

GENERAL OUTLINE OF KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are based on presentations during Task Force meetings, and meetings with individual Task Force members.

1. Amend Chapter 29 Article 3 to require a unique biometric identifier for criminal justice participants to be used by all criminal justice partners. Funding the purchase of fingerprint machines for all county jails is also essential to maximize the utility of the automated fingerprint identification system.

2. Design a statewide framework to support, encourage and accomplish information sharing among criminal justice partners to inform a) data-driven policing, b) evidence-based public policy decisions at the local, county and state level, and c) real-time evaluation of criminal justice processes, outputs and outcomes.

3. Amend behavioral health confidentiality laws to allow access to mental health information necessary for the continuity of care of a criminal justice participant, and for de-identified research necessary to evaluate the efficacy of behavioral health programs associated with the criminal justice system.

4. Require criminal justice partners, and contractors to use or develop evidence-based best practices performance measures.

5. Consider an oversight body to monitor performance measures and assist with access to data essential for real-time evaluation of programs.

6. Amend Section 31-16A-4 to increase prosecutorial discretion regarding pre-prosecution probation, expanding the use of specialty courts such as drug courts, and minimize or eliminate financial barriers to a person's participation in such programs.

7. Fund Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion programs and crisis intervention teams.

8. Support the funding of transitional/re-entry homes either as government operated residential programs or halfway houses that adhere to evidence-based best practices.

9. Consider expanding loan forgiveness programs to assist with the recruitment and retention of law enforcement officers, prosecutors, public defenders, corrections officers, and mental health workers.

10. Device methods to reward criminal justice workers who are eligible to retire or are retired but would like to return to work so that they remain employed or return to work. One method is return-to-work legislation that allows a retiree to return to work at an entry level salary without jeopardizing retirement, while still contributing to retirement programs.

11. Provide funds to develop or improve pretrial service programs throughout New Mexico.

12. Supplement funding of the PAX Good Behavior Game program for those first-grade classes that want to implement the program.

13. Create performance-incentive grant programs to support county, municipal and other political subdivisions efforts to recruit and retain law enforcement officers, have pretrial services, and expand and improve treatment and supervision alternatives to incarceration, conditioned on their sharing data, using evidence-based best practices, and evaluating programs real-time.