


# PROJECT SAFE RELEASE

An Innovative Approach to Working with Victim Defendants

May 8, 2019



**SAFETY+JUSTICE**  
CHALLENGE

Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

---

---

---

---


---

---

---

## Goals for today

- Identify why victim services are critical in correctional and pre-trial settings
- Identify the systems/organizations in communities to help provide collaborative approach
- Become familiar with a safety related empowerment tool to assess victim safety



**SAFETY+JUSTICE**  
CHALLENGE

Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Project Safe Release Goals

- Create a safety net of referrals and resources for women incarcerated in the Cumberland County Jail and/or on pre-trial service contracts in the community that enhance victim safety.
- Formalize a partnership of mutual referrals so that victim defendants will consistently receive gender responsive, victim services related to domestic and sexual violence.



**SAFETY+JUSTICE**  
CHALLENGE

Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Project Safe Release Goals

- Develop a formal partnership between our pre-trial service agency and victim service agency, with the goal of decreasing the number of women released without completing a risk and needs assessment and safety plan.
- Increase appearance rates for victim/defendants under pretrial supervision.



Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Maine Pretrial Services

- Maine Pretrial Services, Inc. (MPS), originally known as the Bail Project, has been in existence for more than thirty-five years. We operate in 11 of Maine's 16 counties.
- Maine Pretrial Services, Inc. is a private, nonprofit agency committed to providing pretrial services, post conviction alternatives and diversion options throughout the state of Maine.
- To provide objective, comprehensive information to the court, prosecution, and defense regarding each in-custody defendant for use in the bail determination.



Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Maine Pretrial Services

- Provide effective community supervision and monitoring of court ordered conditions of release for all eligible defendants.
- Strive to reduce recidivism and promote appearance by collaborating effectively with community based resources for treatment, education, employment and housing.
- MPS is one of 5 Nationally Accredited pretrial agencies in the country.



Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Through These Doors

- Domestic Violence Resource Center
- Open Doors in 1977
- Started Incarcerated Women's Program in 2002
- Expansion to the Maine Correctional Center and Southern Maine Women's Re-Entry Center



Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Building Bridges Study

- 2003 study conducted by Jo Kurzman
- Interviewed 100 women at Cumberland County Jail
- Highlighted abuse that women experienced before entering the criminal justice system.
- Connection between Incarceration and Trauma



Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

---

---

---

---

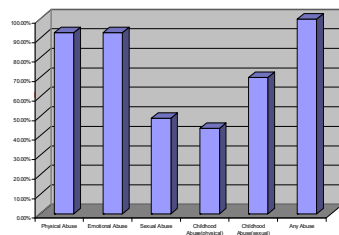
---

---

---

---

Abuse History



Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

---

---

---

---

---


---

---

---

**Cumberland Counties Coordinated Community Response-Violence Intervention Partnership**

- Founded in 1998 through a VAWA grant.
- CCR/VIP Director housed in a county position.
- Goals are to keep victims safe in the community, hold offenders accountable and change how the community thinks about and responds to DV.
- Multijurisdictional advisory council that meets monthly.

 SAFETY JUSTICE CHALLENGE

Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Cumberland Counties Coordinated Community Response-Violence Intervention Partnership**

- Has funded multiple positions over the years including advocates, pretrial staff, probation staff and investigators.
- VIP Director responsible for coordinating CCR, HRRT, DV Docket, ODARA trainings and technical assistance.

 SAFETY JUSTICE CHALLENGE

Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

---

---

---

---


---

---

---

---

- "I kinda feel like I'm on vacation. Don't get me wrong. I hate it here. But at least I know he can't get me. He can't follow me or watch me. It's kinda like jail is the safest place I've ever been, it's the only place I know where he can't hurt me. Crazy, huh."

 SAFETY JUSTICE CHALLENGE

Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## WHY PARTNER?

 SAFETY JUSTICE CHALLENGE

Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Project Safe Release

- Identifying trauma and female incarceration
- Recognizing gaps in services for females
- Coordinated community response connection

 SAFETY JUSTICE CHALLENGE

Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

---

---

---

---


---

---

---

## How to get started. . .

- Starting the dialogue
- Connecting with staff at both TTD and MPS
- Cross-training to help make the connection and build buy-in
- Creating protocols that will help sustain program for new staff
- Assessment tools for measurement
- Building a data system

 SAFETY JUSTICE CHALLENGE

Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### What is our data telling us?

- 73 female defendants screened prearrangement at CCJ by pretrial services.
- 45 Self Identified as victim/survivors of domestic or sexual violence.
- 38 voluntarily accepted written service information about TTD (white cards).
- 26 Signed releases of information to allow for coordinated service delivery.



Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### What is our data telling us?

- Service connections were made by TTD with 48 females in the facility or the community.
- Services provided by TTD included, shelter, safety planning, assistance with protection orders and support.



Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### What is our data telling us?

- 23 were placed on pretrial supervision at arraignment
  - 5 successfully completed
  - 14 currently active
  - 3 revoked → 1 FTA, 1 NCC, 1 Technical violation
  - 1 deceased



Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

---

---

---

---

---

---


---

---

### How do we measure success?

- MOVERS – Measure of Victim Empowerment Related to Safety\*
- Developed by a University-Community Collaboration
- Assess change in individual survivors over time
- Can be utilized in two ways: Provide evidence that program services supports survivors and facilitates a conversation between advocate and survivor about what is and isn't working well for survivor regarding safety.

\*Goodman, L.A., Thomas, K.A., & Heimerl, D. (2015). A guide for using the Measure of Victim Empowerment Related to Safety (MOVERS).


**SAFETY-JUSTICE**  
CHALLENGE

Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES


**SAFETY-JUSTICE**  
CHALLENGE

Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

---

---

---

---

---


---

---

---

### Where are we now?

- Movers Assessments
- Increased in referrals to Through These Doors
- Enhanced relationships between both organizations
- Tag team approach to working within the correctional system (jail administrators, correctional staff, other social service providers)


**SAFETY-JUSTICE**  
CHALLENGE

Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---





---

---

---

---

---

---

---