

Crisis/Opportunity Management Scenario

After hearing about how Lucas and St. Louis Counties transformed their own unique crisis situations into opportunities to move forward on reform, consider practicing your skills of transforming crisis into opportunity by discussing this scenario with your team.

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In Busytown County, risk assessment is used to determine conditions of supervision for people booked into the jail, but defendants who are able to pay a money bond can be released prior to assessment without any conditions of supervision. To-date, the pretrial system partners have been satisfied with this approach, since they do have a risk assessment in place. Recently, a person who paid 10% of their bail amount to a bail bond agent, and was subsequently released from jail, committed a serious violent crime. The victim's family has appeared in the media, drawing attention to Busytown County's bail practice by wondering how this person was released in the first place, and publicly stating that they don't want something like this to happen again and is threatening a lawsuit. The County Attorney is concerned and would like to take proactive steps to prevent litigation.

Discussion Questions

How might you turn this situation into an opportunity for reform?

Which stakeholder/group would you want to lead the effort (judge, chief of police, sheriff, county council, community advocate, CJCC, etc.)? What is about that stakeholder/group that you think would make them so effective?

What factors, relationships, and resources would be key to developing and implementing new policies ?

Which factor would be MOST impactful in effecting change (political will, partner collaboration, technical knowledge, community support, financial capacity)?