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
Assembly Line Analogy
Mass Incarceration and Racial Disparities

INCARCERATION RATES
COMPARING MINNESOTA AND FOUNDING NATO COUNTRIES

- United States: 698
- Minnesota: 364
- United Kingdom: 139
- Portugal: 129
- Luxembourg: 115
- Canada: 114
- France: 102
- Italy: 96
- Belgium: 94
- Norway: 74
- Netherlands: 59
- Denmark: 59
- Iceland: 38

Incarceration rates per 100,000 population

Source: https://www.prisonpolicy.org/global/2018.html
Mass Incarceration and Racial Disparities

MINNESOTA INCARCERATION RATES BY RACE/ETHNICITY, 2010
(Number of people incarcerated per 100,000 people in that racial/ethnic group)

Source: Calculated from U.S. Census 2010 Summary File 1. Incarceration populations are all types of correctional facilities in a state, including federal and state prisons, local jails, halfway houses, etc. Statistics for Whites are for Non-Hispanic Whites.
2018 Law Enforcement Leaders To Reduce Crime and Incarceration Convening
Historical Prison Commits from Ramsey
2004-2017
Adult Prison Population from Hennepin & Ramsey Counties

Data source: Minnesota Department of Corrections, 2004-2017
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

- Ramsey County Attorney
  - First Assistant County Attorney
    - Administration Division
    - Criminal Division
  - Civil Division
  - Victim, Witness & Community Services Division
- Chief Deputy County Attorney
  - Juvenile Division
  - Child Support Services Division
  - Human Services Legal Division
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