



New Release: A National Compendium of Court Navigation Programs

Policy Research Associates, in partnership with the State Justice Institute, is pleased to announce the release of a new publication, *A National Compendium of Court Navigation Programs*. This compendium provides an overview of 18 court navigation programs operating in 22 states across the United States.

A court navigation program provides guidance and information about court processes and procedures to people in contact with the court system. In addition, the programs can link people to resources related to their behavioral health, economic, and social service-related needs.

The compendium provides an overview of each program's funding source, its core components, and its implementation. Each program overview is accompanied by a checklist showing where the program's navigators provide support across the legal system. Program overviews also have checklists outlining specific services each program offers related to a person's behavioral health, economic, social, and legal needs.

The compendium can serve as a tool for courts to develop their own court navigation program or to expand an existing program's services. It can also equip court administrators, treatment and service providers, families, and community members with foundational knowledge to ensure that people in contact with the court system can have their needs met and navigate the court system successfully.

This compendium is available for free download.

APRIL 2023

A National Compendium of Court Navigation Programs

Providing support at the nexus of the legal and behavioral health systems

Policy Research Associates, Inc.



[Access the Compendium](#)

SAMHSA's GAINS Center's Crisis Learning Collaborative Leads to Atlanta Center for Diversion and Services

On March 31, 2023, ground was broken on the Atlanta Center for Diversion and Services, an outcome of Fulton County's participation in SAMHSA's GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice System's Building a Competent Crisis Care System at Intercepts 0-1 Learning Collaborative (Crisis LC). Begun in 2020, the Crisis LC focuses on informing and guiding best practices to improve crisis care processes at the national level. These strategic goals are attained by enabling participating local teams to examine crisis care holistically using frameworks such as co-responder models, models of care, and implementation. These processes enabled the Fulton County team to achieve the inception of the Atlanta Center for Diversion and Services, which one of its members described as a "very heavy lift." The center will expand existing pre-arrest diversion services and increase community safety and wellness in the Atlanta, Georgia, area.

SAMHSA's GAINS Center, which is operated by Policy Research Associates, focuses on expanding access to services for people with mental and/or substance use disorders who come into contact with the adult criminal legal system. One of the core strategies in this mission is expanding local working partners' access to emerging best practices, subject-matter experts (SMEs), and other learning initiatives. LCs are a peer-to-peer model in which local jurisdiction teams work with national leaders to create coordinated strategic plans and implementation strategies for a focus topic.

Through the LC model, SAMHSA's GAINS Center and LC SMEs aided the Fulton County team in focusing on its core objective: establishing a crisis care center in the Atlanta region. The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD in Houston was identified as a potential model of care, and a site visit was arranged and conducted. An underutilized site within the Atlanta City Detention Center was determined to be a potential location for the new center. A strategic planning session with SAMHSA's GAINS Center connected the Fulton County team to county- and city-level partners for the purposes of coordination, feedback, and identification of potential sources of funding. Ultimately, ground was broken on the Center for Diversion and Services with the help of multiple core partners, including the City of Atlanta, the Georgia Justice Project, the Policing Alternatives and Diversion Initiative, Bloomberg Associates, and the Grady Health System.

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Policy Research Staff Co-author Study Examining Risk Assessment and Racial Bias

Risk assessment instruments have been shown to provide accurate measures of an individual's risk for recidivism.

However, court personnel who use the results of risk assessment instruments may fail to apply those results to inform their recommendations in the same way for all individuals. A new study co-authored by Senior Research Associate Samantha Zottola, PhD, President Sarah Desmarais, PhD, and Research Associate Kamiya Stewart, PhD, examined whether the presentation of pretrial risk assessment results and the race of the person charged influenced pretrial court actors' release decisions.

The authors found that the presentation of pretrial risk assessment results (framed in terms of success or failure or presented as a frequency or a probability) did not have an impact on pretrial court actors' release decisions. However, the race of the person being charged did impact release decisions. When the person was described as Black, the court actors were more likely to recommend release with conditions. When the person was described as white, court actors were more likely to recommend release without conditions. Additionally, the result of the pretrial risk assessment instrument was not a significant predictor of release decisions in cases where the person was described as Black but was significant in cases where the person was described as white. This finding suggests that the results were not being used to inform release decisions when the person charged was described as Black. The authors recommend further research to identify strategies to reduce racial disparities during the pretrial period.

"Pretrial Risk Assessment, Release Recommendations, and Racial Bias" was published in *Criminal Justice and Behavior*. It was co-authored by Sarah Duhart Clarke, PhD, and John Monahan, PhD.

[Read the Article](#)

This study was featured in the Policy Research podcast series *Data Points*. Listen to the episode "[When Pretrial Risk Assessment Results and Release Recommendations Don't Add Up](#)."

Samantha Zottola Named Editor of the *International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services Newsletter*

Senior Research Associate Samantha Zottola, PhD, has been named the editor of the [International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services Newsletter](#). The International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services aims to enhance forensic mental health service standards across the globe and encourage an international conversation about forensic mental health.

The newsletter is released quarterly and provides highlights on the state of forensic mental health services. Regular features include updates on forensic mental health nursing, information about mental health diversion, a feature article from the association's journal, and a student section.

Zottola Named Editor of the International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services Newsletter

Upcoming Webinars

HHRC: Outreach and Housing Support for Individuals With Psychotic Disorders

June 27, 2023, 2:00–3:30 p.m. ET

This panel examines outreach and housing support strategies for individuals with psychotic disorders. Practitioners will share best practices aimed at improving accessibility, stability, and community integration for this population.

GAINS: When Recovery Is Work: Promoting Wellness in Peer Support Role

June 27, 2023, 3:00–4:30 p.m. ET

This webinar will feature an introduction to the 8 Dimensions of Wellness as a framework for identifying personal goals and opportunities to increase self-care practices. Speakers will discuss the importance of self-care amongst peer support staff, as well as specific strategies peers can use to achieve and maintain personal wellness.

Policy Research at an Event Near You

National Association of Drug Court Professionals RISE23

June 26–29, 2023; Houston, Texas

Headed to RISE23 this June? Join SAMHSA's GAINS Center at the following panels:

- GAINS Center Director **Chanson Noether, MA**, and Senior Research Associate **Lisa Callahan, PhD**, will present on the panel *Building a Trauma-Informed Treatment Courts: Opportunity to Influence Guidance to the Field*. This session will take place on June 26, 2023, from 9:30–10:45 a.m. CT.
- **Lisa Callahan, PhD**, will present at the workshop *Building the Policies and Practices for Becoming a Trauma-Responsive Treatment Court*. This skills-building workshop will take place on June 26, 2023, from 2:00–5:00 p.m. CT.
- **Chanson Noether, MA**, will present at the workshop *Recovery-Oriented Treatment Court Teams: Integrating and Sustaining Peer Support Workers Effectively*. This skills-building workshop will take place on June 26, 2023, from 2:00–5:00 p.m. CT.
- **Chanson Noether, MA**, will present on the panel *Building a Trauma-Responsive Treatment Court: What Role Does Each Team Member Play?* This session will take place on June 27, 2023, from 8:00–9:15 a.m. CT.
- **Melissa Neal Stein, DrPH**, will present on the panel *Serving a Diverse Community: Challenges and Recommendations to Improve Equity & Inclusion in Treatment Courts*. This session will take place on June 27, 2023, from 9:30–10:45 a.m. CT.
- **Chanson Noether, MA**, will present on the panel *Supporting and Promoting the Integration of Peers on Your Treatment Court Team*. This session will take place on June 28, 2023, from 3:30–4:45 p.m. CT.

Recent Stories From the Policy Research Blog



Day of Service: Point in Time



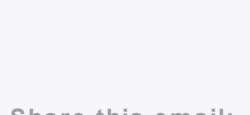
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