

The Evidence-Based Decision Making (EBDM) in Local Criminal Justice Systems Initiative

May 2008 – Present

Goal of the Initiative: The goal of the Evidence-Based Decision Making (EBDM) Initiative is to build a systemwide framework (that spans arrest through final disposition and discharge) to achieve more collaborative, evidence-based decision making and practices throughout the criminal justice process, particularly focusing on the use of evidence to inform key criminal justice decisions.

The Initiative seeks to provide criminal justice policymakers in local communities with the information, processes, and tools necessary to achieve measurable reductions of pretrial misconduct, post-conviction reoffending, and to reduce other forms of harm to communities that result from crime.

Phase I

Framework Development

May 2008-March 2010

- Worked with NIC and a multidisciplinary advisory committee
- Defined risk and harm reduction as fundamental goals of the justice system
- Summarized the evidence-based research
- Outlined a structure and set of principles for achieving EBDM
- Developed *A Framework for Evidence-Based Decision Making in Local Criminal Justice Systems*

Phase II

Planning Process

June 2010-August 2011

- Selected seven EBDM sites
- Assisted sites to:
 - Develop the processes /infrastructure to implement the Framework
 - Assess their current policy and practice and determined methods to more effectively integrate research into local policy and practice at key decision points
 - Develop their Phase III work plans for implementation of EBDM
- Conducted independent evaluation of the effectiveness of the technical assistance
- Developed tools and resources for EBDM sites and other interested jurisdictions

Phase III

Implementation

August 2011-Present

- Assisting sites to:
 - Implement change strategies
 - Expand activities to become systems characterized by evidence-based decision making
 - Implement communication strategies

EBDM Roadmap

Phase II (Planning) Objectives

Build a genuine, collaborative policy team

Build individual agencies that are collaborative and in a state of readiness for change

Understand current practice within each agency and across the system

Understand and have the capacity to implement evidence-based practices

Develop logic models

Establish performance measures, determine outcomes, and develop a system scorecard

Engage and gain the support of a broader set of stakeholders and the community

Develop a strategic action plan for implementation



Phase III (Implementation) Objectives

Collect baseline data on implementation strategies

Implement change strategies

Sustain a multi-disciplinary collaborative policy team

Fully engage agency staff in EBDM, focusing specifically on agency managers and supervisors, including non-governmental agencies (e.g., public and private defense bar)

Embed EBDM knowledge systemwide

Carry out the external stakeholder communication strategy

Guard against implementation failure

Measure performance against systemwide scorecard

Celebrate success

Institutionalize policy changes

Expand the number of EBDM change strategies

Educate and engage in-state colleagues on EBDM

Share experiences with national colleagues