



# RAMSEY COUNTY

## **Ramsey County Board Workshop:**

### ***Innovations in Prosecution***

Office of the Ramsey County Attorney



July 23, 2019

Estimated Start: 10:00 a.m.

220 Courthouse, Large Conference Room

## **Agenda**

1. Introduction of County Attorney Staff      John Choi, County Attorney
2. Innovations in Prosecution                      John Choi, County Attorney
3. Discussion and Questions

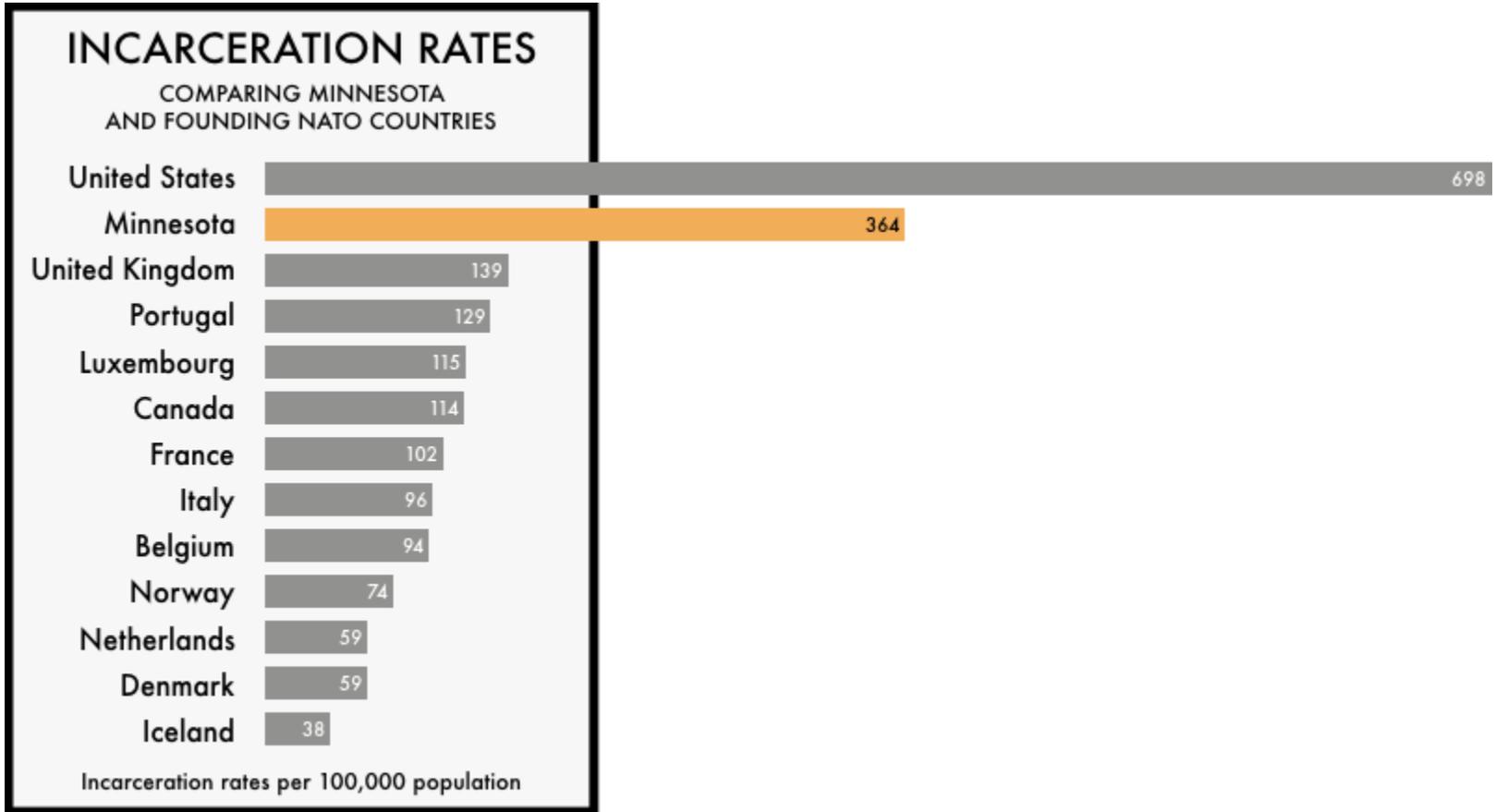
# Ramsey County Attorney Innovations in Prosecution



# Assembly Line Analogy



# Mass Incarceration and Racial Disparities



Source: <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/global/2018.html>

# Mass Incarceration and Racial Disparities



# 2018 Law Enforcement Leaders To Reduce Crime and Incarceration Convening



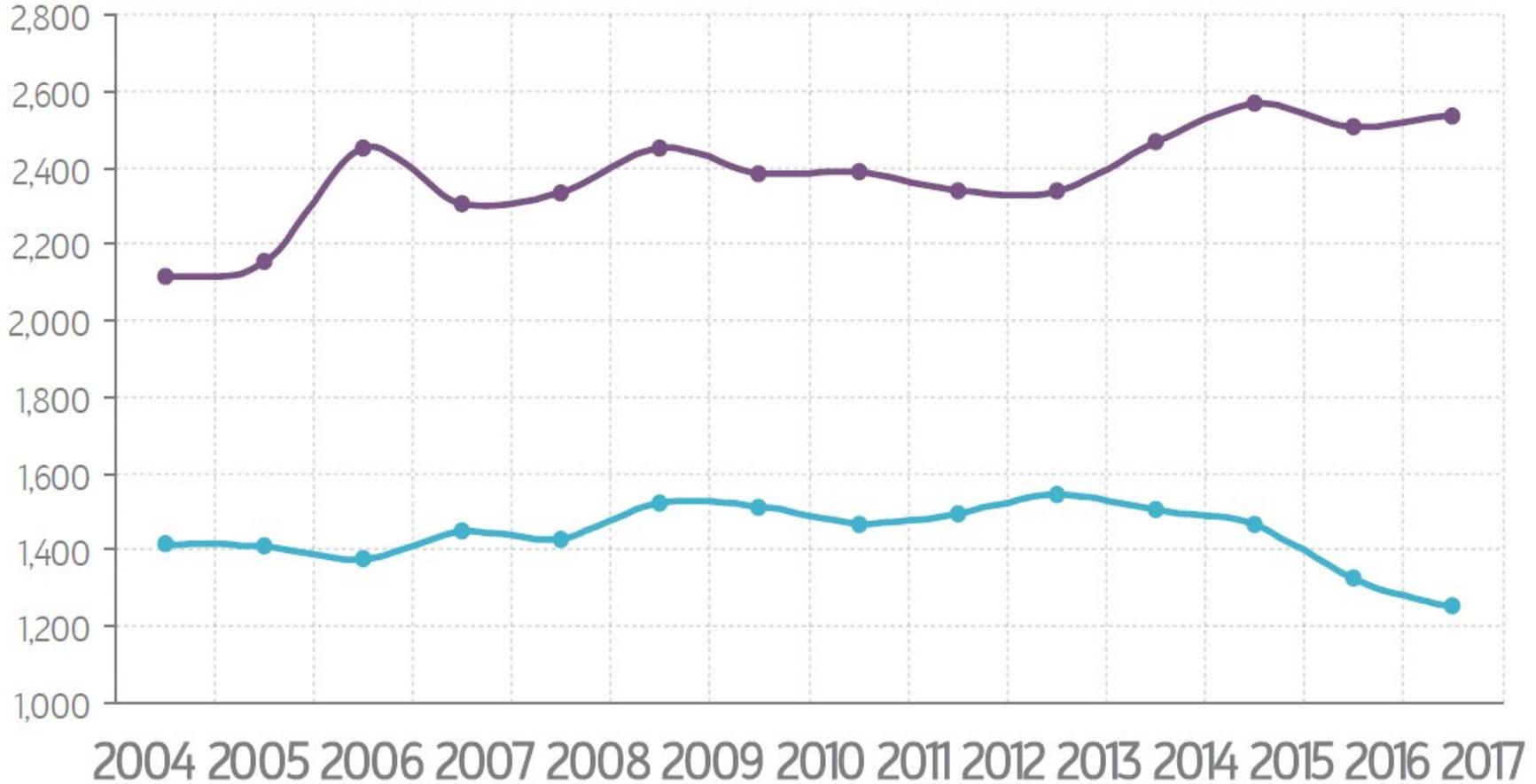
# Dignity, Racial Justice, and Prosecution

June 5, 2019 - Montgomery, Alabama



# Historical Prison Commits from Ramsey 2004-2017

## >> Adult Prison Population from Hennepin & Ramsey Counties



- Prison Population from Hennepin County, MN
- Prison Population from Ramsey County, MN

## Role of the Prosecutor

- RCAO Mission
- MN State Law, ABA and NDAA Standards
- Elected Prosecutor (uniquely American)
  - Evolution of Community Interest and Engagement Around Criminal Justice Reform
- Work with IIP, Vera and Square One Project
  - Frequent Utilizers
  - Officer-Involved Fatalities
  - Reimagine Justice
  - Embracing human dignity; Correcting racial injustice; Reimagining prosecution

## Adult Pre-Trial Justice Reform

- January 2018, Pre-Trial Justice Institute
- Early Intervention Pre-Charge Diversion and Deferred Prosecution
- Treatment Courts
- Bail Fund and Reform of Pre-trial Detention Practices
- Law Enforcement Diversion at Booking

## Post-Conviction Justice Reform

- Collateral Consequences and Deportation
- Prosecutor Expungement
- Probation Reform (Legislation and Robina Institute)
  - Better Probation Outcomes
- Sentencing Mitigation Information

## Transparency

- Prosecution Policies
- Data Dashboard
- Adult Prosecution Racial Disparities Analysis through Vera Institute for Justice
- Proactive Community Engagement

## Building New Paradigms

- Relationship with the Public Defender
- Relationship with the Community with special emphasis on Impacted Communities
- Relationship with the Police
- Less Adversarial and More Restorative
- Tracking and Measuring Different Things

## Building New Paradigms

- Proximity and Human Dignity
  - Restorative Circles
- Victim and Offender Connection
- Parsimony
- Improved Outcomes
  - Public Safety
  - Rehabilitation / Change in Behavior
  - Quality of Justice for All
  - Procedural Justice

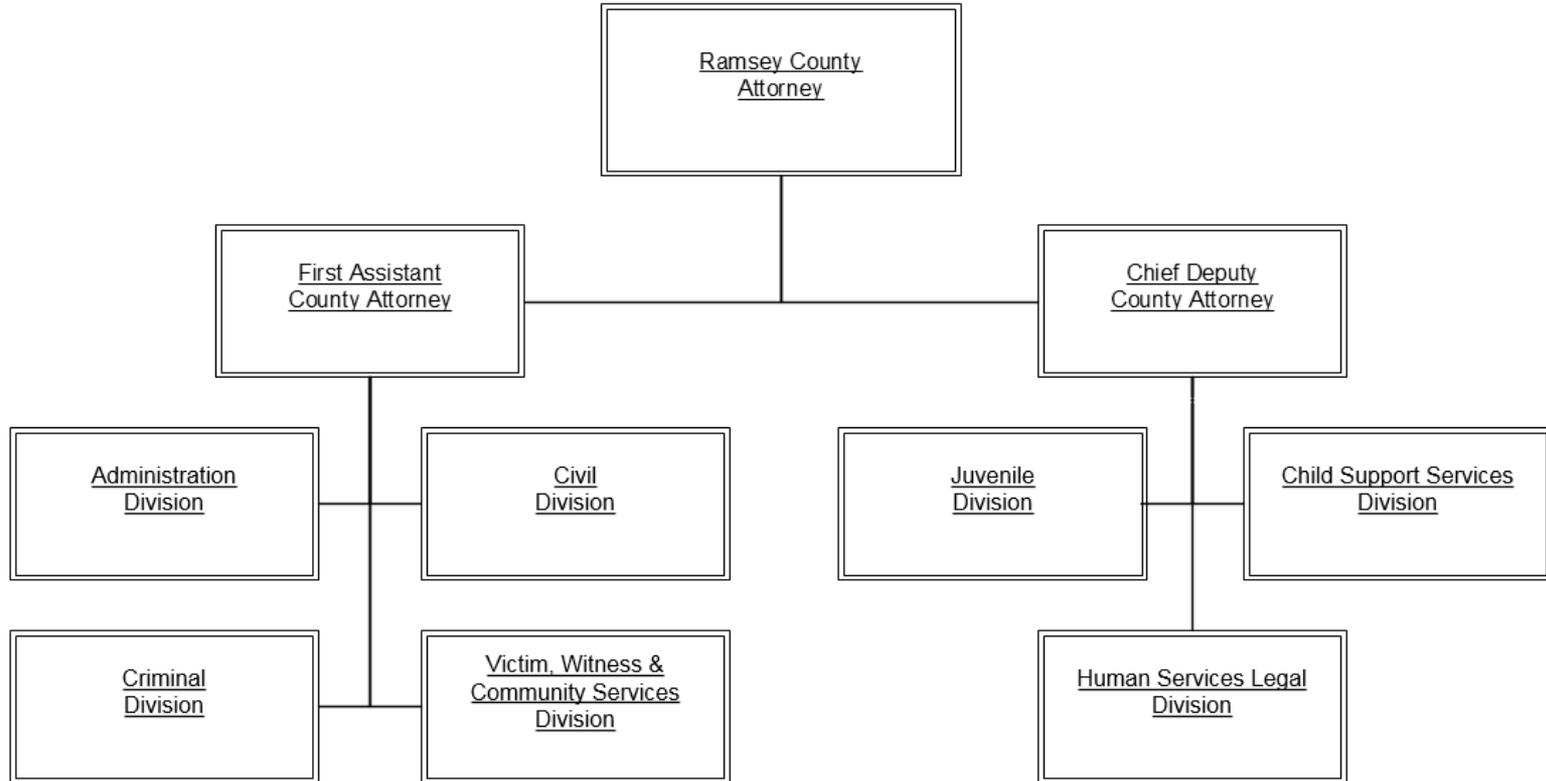
# June 2019 Yellow Medicine County Site Visit



## Reimagining Justice for Youth

- Restorative Justice / Circle Process
- Joint Collaboration with Public Defender
- Site Visit to Yellow Medicine County
- Community Engagement through Restorative Circles
- Earlier Intervention
- Multi-Disciplinary which includes Community
- More Restorative Less Adversarial
- Less Adjudication of Youth

# County Attorney Re-Organization



## Other Initiatives – Health and Wellness

- Child Support Program
- Child Protection
  - Restorative Circles (Yellow Medicine County Site Visit)
  - Family Reunification Act
  - Dual Track Cases with Prosecution
- Civil Commitment and Rule 20 Cases
- Better Connections with Community Corrections and Public Health

## RCAO's New Employee, Norie

- Purpose to help calm and assist in forming connections with victims and witnesses
- The criminal justice system can be stressful to encounter
- Purebred golden retriever
- Two years old
- Trained by Helping Paws



# Discussion and Questions