

Working Toward Safety and Justice through Police and Prosecutor Partnerships

Law enforcement and prosecutors are on the front lines of the criminal justice system. Establishing or enhancing a collaborative partnership is both practical and mutually beneficial. By collaborating on justice system response and reform, law enforcement and prosecutors are uniquely situated to unite disparate partners to discuss system-wide issues including alternatives to arrest and jail-reduction.

Recommendations:

1. Regardless of new approaches, violent crime and public safety must remain a priority
2. Multiagency collaboration is a force multiplier when it comes to meaningful justice improvement
3. Emphasize co-location of programs and services
4. Engage community and seek external buy-in
5. Bridge cultures because relationships matter
6. External and internal messaging is key
7. Track, evaluate, and share data
8. Consider risk assessments
9. Adopt the justice reinvestment model
10. Don't reinvent the wheel
11. Use organizations to assist in developing long-term strategies

Examples from the Roundtable Participants:

- **Harris County** DA's Office implemented the Misdemeanor Marijuana Diversion Program, which diverts individuals pre-charge for possession of misdemeanor amounts of marijuana. The Houston police chief and Harris County district attorney kept open communication to efficiently manage resources, while also tailoring their messaging to community priorities.
- **Milwaukee County** uses community prosecution to focus government community priorities. This process invites community members to express their safety concerns and identify neighborhood problems to then develop appropriate responses.
- **Pennington County** has built an all-in-one social services complex with a single point of entry. It houses detox treatment, Safe Solutions program, Crisis Care Center, Quality of Life Unit, and Pennington County Health and Human Services. This centralized, co-located campus streamlines services, allowing individuals to more quickly get the help they need.
- **New Orleans** has historically struggled with violent crime and fractured relationships among justice system stakeholders. Both the DA's Office and Police Department have committed additional resources to address the violence plaguing their community. A structural reform moved all misdemeanor cases to municipal court, which significantly reduced processing times and freed up both agencies to focus on serious violent crime over order maintenance and administrative work.

