



Franklin County  
**CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
PLANNING BOARD**

# 2020-2024 STRATEGIC PLAN



**From INNOVATION to IMPLEMENTATION**

## Franklin County Board of Commissioners



**The Honorable Marilyn Brown**



**The Honorable John O'Grady**



**The Honorable Kevin L Boyce**

## 2019 Members of the Franklin County Criminal Justice Planning Board

*As appointed via Resolution 0067-19*

The Honorable Marilyn Brown, *Franklin County Commissioner, Chair*

The Honorable Ted Barrows, *Judge, Franklin County Municipal Court, Vice-Chair*

Denise Robinson, *President and CEO, Alvis 180*

Lori Francescon, *Chief Probation Officer, Franklin County Adult Probation Services*

Molly Gauntner, *Chief Probation Officer, Municipal Court Pre-Trial and Probation*

Jacki Dickinson, *Director, Franklin County Community Based Corrections Facility*

The Honorable Dallas Baldwin, *Franklin County Sheriff*

Ken Kuebler, *Deputy Chief, Columbus Police Department*

The Honorable Michael Holbrook, *Judge, Franklin County Court of Common Pleas*

Jennifer Goodman, *Executive Director, Franklin County Court of Common Pleas*

The Honorable Lori Tyack, *Clerk of Municipal Court*

The Honorable Maryellen O'Shaughnessy, *Clerk of Courts*

The Honorable Elizabeth Gill, *Judge, Franklin County Domestic & Juvenile Court*

The Honorable Terri Jamison, *Judge, Franklin County Domestic & Juvenile Court*

The Honorable Zach Klein, *Columbus City Attorney*

The Honorable Ron O' Brien, *Franklin County Prosecuting Attorney*

Joy Bivens, *Director, Franklin County Job & Family Services*

The Honorable Andrew J. Ginther, *Mayor, City of Columbus*

The Honorable Shannon Hardin, *President, Columbus City Council*

Andrea Boxill, *Public Health Administrator for Addiction Services, Columbus Public Health*

Yeura Venters, Esq., *Franklin County Public Defender*

Jed Morison, *Superintendent, Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities*

Stephanie Hightower, *President, Columbus Urban League*

The Honorable Kim Maggard, *Mayor, City of Whitehall*

David Royer, *Chief Executive Officer, Franklin County Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health*

Holly Gross, *Vice President of Government Relations, Columbus Chamber of Commerce*

Jeff Simpson, *Executive Vice President, Cap City Lodge #9, Fraternal Order of Police*

***The mission of the Franklin County Criminal Justice Planning Board is to provide system-wide comprehensive planning and oversight, to identify training and technical assistance needs and direct the efficient and effective application of state and federal funds toward developing and sustaining projects and programs that deliver services to the Franklin County community to enhance their safety, health and welfare in the context of the criminal justice system.***

*The Franklin County Criminal Justice Planning Board was created in accordance with Ohio Revised Code §5502 in April 2000 as a required outcome of the election by the City of Columbus and Franklin County to form a Regional Planning Unit for Criminal Justice Services. The Board consists of elected and appointed officials representing the criminal and juvenile justice enterprise who are appointed by the Franklin County Board of Commissioners annually, by Resolution. Representation includes law enforcement, courts, probation, victim services, corrections, public defenders, prosecutors, mental health, developmental disabilities, workforce investment, and the community.*

*The Board is responsible for regional justice planning and directing the justice mission of the Office of Justice Policy and Programs. Board members review and make non-binding recommendations on justice grant projects and program funding plans, identify priority areas for utilization of grant funding, and maintain oversight of funded projects and programs.*

*The Franklin County Office of Justice Policy and Programs performs the fiscal and programmatic administration of federal and state grants; provides training and technical assistance for justice partners and first responders; and is responsible for the development and evaluation of projects and programs operating in accordance with the Plan.*

**The Board adopts this 2020-2024 Franklin County Comprehensive Strategic Justice Plan to address the priority areas of Reentry, Behavioral Health, and Victim Assistance with goals and implementation strategies necessary to achieve positive impacts and measurable outcomes that will:**

- 1.) Improve successful reentry and reduce recidivism;**
- 2.) Provide appropriate diversion of persons with severe mental health issues;**
- 3.) Provide information, timely access to treatment, connection to resources, harm reduction options, and other intervention and diversion activities to persons with alcohol and/or drug substance abuse issues, focusing specifically on, but not limited to, alcohol, benzodiazepines, cocaine, methamphetamines and opioids;**
- 4.) Provide appropriate alternatives to jail incarceration for persons who do not pose a danger to themselves or to their communities;**
- 5.) Increase services for victims of family/domestic violence;**
- 6.) Support Franklin County's commitment to reducing poverty and improving economic mobility;**
- 7.) Support Franklin County Public Health's commitment to health equity;**
- 8.) Directly address issues of equity disproportionately impacting marginalized populations.**

The Franklin County Comprehensive Strategic Justice Plan is a living document that will remain dynamic to meet the demand for change within the delivery as trends and conditions emerge and new initiatives are developed. The Plan shall be revised and updated every four years, or as needed, to address emerging trends and conditions that affect Franklin County's justice delivery system.

**Revised and approved: DECEMBER 2019**

**This Franklin County Comprehensive Strategic Justice Plan (the Plan) is structured to dovetail with and to reinforce the Rise Together Blueprint for Reducing Poverty in Franklin County, and commits OJPP and the CJPB members to focus on the following Essential Themes:**

**- Broken trust between the justice system and the residents it serves**

- This Plan recognizes that justice-involved individuals have many reasons to not trust that “the system” will help them and recognizes that no amount of money spent can address this perception or loss of faith.
- The Plan does commit OJPP and the CJPB members to the following efforts to regain and retain community trust:
  - To commit to the elimination of racial disparities in the criminal justice system, to prioritize racial equity in our decision making processes, to acknowledge that communities of color have borne the burdens of inequitable social, environmental, economic, and criminal justice policies practices and investments, to understand that the legacy of these inequitable policies has caused deep disparities, harm, and mistrust, and to recognize that racial equity is realized when and only when race can no longer be used to predict life outcomes.
  - To share information in an honest and timely fashion regarding initiatives, successes, failures, and outcomes;
  - To present information in a clear and understandable manner, free of government abbreviations and jargon;
  - To facilitate partnerships with existing trusted partners when possible, rather than creating new entities which are unknown and unproven;
  - To lift up peers and survivors and to share stories of success and recovery;
  - To ask “what do you need?” rather than assuming that we already know;
  - To ask for feedback, and to actively solicit it on a regular basis.

**- Jobs, Transportation, Food, and other necessities specific to justice-involved individuals**

- Jobs, transportation, and other basic needs are only addressed to the extent that being justice-involved has an additional impact. The Plan does not intend to duplicate or replicate services already being provided by other public, private, or non-profit entities, but rather to offer support to those efforts especially as it concerns the collateral impacts of incarceration or justice involvement. The Plan supports efforts of the OJPP reentry staff to promote employment via expansion of Certificates for Qualification of Employment (CQEs) and employer education, to encourage removal of collateral sanctions for driving privileges, and to continue advocating for justice-involved individuals. Education and programming in these additional/collateral areas are primarily supported by Targeted Community Alternatives to Prison (TCAP), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) funds.

**- Housing and shelter**

- Housing, especially affordable and supportive housing, is a critical need for justice-involved residents. The Plan supports efforts of the OJPP staff, working with multiple community partners, to promote fair and equitable housing by encouraging landlords to consider potential renters based on ability to pay, not on other issues including previous evictions and previous justice-involvement or current probation/parole status. Further, OJPP will promote fair and equitable

interpretation and application of federal housing regulations regarding justice-involved persons in public supported housing. OJPP will also promote the HUD ruling that The Fair Housing Act prohibits racial discrimination in the sale, rental, or financing of homes. HUD determined, because African Americans and Hispanics are disproportionately arrested, convicted, and incarcerated. OJPP will ensure that the voices and interests of justice-involved people is present during county-wide housing discussions. Further, OJPP will provide funding for long-term and temporary supportive housing for frequent users of jail resources and for individuals referred by the courts for jail diversion and housing.

These efforts will be supported by TCAP, Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program (COAP), SAMHSA, and general revenue funds.

- **Law Enforcement and First Responder contact, diversion, and deflection**

- The Plan supports law enforcement efforts to provide for modern tools, technologies, and equipment to effectively serve and protect Franklin County residents while maintaining public and officer safety. These efforts are primarily supported by Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funds.
- The Plan supports diversion and deflection efforts to ensure that those residents with mental health, substance use, or other disorders who would be better served by treatment rather than incarceration receive the care they need in a facility that is available and appropriate, and that those residents who are not a danger to themselves or to the community are not held incarcerated for lack of other diversion options. This includes an ongoing commitment to CIT training, co-responder models, a county-wide 24/7 crisis diversion center, alternative incarceration venues such as the Community Based Correctional Facility and creation of a Community Alternative Sentencing Center, and other activities. These efforts are primarily supported by JAG funds with additional funds from general revenue funds, Targeted Community Alternative to Prison (TCAP) funds, and appropriate Opiate, Drug, Second Chance, or Mental Health (SAMHSA, COAP, Justice and Mental Health Collaboration (JMHC)) funds.

- **Processes and offerings inside the jail facilities**

- The Plan acknowledges the inherent inequities in a pay-to-be-released “cash bail system” and supports comprehensive reform to ensure public safety while respecting the presumption of innocence, attention to risk factors, and consistency in practices.
- The Plan supports programming inside the jails to offer those incarcerated there to learn life skills, parenting skills, and coping skills, and to receive professional assistance with mental health issues, substance abuse issues and recovery including medically assisted treatment, and cognitive behavioral treatment (CBT) to address thinking errors and compulsion control. These efforts are supported by a variety of funding, including TCAP, COAP, SAMHSA, Second Chance, JMHC, and others.

- **Processes and offerings inside the court systems**

- The Plan supports prosecutorial diversion programs, specialized dockets, court notification systems via phone and text, and a thoughtful examination and reconsideration of court costs and fees. These efforts are primarily supported by TCAP and general revenue funds.

- **Health, mental health, and substance abuse disorder**

- The Plan supports significant investment of time and treasure in programs including cognitive behavioral therapy and medically assisted treatment. The Plan recommits and reconfirms the County’s efforts to implement the strategies and achieve the goals of the national Stepping Up initiative.

These efforts are primarily supported by Second Chance, JMHC, COAP, and SAMHSA funds.

- **Parenting and children**

- The Plan supports investing in children/youth who are themselves involved in the justice system as well as those who have a parent or caregiver involved in the justice system.

Programs for juvenile offenders are primarily supported by OJJDP Title II funds while programs for children of incarcerated caregivers are primarily supported by Second Chance funds.

- **Aging**

- The Plan supports investing in programming specifically aimed at justice-involved individuals over the age of 60, including residential care, in-home healthcare, and connection to senior activities.

These efforts are primarily supported by general revenue funds and partner agencies (Franklin County Office on Aging) and anticipated grants.

- **Resources for Victims of Violence**

- The Plan supports victims of domestic and intimate partner violence by investing in law enforcement best practices, legal supports, prosecution supports, and victim services for partners and children experiencing family violence.

These efforts are primarily supported by Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) funds, VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) funds, and general revenue funds and donations.

- **Individual responsibility**

- The Plan supports the distribution and use of technology to increase individual responsibility, vulnerability-reduction, and harm-reduction. This technology includes enhanced use of online resources and websites, apps that connect individuals to immediate peer support and to emergency personnel, and apps that are used to track fluctuations in mental health, individual feelings, moods, and to recognize triggers that might lead to risky or illegal behavior.

These efforts are primarily supported by TCAP funding.

**Franklin County Office of Justice Policy & Programs**

*Staff supporting the Criminal Justice Planning Board*

Michael Daniels, Director; Melissa Pierson, Deputy Director; Kysten Palmore, Reentry Services Coordinator; Qiana Potts, Administrative Assistant



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<https://commissioners.franklincountyohio.gov/stepping-up/>