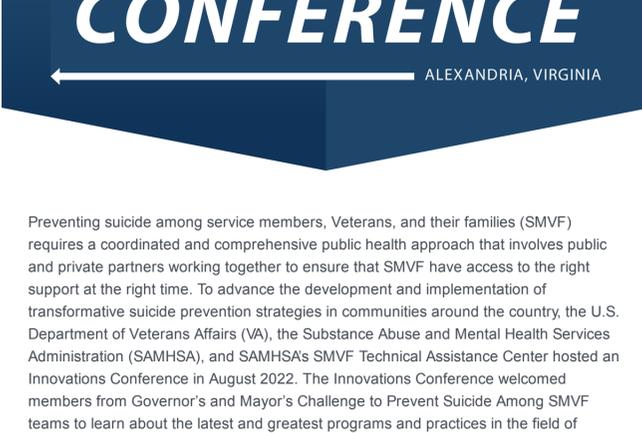




Service Members, Veterans, and their Families Technical Assistance Center Hosts Innovations Conference to Advance Suicide Prevention Strategies



Preventing suicide among service members, Veterans, and their families (SMVF) requires a coordinated and comprehensive public health approach that involves public and private partners working together to ensure that SMVF have access to the right support at the right time. To advance the development and implementation of transformative suicide prevention strategies in communities around the country, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and SAMHSA's SMVF Technical Assistance Center hosted an Innovations Conference in August 2022. The Innovations Conference welcomed members from Governor's and Mayor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among SMVF teams to learn about the latest and greatest programs and practices in the field of Veteran suicide prevention.

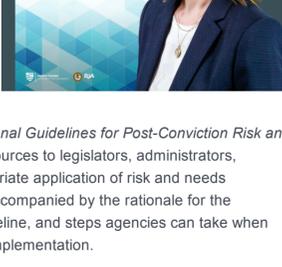
Throughout the 2-day conference, 248 participants attended plenary sessions, workshops, team presentations, and an Innovation Practices showcase. Presentations covered a wide range of topics, including big data, human-centered design, the rollout of the 988 National Suicide & Crisis Prevention Lifeline, Crisis Intercept Mapping, women Veterans of color, postvention for caregivers, suicide fatality reviews, and individual psychological autopsies. At the end of the conference, Mayor's and Governor's Challenge Team Leaders convened, reviewed and updated their action plans, and participated in a facilitated discussion focused on technical assistance and training needs using the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) framework. The majority of the teams noted the necessity of cross-team sharing for idea generation and momentum building.

[Keep Reading](#)

[Learn More About the Governor's and Mayor's Challenges](#)

Sarah Desmarais Co-authors Advancing Fairness and Transparency: National Guidelines for Post-Conviction Risk and Needs Assessment

Professionals in the criminal legal system use risk and needs assessment tools throughout case processing to inform their decision-making. When used appropriately, these tools can promote public safety and improve outcomes for individuals involved in the criminal legal system. A new publication co-authored by Policy Research President **Sarah Desmarais, PhD**, provides concrete guidance to ensure that risk and needs assessments are being used to uphold the principles of accuracy, fairness, transparency, and effective communication and use.



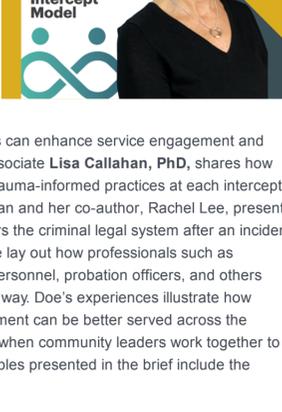
Advancing Fairness and Transparency: National Guidelines for Post-Conviction Risk and Needs Assessment provides a wealth of resources to legislators, administrators, practitioners, and researchers on the appropriate application of risk and needs assessments. Each of the 13 guidelines is accompanied by the rationale for the guideline, necessary steps to follow the guideline, and steps agencies can take when planning, implementing, or assessing their implementation.

This work was funded by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) as a project of the Public Safety Risk Assessment Clearinghouse. The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center led the project in partnership with BJA. David A. D'Amora and Lahiz P. Tavarez of the CSG Justice Center served as co-authors.

[View the Guidelines](#)

Lisa Callahan Co-authors Trauma-Informed Approaches Across the Sequential Intercept Model

People in contact with the criminal legal system experience trauma at much higher rates than the general population. Among people involved in the criminal legal system, studies have demonstrated rates of trauma as high as 98 percent for women and 62.4–87 percent for men. Despite this prevalence, criminal legal system professionals are often not equipped to respond effectively or responsively to the impacts of a person's trauma. The consequences of not being trauma-informed can lead to escalating tensions, violence, and recidivism.



But, implementing trauma-informed practices can enhance service engagement and recovery. In a new brief, Senior Research Associate **Lisa Callahan, PhD**, shares how criminal legal professionals can implement trauma-informed practices at each intercept of the Sequential Intercept Model. Dr. Callahan and her co-author, Rachel Lee, present "John Doe," a fictional person who encounters the criminal legal system after an incident at a shopping mall. Dr. Callahan and Ms. Lee lay out how professionals such as responding officers, booking officers, court personnel, probation officers, and others could interact with Doe in a trauma-informed way. Doe's experiences illustrate how individuals with criminal legal system involvement can be better served across the system, from community services to reentry, when community leaders work together to implement trauma-informed practices. Examples presented in the brief include the following:

- Offering choices to Doe and respecting those choices (e.g., sitting on the left or right side of the police car)
- Providing warm handoffs between different criminal legal system professionals (e.g., judge and court social worker)
- Involving peer support specialists in conversations about needed services (e.g., housing)

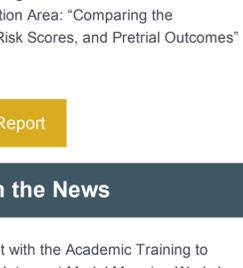
Read the full brief to see how your community can integrate trauma-informed practices into its criminal legal system.

[Download the Brief](#)

Quarterly Impact: April to June 2022

Policy Research is pleased to release its impact report for quarter 2 of 2022. Each quarter, Policy Research publishes this document spotlighting our work across the country via our technical assistance centers, projects, and fee-for-service activities. Highlights of the April-to-June reporting period include the following:

- Reached 6,897 people through 56 meetings and events
- Hosted 38 trainings, training 9,931 people
- Delivered 10 professional presentations to the field
- Released 15 public products



Read the full quarter 2 impact report for more on the following featured topics:

- PRA Releases "Conversations on Leadership" Podcast Series
- The Academic Training to Inform Police Responses Pilots Crisis Response and Intervention Training Program in Corvallis, Oregon
- New Publication From Research and Evaluation Area: "Comparing the Relationships Between Money Bail, Pretrial Risk Scores, and Pretrial Outcomes"

[View the Impact Report](#)

Policy Research in the News

Shreveport, Louisiana, is leveraging its involvement with the Academic Training to Inform Police Responses and its recent Sequential Intercept Model Mapping Workshop, respectively operated and conducted by Policy Research, to transform how the city responds to people experiencing a mental health crisis. KSLA News highlighted the city's efforts:

Conservative estimates are that more than 50% of all 911 calls received by law enforcement include symptomatic displays of mental illness or mental health disorders. With an average of 900 calls monthly, it is possible that more than 5,000 calls for law enforcement service annually are triggered in response to a mental health crisis.

In some situations, the police chief acknowledged, police may not be the best agency to respond. . . .

Dr. James Patterson, chairman of the department of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at LSU Health Shreveport, said this shift is about serving people with mental illness in a way that best serves them and the community.

Eventually, the police chief hopes to have all of his officers trained and to be able to designate certain calls to clinicians and organizations that specialize in mental health services.

[Read the Article](#)

Policy Research at an Event Near You

[National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies Annual Conference and Training Institute](#)

September 18–21, 2022; Atlanta, Georgia

Headed to the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies 29th Annual Conference and Training Institute? Join Policy Research President **Sarah Desmarais, PhD**; Research Associate **Kamiya Stewart, PhD**; and Senior Research Associate **Samantha Zottola, PhD**, at the following sessions on September 19:

- *Applying the Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) Model to the Pretrial Context, Part 1* (3:00–3:50 p.m. ET, Augusta F&G)
- *Applying the Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) Model to the Pretrial Context, Open Mic Session, Part 2* (4:10–5:00 p.m. ET, Augusta F&G)

[Reducing Reliance on Jail: Connections to Treatment and Community-Based Services](#)

September 21–23, 2022; Long Beach, California

Program Area Director **Travis Parker, MS, LIMHP, CPC**, will be presenting at the National Conference of State Legislatures' Reducing Reliance on Jail: Connections to Treatment and Community-Based Services meeting. This meeting is funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge (SJC).

[MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge Network Meeting](#)

September 28–30, 2022; Atlanta, Georgia

Headed to the SJC Network Meeting? Join Policy Research staff at the following sessions:

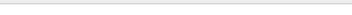
- **Travis Parker, MS, LIMHP, CPC**, will be presenting on the panel *Collaborative Caseflow Management: Courts and Communities Working Together*. His session will take place on September 29.
- **Sarah Desmarais, PhD**, will be presenting on the panel *Implementing a Data-Informed Familiar Face Strategy: Lessons From 2 SJC Sites*. Her session will take place on September 30.

[International Association of Chiefs of Police Annual Conference and Exposition](#)

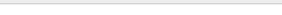
October 15–18, 2022; Dallas, Texas

Join Senior Project Associate **Dan Abreu, MS, CRC, LMHC**, for the workshop *Building Effective Crisis Response Programs: Key Elements for Success*. His session will take place on Saturday, October 15, 2022, from 12:30–1:45 p.m. in D225/226, KBHCC.

Recent Stories From the Policy Research Blog



10 Questions With Elan Hope



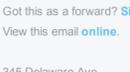
Comparing the Relationships Between Money Bail, Pretrial Risk Scores, and Pretrial Outcomes

Writing for Wellness: Emotional Wellness

Lillian's

Taking on the CDPHP Workforce Team Challenge (Virtually)

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