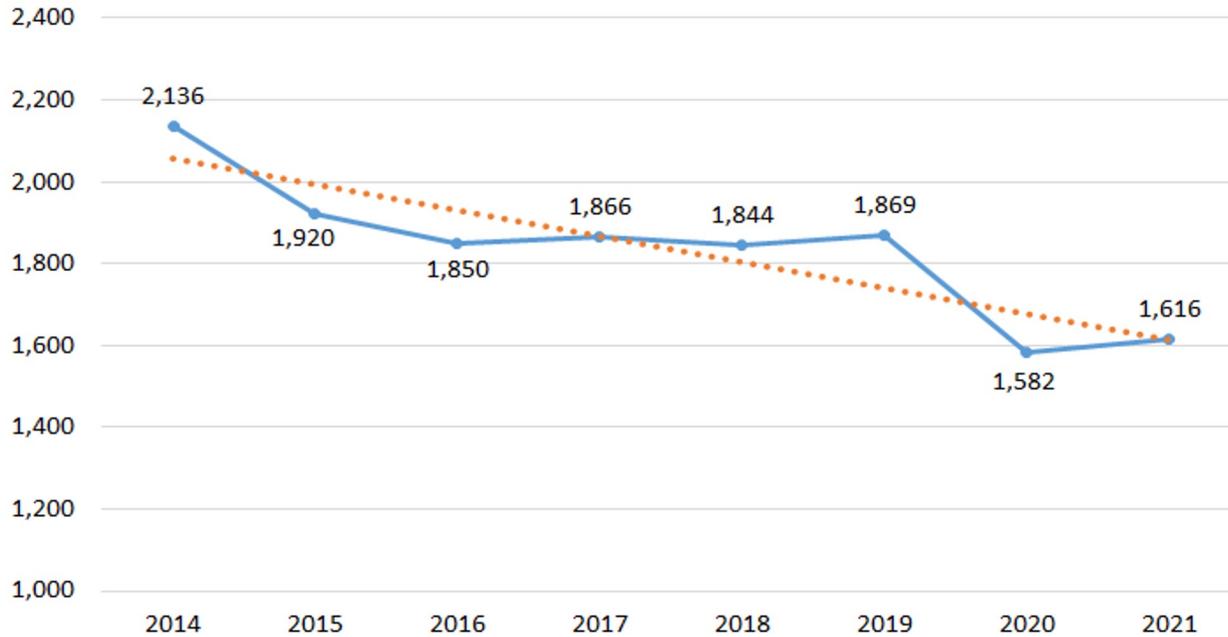


# “MAIN” SJC STRATEGIES

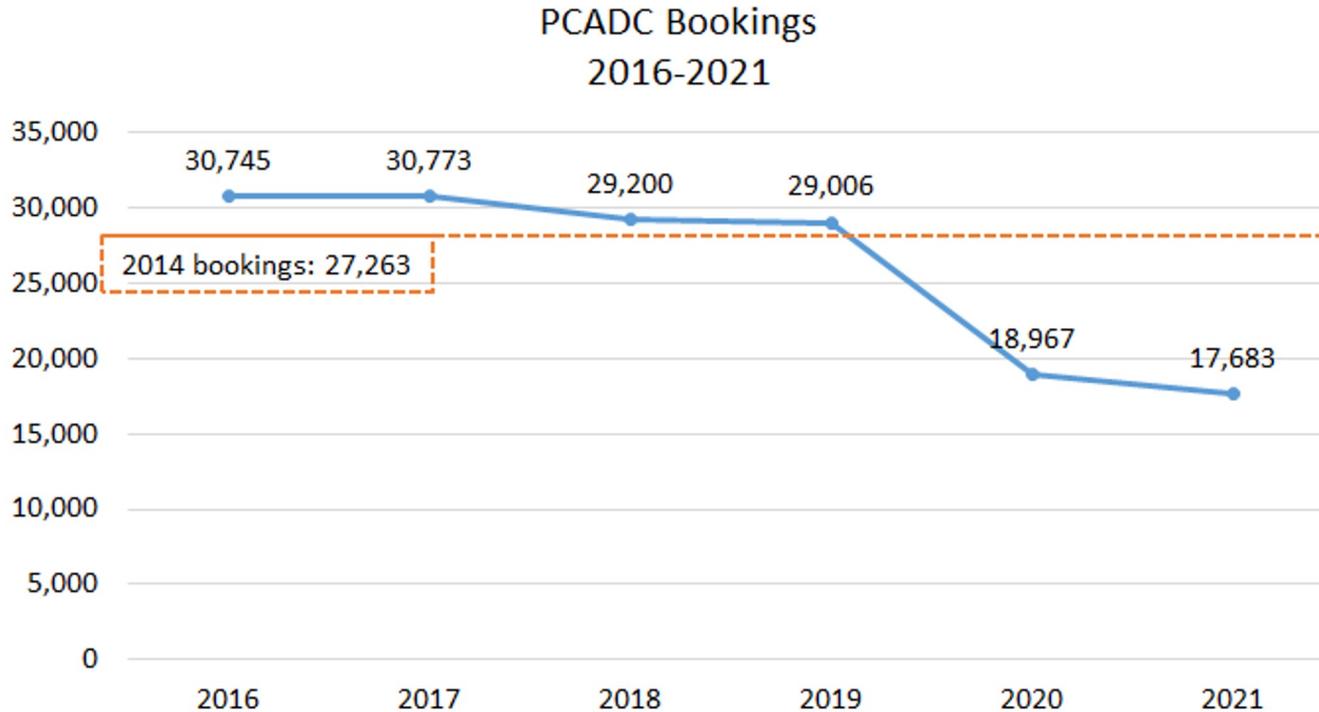
- Pretrial assessment and community supervision (Pretrial Services)
- Prebooking Modular: a facility outside the jail intake which screens certain misdemeanors for release prior to booking (Pretrial Services)
- Adult Probation Modifications to Petitions to Revoke and Other Processes (Adult Probation)
- Law Enforcement Deflection (Tucson Police Department)
- Supportive Treatment and Engagements Program (STEPs) Court (Superior Court, Pima County Attorney’s Office, and Public Defense Services)
- Jail Population Review (JPR) Committee (Justice Services, Pretrial Services, Pima County Attorney’s Office, Public Defenders Office)
- Warrant Resolution (Combined effort of multiple County and City justice agencies)
- Community Engagement (Justice Services, multiple community partners)

# IMPACT ON JAIL POPULATION – 25% REDUCTION (2014-2021)

PCADC ADP by Calendar Year  
2014-2021

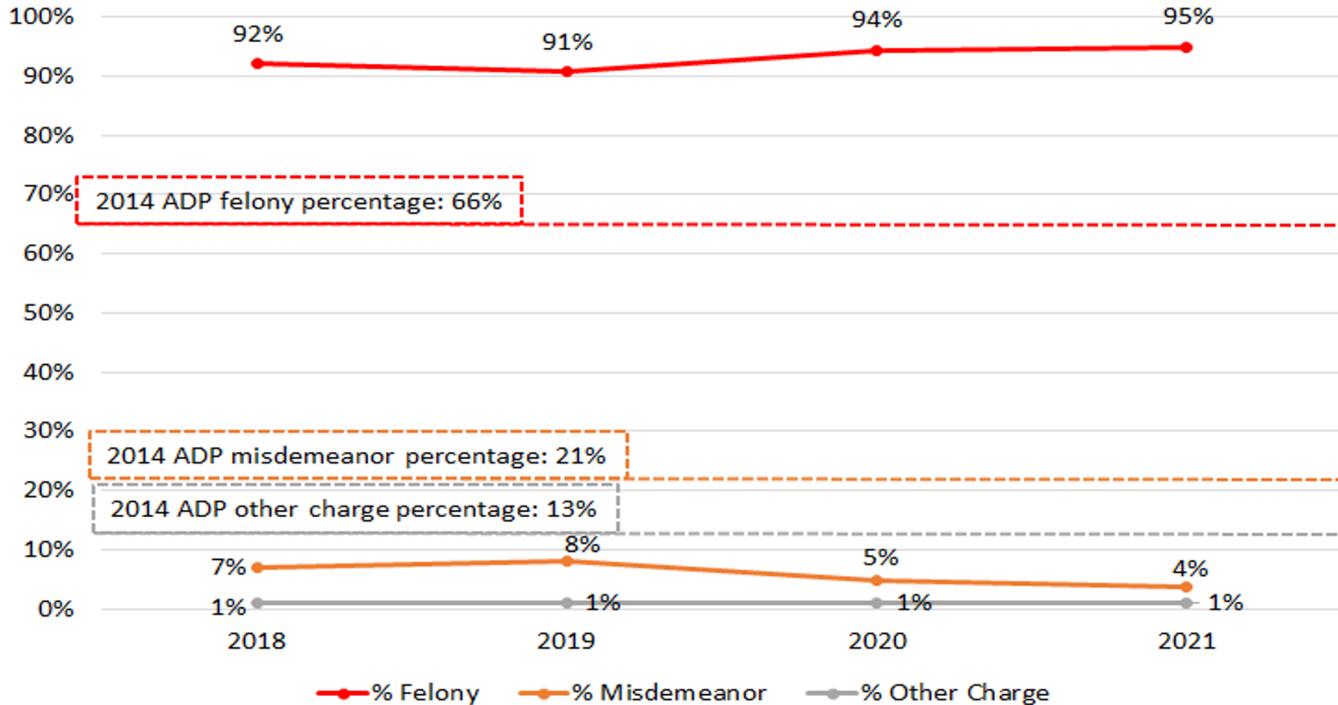


# 35% REDUCTION IN BOOKINGS (2014-2021)



# IMPACT ON % OF MISDEMEANOR POPULATION

PCADC ADP by % Charge Class  
2018-2021



# SUSTAINABILITY & FUTURE OF SJC STRATEGIES

## •DATA DATA DATA

### •What is needed for sustainability?

- Money is the tip of the iceberg
- Political, community, system partners buy in; personnel; dynamic adjustment

### •Evaluation to determine most effective strategies

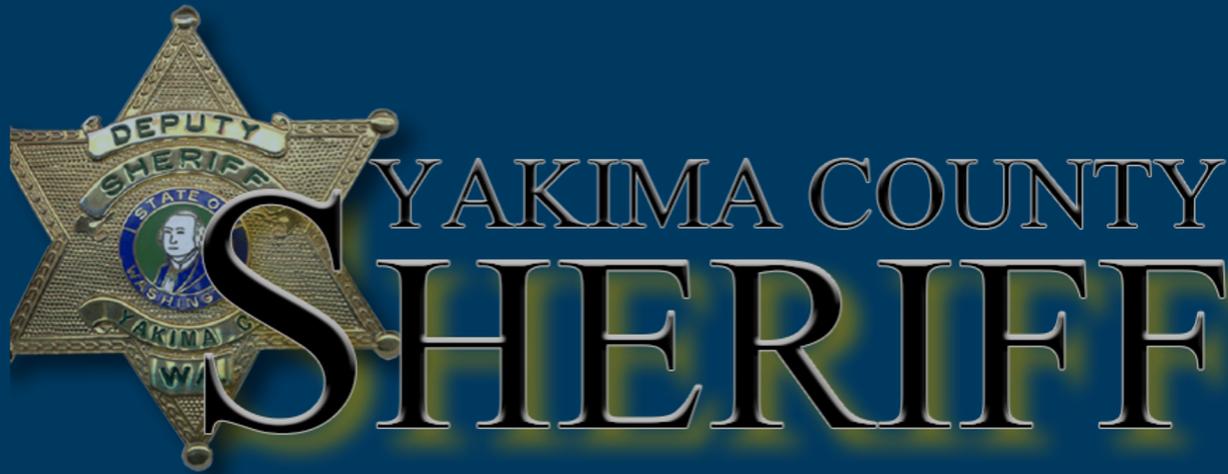
- Do they require continuation funding?
  - General funds? Other grants? ARPA?
  - Multiple pillars of fiscal support

### •Community Engagement

- Community Engagement and Equity Specialist position

### •Other Pima County projects to support this work (current & proposed):

- Pima County Housing First
- Community Bond Program
- Expanding deflection (mental health & substance)
- SIM website & resource navigation
- Public-facing data dashboard



# Designated Crisis Responders: *Sustaining Progress*

*Sheriff Robert Udell*

# YAKIMA COUNTY AND THE HISTORICAL RESPONSE TO THOSE IN MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

Large County, with low numbers of law enforcement and few Mental Health Professionals (MHPs)

- *Crime rates traditionally above average*

Responses to mental health situations

- *Few LE and even fewer MHPs*

**Lack of resources, lengthy resolutions, and even at times the worst-case scenario: The jail as the last resort**

# THE TRUEBLOOD CASE: CHALLENGING CARE FOR THOSE IN MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

## Trueblood v. DSHS, 2014

*Challenged unconstitutional delays for competency evals and restoration services for 'class members' in jail*

*Class members: Those ordered by court to be evaluated, those in jail, and those DSHS has received a court order to be evaluated*

*Legislation in 2018 funded programs to boost beds, evaluations, and other programs...*

*...and the DCR Program was born*

# DCRS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

Local private provider proposed Trueblood-funded DCRs for  
Yakima County law enforcement

*DCRs to ride with deputies*

Initial pushback...

*Previous experiences, intruders in deputy vehicles*

...followed by incredible results

*Huge acceptance, immediate changes*

# IT WORKED!

Bringing the DCR right to the issue...

- *Those in crisis can possibly react better to non-LE*
- *Much faster intervention*
- *People connected to resources*
- *And not just those in mental health crisis...*
- *Deputies return quickly to other job responsibilities*
- *DCRs have access to vehicles as well*

Huge resource for deputies!

- *Their own mental health!*

Program is great first step in any diversion program

# PROGRAM TOO VALUABLE TO LOSE!

Trueblood funding originally to end in 2021, extended through mid-2022, reduced further and now another extension...

How to obtain sustainable funding

*And not just at current levels: expansion and coverage!*

*Crisis Teams, Negotiators, and beyond*

County implemented 1/10<sup>th</sup> of one percent sales tax for mental health in 2020

*SIM completed prior to implementation, and then recently reviewed*

*Competition for dollars intense!*

Final SIM recommended DCR program as priority, and with intense lobbying, BOCC has committed to retaining and growing program

# HOW CAN DCR PROGRAM FIT INTO OTHER REFORM EFFORTS IN YAKIMA COUNTY?

## Pre-Trial Release

*Significant benefit has been access to resources*

## Drug Court

*Support system*

*Home checks*

*DCR/deputy team integral part of the court*

# COURT RIDE

Mary Ellen Heng

Deputy City Attorney - Minneapolis City Attorney's  
Office

# Background

- ▶ 2016 formed the Adult Detention Initiative (ADI)
  - ▶ Collaboration of Hennepin County criminal justice partners focused on ensuring a fair, equitable and effective justice system that provides alternatives for low-risk individuals who do not need to be detained in the local jail.
  - ▶ Area of focus was to reduce pretrial detention by providing alternatives for low-risk individuals who miss court.
- ▶ 2015 had 17,000 warrants issued on low-level misdemeanors for failing to appear in court
  - ▶ Forgot about court appearance
  - ▶ Unable to find or pay for transportation to court
- ▶ Applied for the SJC Grant in 2018

# Hitch Health

- ▶ Private entity which provided free rides to patients who had appointments at the Hennepin County Medical Center
- ▶ Plan was to integrate with the court's data and contact eligible individuals by text message who had an upcoming court date.
- ▶ Hitch Health would offer a free ride to and from the courthouse using a ride share service

# Court Ride

- ▶ Began in 2019
- ▶ Was a great idea but did not work as well as we had hoped
  - ▶ Issues with sharing court data with a private entity & with HH's technology that created many obstacles for us.
  - ▶ Issue with not having our public defender's office be in more of a lead role
    - ▶ Led to issues on how to reach clients and message this so they would accept the rides
    - ▶ Needed to make technological updates to the PD's case management system
    - ▶ Challenge communicating to individual public defenders, so they understood the program and how to access it and encourage clients to use it.

# Court Ride

- ▶ Program as initially started ended in 2020
  - ▶ As of March 31, 2020, 226 individual clients used Court Ride to attend more than 475 separate appointments.
  - ▶ Clients used the service to attend court appearances and meet with their attorneys.
  - ▶ Identified broader need for clients - probation meetings, dropping UAS, treatment appointments, etc.

# Client Ride

- ▶ After Grant ended, we did not apply for an extension.
- ▶ Program rebranded as Client Ride and administration of the program shifted exclusively to our Public Defender's Office.
- ▶ Hennepin County created a \$25,000 budget line for the PD's office to continue this program:
  - ▶ Their system integrates with Lyft Concierge to arrange rides
  - ▶ Hired a full-time staff person to manage the daily operations of the program.
- ▶ Last year (9/1/21 - 9/23/22) provided 270 successful rides for 142 separate clients.

# SUSTAINING REFORM MOMENTUM



Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

# Breakout Group Discussion Questions

- What narratives/strategies have you used to sustain your efforts and what were the results?
- Has your jurisdiction started to think about long-term resources and, if so, how?
- Are there any strategies that the speakers mentioned that you may consider bringing back to your home jurisdiction?

# Resources

- [Grantmaking: A County Strategy to Address Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Criminal Legal System](#)
- [Familiar Faces Initiative: Minnehaha County Case Study](#)
- 
-

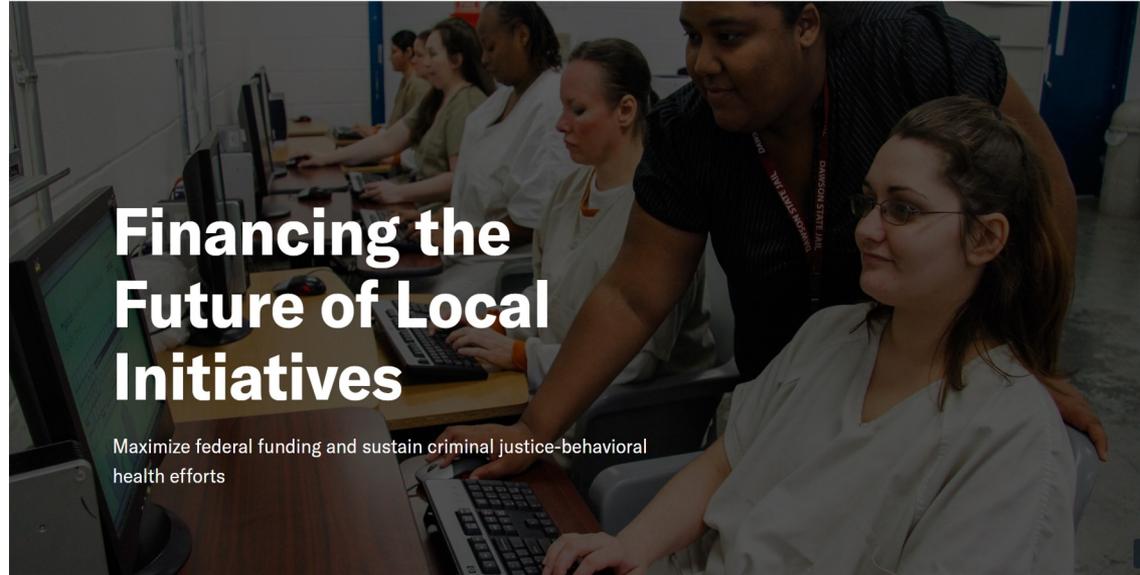
# Getting Started

Financing the Future of Local Initiatives:

<https://csgjusticecenter.org/resources/funding/>

A Guide for Centering Equity in Financial Sustainability Planning:

<https://csgjusticecenter.org/resources/funding/getting-started/>



Kate Vesely  
Director of Reform Initiatives  
Pima County, Ariz.

[kate.vesely@pima.gov](mailto:kate.vesely@pima.gov)

Robert Udell  
Sheriff  
Yakima County, Wash.

[robert.udell@co.yakima.wa.us](mailto:robert.udell@co.yakima.wa.us)

Mary Ellen Heng  
Deputy City Attorney  
Hennepin County/ Minneapolis,  
Minn.

[Maryellen.heng@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Maryellen.heng@minneapolismn.gov)



SafetyAndJusticeChallenge.org

# Thank you

**Chelsea Thomson**

Justice Program Manager

National Association of Counties

[cthomson@naco.org](mailto:cthomson@naco.org)



SafetyAndJusticeChallenge.org