



New Release: PRA Impact Reports

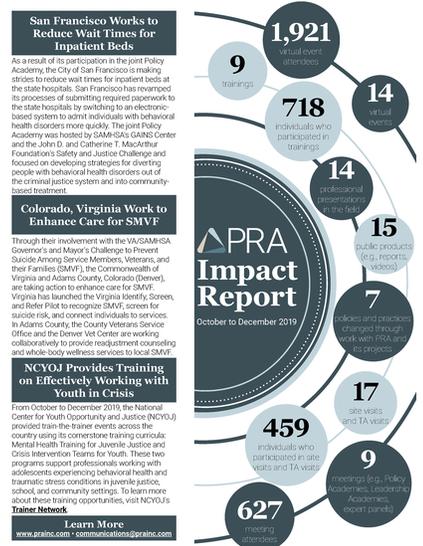
Quarterly Impact: October to December 2019

Policy Research is pleased to release its impact report for quarter 4 of 2019. Each quarter, Policy Research publishes an impact report that highlights our work across the country via our technical assistance centers, projects, and fee-for-service activities. Highlights of the October-to-December reporting period include the following:

- Reached 1,921 people through 14 virtual events
- Hosted 9 trainings, training 718 people
- Conducted 14 professional presentations in the field
- Hosted 9 meetings with 627 attendees

Read the full quarter 4 impact report for our highlights:

- San Francisco works to reduce wait times for inpatient beds
- Colorado, Virginia enhance care for SMVF
- NCYOJ provides training on effectively working with youth in crisis

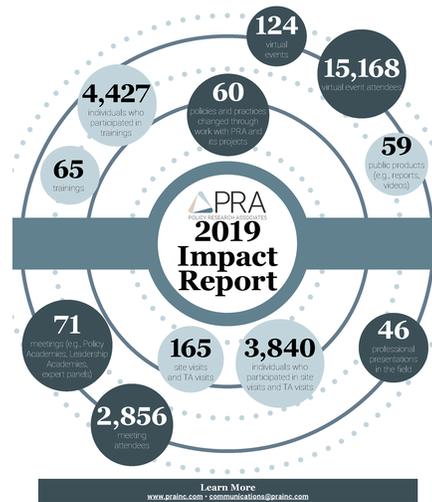


Download the Quarter 4 Impact Report

Annual Impact: 2019

Policy Research is proud to present its annual impact report for 2019. This annual impact report provides a quantitative look at the events, trainings, meetings, presentations, and products Policy Research and its projects delivered throughout 2019. Highlights of the past year include the following:

- Influenced 60 policy and practice changes among state, county, and local agencies
- Held 65 trainings, which trained 4,427 people
- Hosted 71 meetings with 2,856 attendees
- Conducted 165 site and technical assistance visits reaching 3,840 individuals



Read the 2019 annual impact report for our full list of project highlights!

Download the 2019 Impact Report

New Brief Examines Jails and Behavioral Health

It is Policy Research, Inc.'s (PRI) pleasure to publish a new brief, *Rethinking Jails and Behavioral Health: Strategies, Challenges, and Successes Midway through the MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge*. This brief, authored by PRI Senior Project Associate **Ashley Krider**, examines the behavioral health strategies implemented by sites participating in the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's (MacArthur Foundation) Safety and Justice Challenge (SJC).

The SJC began in 2015, with a commitment to provide support to local leaders determined to address the overuse of jails in America. Through a competitive solicitation process and multiple rounds of funding, the initiative has grown to include over 50 jurisdictions, known as Network Sites, across 32 states. The MacArthur Foundation engaged PRI to provide intensive technical assistance to Network Sites on issues related to the over-incarceration of individuals with mental illness and/or substance use disorders.



JANUARY 2020

RETHINKING JAILS AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH:

Strategies, Challenges, and Successes Midway through the MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge

By: Ashley Krider, M.S.

Acknowledgments: Regina Huertter, M.A., and Travis Parker, M.S., L.I.M.H.P., C.P.C.

The misuse and overuse of jails are two of the leading problems facing America's criminal justice system. Research shows that even a small amount of time spent in jail before trial significantly increases an individual's probability of conviction¹ and raises their chances of receiving more time behind bars.² To help combat this issue and create fairer, more effective justice systems, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation (MacArthur Foundation) created the Safety and Justice Challenge (SJC). The initiative began in 2015 as a commitment to provide support to local leaders determined to tackle this fundamental driver of over-incarceration in America. Through a competitive solicitation process and multiple rounds of funding, the initiative has grown to include over 50 jurisdictions across 32 states, known as Network Sites, and the investment by the MacArthur Foundation has surpassed \$200 million to date.

Network Sites are divided into two groups: Implementation Sites, which receive substantial funding to implement ambitious reforms, and Innovation Sites, which receive shorter-term support to design and test a single innovative program or project. As part of their participation in the SJC, Network sites developed formal implementation plans containing multiple jail reduction strategies. Many sites included strategies that focused on the over-incarceration of individuals with behavioral health needs, or incorporated strategies focused on behavioral health as their work progressed. This report examines SJC sites' behavioral health strategies, challenges, and successes as the initiative enters its 5-year mark.

As part of their participation in the SJC, Network Sites developed formal implementation plans containing multiple jail reduction strategies. Many sites included strategies that focused on the over-incarceration of individuals with behavioral health needs. This report examines Network Sites' behavioral health strategies, challenges, and successes as the initiative enters its five-year mark.

[Read the Rethinking Jails and Behavioral Health Brief](#)

A Closer Look: The SOAR Leadership Academy

Central to the Supplemental Security Income/Social Security Disability Insurance Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) model is the Leadership Academy, which trains



attendees to become ambassadors of their local SOAR initiative by facilitating steering committees and directing implementation plans. SOAR is a national program designed to increase access to the disability income benefit programs administered by the Social Security Administration for eligible adults and children who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have a serious mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder. Leadership Academies are three-day intensive trainings for experienced SOAR specialists who are interested in advancing their region's SOAR initiative.

During the three-day Leadership Academy, attendees review SOAR fundamentals, learn how to create a SOAR steering committee and support quality SOAR-assisted disability benefit applications, and develop implementation plans to sustain their SOAR initiative. At the conclusion of the SOAR Leadership Academy, each attendee becomes a SOAR Local or State Lead.

These Local and State Leads are tasked with coordinating SOAR steering committee meetings; collaborating with community providers, the Social Security Administration, and Disability Determination Services; conducting SOAR Online Course Review Sessions; reviewing the quality of SOAR-assisted disability benefit applications from local SOAR specialists to ensure fidelity to the model; and monitoring the outcomes of local applications.

Sign up for the SOAR Online Course to learn about the SOAR model, learn how to complete SOAR-assisted disability benefit applications, and connect with SOAR specialists in your area!

[Sign Up for the SOAR Online Course](#)

PRA Publishes New Journal Articles on SOAR and Wellness

Paper in Psychiatric Rehabilitation Journal Examines the Use of the SOAR Model with Justice-Involved Adults

A new paper co-authored by PRA Senior Project Associate **Dazara Ware** examining the application of the SOAR model to adults who are justice involved has been published in the *Psychiatric Rehabilitation Journal*. The authors of the paper, “Barriers and facilitators to the use of the SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) model with justice-involved adults,” surveyed 58 providers across 29 states who completed or supervised the completion of SOAR-assisted disability benefit applications for justice-involved adults. Analysis of the surveys found that the SOAR model was successful in facilitating benefits access. Facilitating factors contributing to the use of SOAR included strong leadership, agency communication, relationship building, and access to medical staff.

Read More

Publication in Ethical Human Psychology and Psychiatry Introduces a Wellness First Approach

A new paper co-authored by PRA Senior Project Associate **Crystal Brandow** introducing a Wellness First Approach to enhance well-being has been published in the *Journal of Ethical Human Psychology and Psychiatry*. The paper, “A Wellness First Approach: A Lens for Improving Mental Health and Well-Being,” examines how a Wellness First Approach can be used to address adverse community experiences and encourage community healing and resilience. The paper recommends a community-focused, ecological approach to prevention and healing, rather than predominantly focusing on prevention and treatment at the individual level.

Learn More

PRA in the News

- [Progress Continues on Community Triage Center](#)
- [Hamilton County Tackles Mental Illness and Substance Use Disorder in Community and Jail](#)
- [Housing: SOAR to Success](#)
- [In the Intimidating Quest for Social Security Benefits, N Street Village Is There](#)

PRA at an Event Near You

New York Association of Treatment Court Professionals Annual Training Conference

March 4-6 | Saratoga Springs, New York

Join PRA Vice President **Chanson Noether** and Senior Research Associate **Dr. Lisa Callahan** on the following panels:

- *Using the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) as a Framework to Guide Strategic Planning and Cross-System Collaboration Efforts* | March 5, 3:45-5:00 p.m.
- *Mental Health Courts in the 21st Century: What the Research Demonstrates (and Doesn't)* | March 6, 11:00-12:15 p.m.

[National Co-Responder Conference](#)

March 9-11 | Johnson County, Kansas

Join PRI Senior Project Associate **Ashley Krider** on a presentation that will discuss the roles of cities, counties, law enforcement, and providers.

The session will provide an overview of a new brief from PRI, the National League of Cities, and the National Association of Counties. The brief details multiple co-responder models available to city and county leaders. It also provides information around the benefits of co-responder models and how to move forward with planning, funding, implementation, and evaluation.

[Housing First Partners Conference](#)

March 16-19 | Seattle, Washington

Join PRA Senior Project Associate **Abigail Kirkman** and Project Associate **Amanda Starkey** at Workshop 325, *Next Step, Recovery: Using SOAR to Maximize Income and Employment*, which will be held March 19 from 11:00-11:50 a.m.

[Colorado Collaborative Justice Conference](#)

March 25-27 | Denver, Colorado

Join PRA Senior Project Associate **Regi Huerter** at the *Data and Information Sharing Early Diversion* panel, which will be held March 25 from 3:15-4:30 p.m. This session will highlight recommended data points and strategies for data and information sharing in the early intercepts of the Sequential Intercept Model.

Recent Stories from the PRA Blog



[Vicarious Trauma and the Death Penalty](#)



[Writing for Wellness: Balancing the Eight Dimensions of Wellness](#)



[Professional Development Reflection: NAEHCY Conference](#)



[Transitions](#)



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