

Timeline of Significant Events, Milestones, and important activities related to Montana's Pilot Pretrial Project 2017-2022

April 2017

***House Bill 59 passed by the Montana Legislature and provided funding to establish pilot projects. (3-7-208 MCA).**

- Introductory meeting with Chief Justice McGrath, Court Administrator Beth McLaughlin, Becky Busaka, Mike Ferriter, Pam Bunke. Meeting included discussion of project objectives and potential pilot counties.
- Discussed milestones reviewed outline provided by the court
- Pretrial University attendance by Pam for six weeks
- Initialed work on policy and procedures
- Pam Bunke enrolls and complete training via "Pretrial University"

May 2017

- It was determined that the project would review three pretrial assessments, Colorado's, Virginia's, and the public Safety Assessment (PSA) for possible use in Montana
- Project task list developed
- Initial contact with LJAF (Arnold Foundation) and started communicating electronically with LIAF representative Virginia Bersch
- Project focused on the Public Safety Assessment (PSA) instrument, due to ease of use, no staff required for interviews, evidence/research. I am supporting the value of the instrument.
- Conference call with Virginia Bersch regarding LIAF accepting Montana as a PSA site
- Determined need for letters of support from key stakeholders to LJAF to accept Montana
- It was determined that an alternative to gain the support from LJAF was to pay \$300,000 to Utah company to develop an assessment interest for Montana
- Letters of support from key stakeholders including the chief Justice, Governor, and Legislators, received and send to LJAF.
- Chief Justice McGrath provided initial goals for the project. The goals included getting the project started as soon as possible and to ensure we utilize an instrument that is evidence based.
- Chief Justice McGrath indicated that the counties of Missoula, Yellowstone, Lake, Lewis and Clark and possibly Butte/Silverbow be considered for the project. His suggestion was based on jail population issues as well as counties experiencing large court backlog.

June 2017

- Project staff completes six-week training via "Pretrial University: on a variety of topics including: Legal foundations of pretrial, Risk Assessments, Pretrial Justice/History of pretrial and Risk Management and Effective Bail Hearings

July 2017

- Budget is developed and roles of project managers clarified.
- Statutory required Advisory Committee is appointed by Chief Justice McGrath Advisory Council selection by Chief Justice and Court Administrator completed on 7-12-17 with the following

selection:

-Judge Salvagni, Chairman, Judge Gustafson, Judge Holloway, State Representative Patelis, County Attorney Twito, State Senator Wolken, Sheriff Dutton and Public Defender Administrator Freeborn

August 2017

- Missoula County Stakeholders meeting

September 2017

- First Advisory Committee meeting held
- LJAF consultants present implementation plan to Advisory Board
- Fact sheet for PSA developed

October 2017

- Working Committee meeting. Included site visit by consultants and LJAF attorney to address and determine “violence list”
- Advisory Committee conference call to finalize budget distribution among the five pilot counties
- MOU signed with LJAF now known as Arnold Ventures
- Business model downloaded into software to perform PSA
- Wrote vision, objectives, and mission statement for PTS

November 2017

- Working Committee met on two separate occasions to continue work on “violence list” and work on Decision Making Framework (DMF) and gain information on the AutoMon system.
- Deployment of plan including decision related to pilot counties and contractors
- Plan solidified for judges training and county staff
- Discussion related to data collection and project outcome measure
- Start of work related to project policies and procedures
- Montana violence definition determined

December 2017

- Ordered AutoMon software
- Found room for processors
- Ordered CJIN terminals
- Ordered processor equipment
- Wrote position description for processors
- Posted position description
- Drafted interagency agreements for pilot counties

January 2018

- Quality assurance developed
- Working committee met with LJAF consultants including bail expert Tim Schnacke. DMF finalized

February 2018

- Working committee meets via conference call
- Advisory Committee met in Bozeman. Work related to the DMF presented by members of Working Committee, legislature talking points addressed

April 2018

- DMF created
- First CM Conference call
- Developed budget narrative for pilots
- Testing PSA
- Hiring processors started for processors
- Lake went live with PSAs

May 2018

- Missoula went live with PSAs
- BSB went live with PSAs
- L&C went live with PSAs

June 2018

- Working committee met via conference call on two separate occasions

July 2018

- Advisory committee met in Bozeman
- Yellowstone went live with PSAs

September 2018

- Working Committee meet via conference call

October 2018

- Decision Making Framework (DMF) revised to eliminate level "0". Change approved by both Working and Advisory Committees
- New members appointed to Advisory Committee. Advisory Committee members include Leo Dutton Alex Beal, Nate McConnell, Michael Moses, Barry Usher, Rhonda Schaffer, Scott Twito and Chair Mike Salvagni
- Criteria developed for performing PSA.
- Violence list determined
- Drafted PMR

November 2018

- Preliminary pretrial project data analysis completed
- Advisory Committee met in Butte to review data. Consultants present project recommendations and finalize their role with project.

December 2018

- Working Committee met to discuss consultant's project recommendations.

January 2019

- Consultant's report finalized and adopted
- Draft working "timeline" developed from consultant's recommendations. Timeline to serve as foundation for project strategic planning.
- 2019 Montana Legislature convenes. HB 110 is presented to legislature extending pretrial project and clarifies that the project has the authority to conduct assessments on both felony and misdemeanor offenses.
- Court Administrator's office requests funding for project at same level as in 2017.

April 2019

- 2019 Montana Legislature ends
- HB 110 and pretrial project funding both approved by legislature and governor

May 2019

- Supreme Court Administrator Beth McLaughlin prepares and provides memorandum to pretrial project stakeholders outlining outcomes of the 2019 legislature. Memorandum includes data shared with the 2019 legislature and expectations for the project in preparation for the 2021 Montana legislature.
- Working Committee reappointed, committee members include Lisa Ereth, Kellie McBride, Kelly Speer, Joel Thompson, Alex Hall, Jason Marks, James Lapotka, Eldena Bear Don't Walk, Ben Pezdark, Leo Gallagher and Alan Hughes
- Working Committee met via conference call

June 2019

- Public Defender Training takes place in both Billings and Missoula. Training provided by Scott West, Public Advocate for the Kentucky Department of Public Advocacy

September 2019

- Limited Court Judges meeting related to the pretrial project, meeting held in Kalispell

February 2020

- Updated MCA codes in AutoMon to flag for violent charge and PFMA bump up
- Case cleanup in AutoMon for BSB, Lake, and Missoula counties

March 2020

- Case Managers meeting held in Helena
- Start of daily count of booking sheets per Beth's request

April 2020

- Case Managers meeting held via conference call

June 2021

- Presentation to Lewis and Clark Coordinating Council

July 2021

- Judge Mark Spitzer training for Case Managers
- Judge Mark Spitzer presents to 52 Montana Public Defenders

September 2021

- Working Committee Meeting

October 2021

- Meeting and Interagency Agreement presentation to Missoula Judges

December 2021

- Pretrial Training District Court Judges
- Pretrial Training County Attorneys
- Pretrial Training Limited Court Judges
- Meeting with Lake County stakeholders to review Interagency Agreement
- Case Managers Meeting
- Stakeholders Meeting lake County

January 2022

- Stakeholder Meeting Yellowstone County
- Preliminary Pretrial discussion with Ravalli County S.O.
- Advisory Committee Meeting held on 1/20/22
- New Pretrial Release Guide (PRG) went into effect on 1/1/2022

February 2022

- Order in the Matter of the Pretrial Supervision Advisory Committee – Appointment 2/15/22
- CJIN Compliance Audit on 2/25/22. The audit found our agency to be in full compliance in all areas.

March 2022

- Meeting with Ravalli County stakeholders and Missoula city judges on 3/5/22
- Pretrial Advisory Committee Meeting on 3/25/22

April 2022

- Lisa Irvin completed CJIN recertification

May 2022

- Meeting with Gallatin County Judge, Attorney and Pretrial Director on 5/17.

June 2022

- MLEA Training for 8 new Pre-Trial Officers (Ravalli, Gallatin, Missoula, Yellowstone, and Lewis and Clark Counties)
- County Interagency Agreements Finalized and signed

September 2022

- Mike Ferriter, Judge Michael Swingley, Judge David Carter, and Senator Chris Friedel attended the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies (NAPSA) 49th Annual Conference and Training Institute, September 18-21, Atlanta, GA

October 2022

- Added Missoula Municipal Court to Pretrial Program
- Target Technical Assistant Training with Mike Jones

January 2023

- Ravalli County signed Interagency Agreement with OCA
- Budget Hearing re Pretrial Pilot Program Held

February 2023

- Started processing PSAs for Ravalli County on Feb 21

May 2023

- Started processing PSAs for Billings Municipal Court on May 8
- Budget approved by legislature for 2 years

June 2023

- New Pretrial Officers Training Completed on June 19

September 2023

- Interagency Agreements completed and signed by all participating counties.

December 2023

- CJIN Compliance Audit on 12/14/2023. The auditors found our agency to be in full compliance in all areas.

February 2024

- Order in the Matter of the Pretrial Supervision Advisory Committee – Appointment 2/20/24

March 2024

- As of 3/4/2024 – 25,376 PSAs completed