



The Ramsey County Bail Reform Work Group

Reimagining Pre-Trial Justice to Enhance
Community Safety and Well-Being

12/12/2023

Why are we here?



Town Hall Objectives

- Inform the community about what's occurred around pre-trial reform in Ramsey County.
- Engage with the community on next steps for implementation of new reforms.
- Encourage continued involvement from the community.



Tonight's Agenda

- Background & History.
- Moving to Implementation:
 - Pre-Charge Release Process.
 - Community Supports.
 - Sequential Bail Review.
 - Performance Measures and Accountability.
- Next Steps and Being Involved.

Historical Background

*Creation of Bail Reform Workgroup (BRWG) and
System Changes*

BRWG History

- Community asked system stakeholders to do more to reduce pre-trial detention, BRWG formed **(2019)**.
- Ramsey County selected as research action site with Advancing Pretrial Policy and Research (APPR). Funded by Arnold Ventures **(2020)**.
- Ramsey County contracted with Research in Action to assist in community engagement and the codesigned process **(2021)**.

Bail Reform Work Group (BRWG) Participants

Members

- Ramsey County Public Defender's Office
- Ramsey County Community Corrections
- Ramsey County Sheriff's Office
- Ramsey County Attorney's Office
- Ramsey County Second Judicial District Court
- Saint Paul City Attorney's Office
- Saint Paul Police Department
- Justice Point (Community Pre-Trial Services Provider)

Community-based organizations

- Breaking Free
- Minnesota Freedom Fund
- Neighborhood Justice Center
- We Resolve

Community members - Community members include retired system stakeholders, justice-involved people and other community members.

Technical Assistance Providers

- Advancing Pretrial Policy and Research (APPR)
- Research in Action (RIA)



Goals of Bail Reform Work Group

Eliminate the harm to communities caused by the for-profit cash bail system while improving public safety and court appearances by:

- Transitioning from a system based on wealth to one based on risk.
- Reducing the reliance on the cash bail system.
- Ensuring no one is held because of an inability to pay.
- Reducing the jail population.
- Increasing court appearance rate.
- Engaging community members to develop and be part of system alternatives including, but not limited to, a pretrial assessment tool.
- Orienting systems around promoting community safety and wellbeing.

Bail Reform Work Group Structure & Tasks

Executive Committee

- Environment for key leadership to receive updates on progress.
- Respond to and bring forward any important issues and make key sponsor-level decisions on project direction.
- Provide input into the agenda for the Bail Reform Work Group meeting.
- Provide recommendations or make ultimate decisions about key things that are not addressed in the Bail Reform Work Group meetings.

Bail Reform Work Group

- Actively participate in codesigning the new pretrial process.
- Provide direction and input to the Bail Reform Sub committees.
- Monitor implementation of the Public Safety Assessment.

Sub Committees

- Data.
- Communications.
- Pre-Charge Process.
- Coordination Team.

BRWG History and Design Work

- Conducted three town halls with stakeholders, justice-involved individuals and other community members.
 - **Town Hall Topics:**
 - Pretrial Process (booking) experience and needs **(2022)**.
 - Pretrial Assessment Tools **(2022)**.
 - Community Supports (Navigators) **(2022)**.
- Analyzed jail and system data to identify opportunities for improvement (ongoing).
- Ramsey County Public Safety Assessment (PSA) pretrial assessment tool validated **(2023)**.
- Adult Detention Center data dashboard developed **(2023)**.

Community Recommendations

- Establish a team/office of Navigators to help guide folks as they move throughout the pre-charge process.
- Utilize existing community and organizational support networks and resources for those who are navigating the pre-charge process.
- Ensure implementation and practice of the Public Safety Assessment (PSA) remains transparent and holistic for its users.
- Improve legal and educational resources and support for those who are navigating the pre-charge process.
- Establish logistical resources and support for those who are experiencing reentry prior to a hearing.
- Establish better and accessible resources and support for basic health needs throughout the pre-charge process and after release.
- Consider alternatives to incarceration.

Changes Already Made

Changes Already Made

Elimination of Fees

- The Sheriff's Office eliminated a \$25 booking fee at the Adult Detention Center **(2017)**.
- No medical cost for those in custody at the Adult Detention Center. Previously charged for: Doctor, Nurse and Dentist visits; Prescription and over-the-counter medication **(2019)**.
- Phones fees reduced for the Adult Detention Center **(2020)**.
- Pretrial services vendor no longer charge for services **(2021)**.



Other Changes Already Made

Courts delegate release to pre-trial services vendor to have some individuals released prior to a court hearing **(2006)**.

Community warrant resolution days held to resolve warrants without jail time **(2017-2019)**.

County Attorney expands diversion to pre-charge **(2019)**.

Saint Paul City Attorney makes pre-trial improvements, including empowering prosecutors on weekend duty to release people when there is no need to hold them **(2020)**.

Moving from Design to Implementation

Implementation Overview

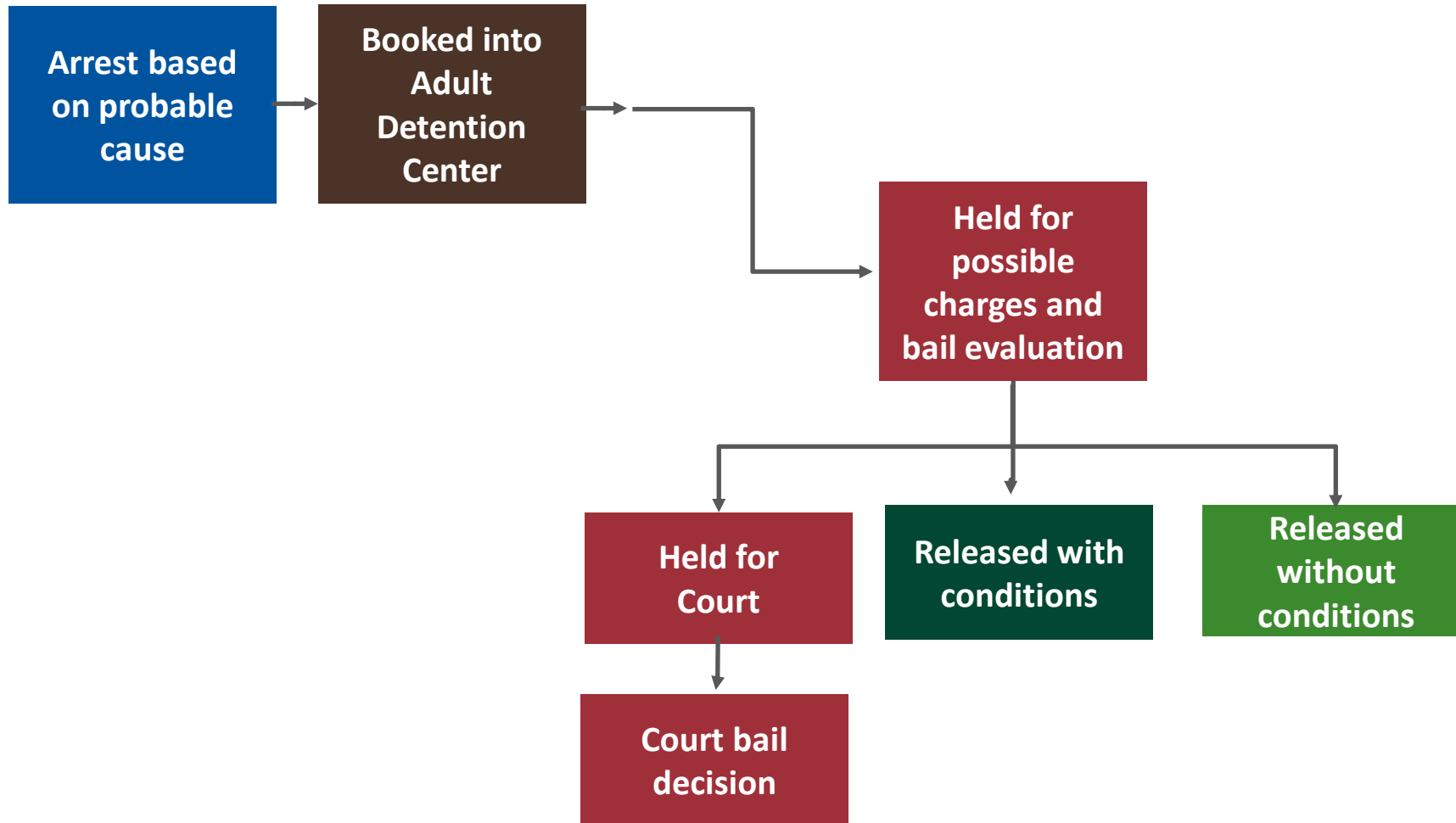
- Pre-Charge Release Process.
- Community Supports.
- Sequential Bail Review.
- Performance Measures and Accountability.

Pre-Charge Release

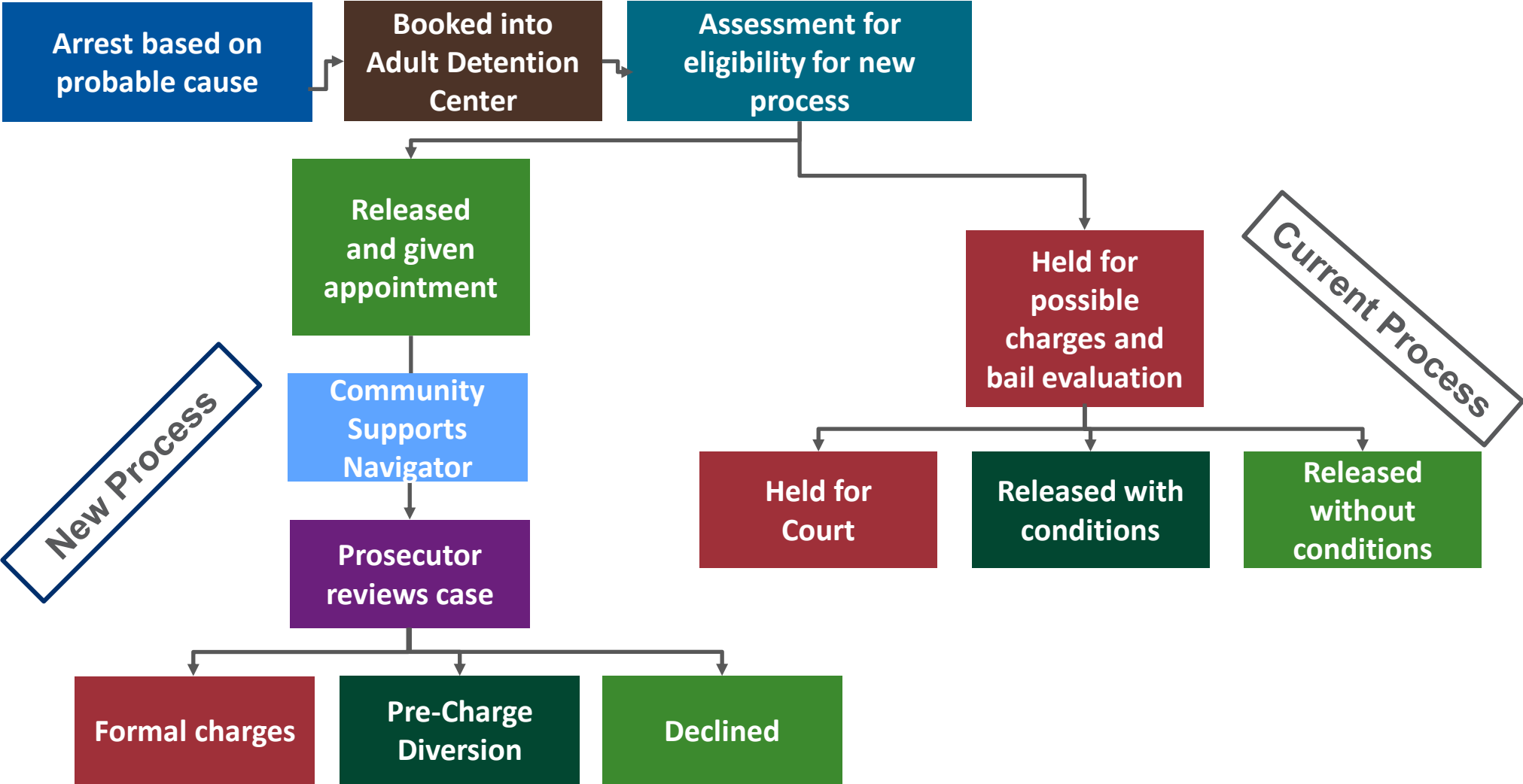
Background

- Pre-Charge.
- Reducing Jail Time.
- Improving Safety and Outcomes.

Current Pretrial Process



Proposed Pretrial Process



Proposed Process

- **Adult Detention Center Staff and Justice Point Screen for Eligibility.**
- **Released with Community Support.**
- **Charging Decision:**
 - Dismissal.
 - Pre-Charge Diversion.
 - Court Date Summons.

Eligibility

Arrest Crime

- Low-Level Nonviolent Felony and Gross Misdemeanor Property and Drug Crimes.

Pretrial Assessment

- Public Safety Assessment (PSA).
- Discretionary Guidelines.

Public Safety Assessment (PSA)

What is a Pretrial Assessment?

An actuarial assessment that estimates the likelihood that someone will succeed pretrial by making future court appearances and remaining arrest-free while pending case disposition.

What Is the Public Safety Assessment?

- An assessment tool that was developed using a large national data set (750,000 cases).
- Validated locally in Ramsey County.
- Shown to be highly predictive in Ramsey County without indication of systematic racial bias.

Community Supports

Community Supports “Navigator”

The community requested and the county will fund a community-based support “Navigator” to work with individuals who want additional support.

Navigator will assist individuals with resources to meet basic needs and provide supportive services as the individual moves through the pretrial process.

Services can include the transportation cost to and from court, clothing, food, childcare and other services/referrals identified by the Navigator.

Sequential Bail Review

Sequential Bail Review

Sequential bail review is the process of reviewing the status of pretrial detained defendants held in-custody on a regular and ongoing basis.

- Determine if there have been any changes to request review of custody status.
- Helps to minimize the jail population.
- Results in better outcomes across the justice system.

Performance Measures and Accountability

Why Measure Performance?

- To ensure accountability – our goal is to examine racial equity in each selected measure.
- To ensure we are operating faithfully to the design and consistent with identified best practices.
- To ensure we are on track to meet goals and objectives.
- To provide feedback necessary to continuously improve.
- To document our results for long-term sustainability.

Some Proposed Performance Measures

1. Pretrial Population



of people arrested through a custodial arrest or citation/summons for a new jailable offense

2. Pretrial Release Population



of people released during the pretrial period (not in jail, but released to the community)

3. Pretrial Release Rate



% of pretrial population who released or in the community while awaiting case disposition

4. Court Appearance Rate



% of people who were not issued a warrant for failure to appear (FTA) during pretrial release

5. Arrest-Free Rate



% of people who were not arrested for a new jailable offense during pretrial release

6. Violent Arrest-Free Rate



% of people who were not arrested for a new jailable violent offense during pretrial release

7. Detained Pretrial Population



of people in pretrial detention on any given day

All measures will be tracked by race and evaluated for equitable outcomes.

Adult Detention Center Data Dashboard

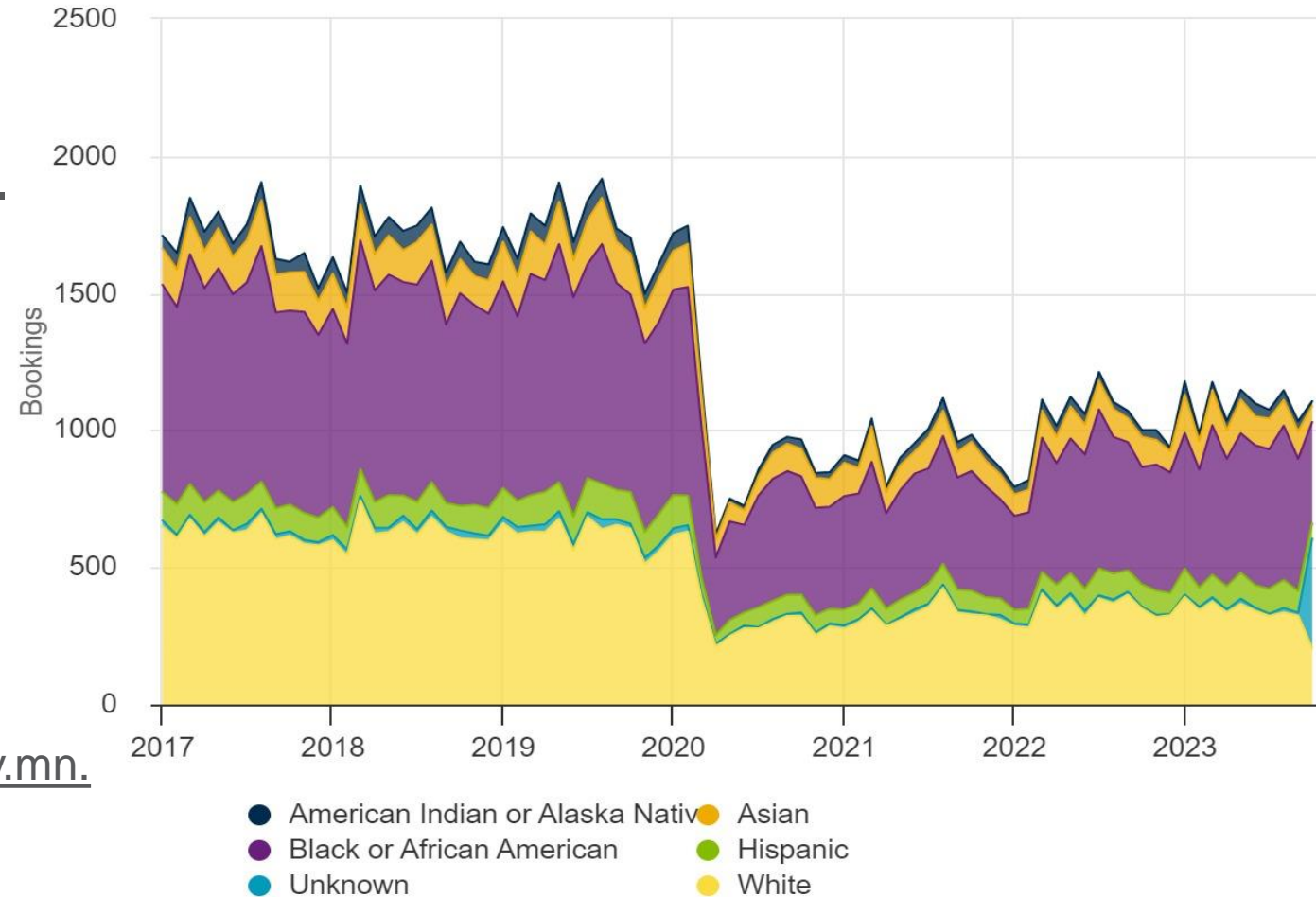
Characteristics

- Historical data from 2017-present.
- Searchable.
- All data available by race and gender.
- Data updated monthly.
- Dashboard location:

<https://aduldetentioncenterdashboard.co.ramsey.mn.us/Bookings>

Bookings Over Time By Race

Booked Between Jan 2017 - Oct 2023



Next Steps

How can you become involved?

Staying Involved Information

- How to join the BRWG or Executive Committee
- BRWG mailbox: bailreformworkinggroup@co.ramsey.mn.us
- [Bail Reform Work Group Webpage](#)

2024 BRWG Meeting Dates

- March 6 (Location TBD).
- June 5 (Location TBD).
- September 4 (Location TBD).
- December 4 (Town Hall).

Thank you

Contact Information for this event:

Richard Stevens: Bail Reform Work Group Coordinator
Email: bailreformworkinggroup@co.ramsey.mn.us

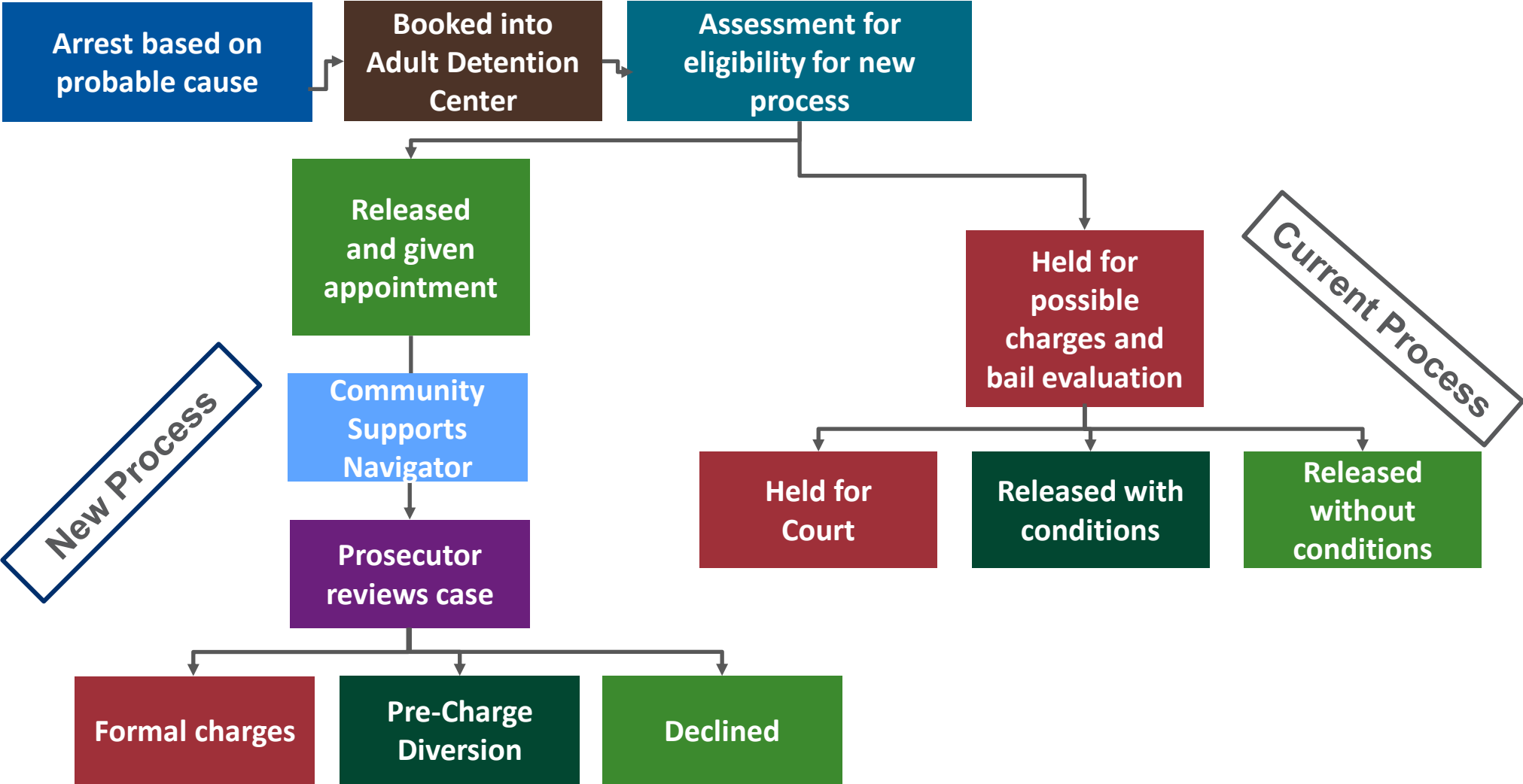
Resources

Additional Resources

- Technical Assistance Partners:
 - Advancing Pretrial Policy and Research (APPR).
 - Research in Action (RIA).
- Bail Reform Work Group current information.
- Adult Detention Center Data Dashboard.

Handouts

Proposed Pretrial Process



County Allocated Resources

- **Community Supports (\$1,000,000 over 4 Years)**
 - Community-Based Navigator.
 - Engagement Events (Town Halls & Bail Reform Work).
 - Support Costs.
- **Staffing Resources (\$750,000 over 4 Years)**
 - 1 Full time person to the Office of Safety and Justice.
 - 1 Full time person to the Sheriff's Office.
- **Data Support, Website and Maintenance (\$280,000 over 4 Years)**
 - Bail Reform Data support.
 - Adult Detention Center web base Jail Roster development.
 - Adult Detention Center Data Dashboard maintenance.
- **Adult Detention Center Phone Fees (\$1,600,00 over 4 Years)**
 - Sheriff Office exploring ways to reduce or eliminate phone fees.