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New Episode of *Conversations on Leadership*: Sarah Desmarais Reflects on First Year as President

It has been one year since Sarah Desmarais, PhD, stepped into the role of President at Policy Research. In that time, much has evolved—our research portfolio has grown, we have become a remote-first work environment, and more!

Dr. Desmarais reflects on her first year as president in a new *Conversations on Leadership* episode, “A Year of Change: Reflections on the First Year.” In this 24-minute episode, Dr. Desmarais shares the highlights from her first year, how Policy Research’s strategic plan guides her work, and what’s next.



Conversations on Leadership is a series highlighting the leaders within Policy Research. In the series, guests share their thoughts on Policy Research’s work and culture and how they are using the firm’s strategic plan to guide their work and advance the field.

Listen to the episode to hear her reflections, and subscribe to the Policy Research podcast today! *Conversations on Leadership* is available on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), [Stitcher](#), and [Soundcloud](#).

Policy Research Celebrates 35 Years

December 31, 2022, marked Policy Research Associates' 35th anniversary! The past 35 years have been marked by incredible transformation—in expertise, firm size, and physical location.

To mark the occasion, we have assembled a timeline of the past 35 years that shares highlights of our work. This timeline documents the start of cornerstone projects, leadership transitions, select publications, and other notable facts that illustrate the evolution of our work.

Milestone blurbs are linked to articles and resources so you can learn more about these events.

We are proud to have created positive social change for people and communities over the past 35 years. Our staff members, partners, and collaborators have been instrumental to our longevity and success—we look forward to celebrating another 35 years!



[View the Timeline](#)

Quarterly Impact: April to June 2023

Policy Research is pleased to release its impact report for quarter 2 of 2023. 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:

- Produced 58 meetings and events, with 13,506 attendees

- Facilitated 41 site visits and technical assistance visits, with 1,047 participants
- Released 36 new public products
- Hosted 26 trainings, training 1,816 people

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

- Research and Evaluation Publishes Court Navigator Compendium
- Homeless and Housing Resource Center Hosts Webinar Series on Psychotic Disorders With Record Attendance
- Policy Research Holds First Spanish-Language Sequential Intercept Model Mapping Workshop



[View the Impact Report](#)

International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services Releases Newsletter, First Issue Edited by Samantha Zottola

The [International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services](#) has released its [Summer 2023 Newsletter](#). This is the first issue in which Senior Research Associate Samantha Zottola, PhD, is serving as the newsletter's editor. 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.

In the Summer 2023 issue, Zottola and contributors published the following articles:

- Risk, resilience, and recovery in forensic mental health: An integrated conceptual model
- Best practice education in violence risk assessment and violence prevention for nurses
- 2023 annual conference recap

[Read the Issue](#)

Upcoming Webinars

HHRC: Employing Peer Workers: An Organization's Perspective

August 29, 2023, 2:00–3:00 p.m. ET

In this webinar, panelists will answer questions about the challenges and opportunities organizations experience when establishing new peer roles. Leaders at organizations with established peer roles will talk about the process of onboarding peers, such as building organizational buy-in, addressing stigma in policies and in the workplace, and recruiting and employing peer workers in an equitable way.

SMVF: Utilizing Data to Support Diverse SMVF Populations

August 30, 2023, 3:00–4:30 p.m. ET

This webinar is intended to provide attendees an overview of the need to identify and support diverse service members, Veterans, and their families (SMVF) within states, territories, and communities; provide an overview of how to obtain data related to diverse SMVF populations; and provide an example of how data can be used to develop programming to reduce suicide within states, territories, and communities.

Understanding the Population of People with Frequent Jail

Contact

September 29, 2023, 1:00–2:30 p.m. ET

In this webinar, Drs. Sarah Desmarais and Samantha Zottola will share findings from a mixed-methods project that examined the characteristics and experiences of people with frequent jail contact in three counties across the United States. The speakers will discuss county-level strategies to reduce frequent jail contact and the impact of those strategies on People of Color and people with behavioral health conditions.

Policy Research at an Event Near You

National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies 50th Annual Conference and Training Institute

September 17-20, 2023; New Orleans, Louisiana

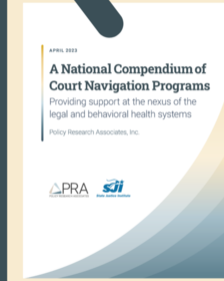
Join Senior Research Associate **Samantha Zottola, PhD**, and Research Associate **Kamiya Stewart, PhD**, at the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies' 50th Annual Conference and Training Institute! Join them for their panel, "Pretrial Risk and Behavioral Health Needs: Dispelling the Myths."

Recent Stories From the Policy Research Blog

Understanding the Population of People With Frequent Jail Contact



Learn about the project and access the findings



CREATING THE COURT NAVIGATOR COMPENDIUM

Reducing Frequent Jail Contact to Lower Jail Populations

Creating the Court Navigator Compendium



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