



For Immediate Release

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Rock County Sends Delegation To Evidence-Based Decision Making Summit

On January 28-29, 2014, the Rock County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) sent a delegation of nine team members to the Evidence-Based Decision Making (EBDM) Summit in Madison. In attendance for Rock County were Sheriff Robert Spoden, District Attorney David O'Leary, First Assistant State Public Defender Eric Nelson, Janesville Police Chief David Moore, Department of Corrections, Division of Community Corrections Field Supervisor Tom Gubbin, Sheriff's Office Commander Erik Chellevoid, Human Services Director Charmian Klyve, Deferred Prosecution Director Kris Koeffler, and Criminal Justice System Planner/Analyst Elizabeth Pohlman McQuillen. More than twenty Wisconsin county teams, along with various state representatives and five out-of-state EBDM sites also attended the intensive two-day event.

Since 2010, the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) has supported the implementation of local EBDM initiatives in seven communities across the nation. The EBDM Framework conceptualizes a criminal justice system guided by goals defined and shared by policymakers, decisions informed by research evidence, a collaborative policy development process, and ongoing data collection and analysis.

The purpose of the Summit was to share information with a broad group of state and local officials about the EBDM Framework. The Summit addressed the importance of statewide evidence-based decision making to achieve improved criminal justice outcomes and reduce the harm that crime causes Wisconsin's communities. It provided state and local officials with the foundational information needed to consider engaging in a larger EBDM effort, which Wisconsin and local counties will be eligible to apply to be a part of in the future.

After the event, District Attorney O'Leary said "as a member of the Rock County CJCC, as a member of the State CJCC, and as chair of the State's Evidence Based Practices subcommittee, the Summit was a valuable opportunity to share ideas with multiple jurisdictions and various professionals in the field of criminal justice. By applying evidence based practices to decisions made throughout the criminal justice process, our goals are to reduce recidivism through treatment when appropriate, to focus the use of our limited resources on those individuals who pose the greatest risk and thereby make Rock County a safer community." Sheriff Spoden commented "the Rock County Sheriff's Office is excited about the EBDM initiative and is committed to using evidence-based practices in its work. We look forward to continuing our partnerships with state and local stakeholders to maintain public safety by using research driven principles to guide policy and practice decisions."

The Rock County CJCC meets the third Thursday of the month at the 3pm at the Courthouse. It is composed of key stakeholders from the justice system, county administration, and the community. Its members include the Chief Judge, District Attorney, Sheriff, Police Chief, Public Defender's Office, WI Department of Corrections, Division of Community Corrections, Human Services Director, County Board, Juvenile Justice, and a vice-president of our local health system, as well as several dedicated community members. It is an advisory committee to the County Board on matters involving criminal justice.

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