

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF PRETRIAL SERVICES

Volume 3, Issue 3

December 2017

Letter from the President



Hello and Happy Holidays!

We come to the end of an exceptional year in the field of Pretrial Services and Pretrial Justice. We hope you enjoy the articles and information in this latest release of the TAPS Newsletter. The newsletter is being brought to you by the hard work, creativity and dedication of the TAPS members. We hope you consider

sharing your thoughts and ideas by submitting an article. Also we are still looking for an editor to help assure we continue to provide current information to our members. Please contact a TAPS Board Member or Regional Representative if you would like to contribute to the newsletter.

I am happy to announce that the TAPS Board of Directors is making great progress in organizing the 2018 5th Annual TAPS Conference and Training Institute at the Moody Gardens Hotel in Galveston, Texas April 19-20, 2018. We have little doubt that this conference will be the best one yet. The conference sessions and presenters will continue our tradition of providing conference participants with interesting, relevant, and high quality information. Along with the information provided during the conference sessions, the TAPS conference is an opportunity to create and/or strengthen working relationships with other Pretrial Services professionals in Texas and around the country. These relationships are at the core of our power as an organization in advancing the field of Pretrial Services in Texas.

Your participation in the conference is essential to our success. We hope you are able to join us for the 5th Annual TAPS Conference and hope you will encourage other stakeholder to join us.

Best Regards,
Gerald Rodriguez, Jr., President
Texas Association of Pretrial Services

"We've proven it can work without money, but the whole country continues as if in a trance to do what we know does not work."

*Truman Morrison
D.C. Superior Court Judge*

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TAPS NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED

The Texas Association of Pretrial Services is seeking an enthusiastic, innovative newsletter editor to coordinate the publication of the TAPS Newsletter.

The newsletter is published four times a year and is distributed electronically to our members and supporters. The term of the position is usually around two years. Please consider volunteering if you have an interest in editing, writing, graphic design and most importantly if you have an interest in sharing important Pretrial Services information and news from around the State of Texas with our members and supporters. The TAPS Board is ready to lend lots of support in the process.

If you are interested and/or want to learn more about the position, please contact any of the board members or email our TAPS secretary:

Aurora Roberts

Aurora.Roberts@pts.hctx.net





*Texas Association
Of
Pretrial Services*

**FIFTH ANNUAL
CONFERENCE AND
TRAINING INSTITUTE**

APRIL 19-20, 2018
MOODY GARDENS HOTEL
GALVESTON, TX

**REGISTRATION AND MEMBERSHIP
INFORMATION AT
WWW.TEXASPRETRIAL.ORG**



BELL COUNTY VETERANS COURT

By Linda Ingraham
Director, Bell County Pretrial Services

The Bell County Veterans Court is primarily a pretrial diversion program dealing mainly with misdemeanor offenses. Some misdemeanants and felons on community supervision may also be referred to the veterans court program. Also some felons may be referred as a condition of pre-trial bond.

The defense attorney representing the misdemeanor defendant submits an application to the Bell County Indigent Defense Office requesting that the defendant be considered for admission in the Bell County Veterans Court program.

The Bell County Attorney's Office established the eligibility criteria for participation in the Bell County Veterans Court program.

If the Bell County Attorney's Office determines that the defendant meets the eligibility criteria for participation in the program, the County Attorney's Office will refer the defendant to the CSCD in order to assess the risk level of the defendant, screen for post traumatic stress disorder/traumatic brain injury/depression/substance abuse or other disability or condition stemming from the person serving in the United States Armed Forces.

The candidate for the veterans court program must bring his/her DD-214 and if receiving VA benefits, proof of eligibility and a VA assessment form.

In order to be considered for the veterans court program, the defendant must satisfactorily demonstrate the his/her wartime disability or condition contributed to the commission of the offense for which s/he is charged.

If the County Attorney finds that the applicant would be a suitable participant in the Bell County Veterans Court, the County Attorney submits a referral to the Judge of the Veterans Court. The Judge will staff the referral with the Veterans Court team. If the Judge approves acceptance into the Veterans Court program the Judge will sign an Order of Acceptance.

The Veterans Court Judge may impose special conditions for participating in the veterans court program.

Participants of the Veterans Court Program are supervised by the Bell County Community Supervision and Corrections Department and Bell County Pretrial

Services. Each veteran in the program will be required to pay a monthly supervision fee of \$60.00 to the department.

The veterans court team shall consist of a veterans court coordinator, veterans court hearings officer, a supervision officer, treatment providers, a defense attorney, a prosecutor, director of Pretrial Services, a VJO employee, as well as the Veterans Court Judge.

The Bell County Veterans Court holds hearings twice a month on Tier Two and once a month on Tier One participants. Participants in the veteran court program will be required to meet weekly with some of the veterans court team.

The Veterans Courts Program shall last at least one year. The program shall consist of three phases.

- Phase One is for two months.
- Phase Two is for four months.
- Phase Three is for six months.

Upon completion of the program and graduation, the County Attorney's Office will be notified and all charges resulting in the pre-trial diversion and placement in the veterans court program shall be dismissed.

The Veterans Court program for felony offenders on community supervision may last longer. This program will include a court-ordered aftercare component.

Unsuccessful Discharge from Veterans Court

If a decision has been made that the defendant has not successfully participated in or completed the Veterans Court, the Veterans Court Judge prepares an order of discharge from the program to be filed in the Court's file. While every situation cannot be foreseen it is the team's overall recommendation that once an individual has not successfully participated in or completed the Veterans Court program and an order is signed by the Judge discharging participation in Veterans Court, those individuals will not be allowed back in.

The case is then be referred back to the Bell County Attorney's Office for further disposition.

Dallas County Smart Justice Jail Diversion Initiative

By Michael Laughlin, LPC-S, LCDC, CPSP

Dallas County is home to 2.6 million residents, and has an average county jail population hovering in the low 5,000s. About 25-30% of those in jail have been identified as suffering from chronic and serious mental illness, often needlessly resulting in their arrest and jailing, making Dallas Counties' Jail the second largest mental health (MH) treatment facility in Texas, second only to Houston's Harris County Jail. Most recent data show over 4,000 local residents each year suffer from complex health needs, trapped in "super-utilization" of local resources, and frequently cycling in and out of jail, shelters, emergency response systems, and the like. So many of these can be safely identified, assessed and diverted to treatment-oriented pretrial bond supervision and human services in the community with more effective processes, and the right treatment services, resources, and oversight.

That has been the primary goal of our Dallas County Smart Justice Initiative that originated in 2015 via a \$1 million planning grant from the [W.W. Caruth Jr. Foundation](#) at the Communities Foundation of Texas (Caruth) to the [Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute](#) (MMHPI) in partnership with [Dallas County, Parkland Hospital](#), the [Justice Center](#) of the Council of State Governments (CSG), the [Caruth Police Institute](#), and the [Parkland Center for Clinical Innovation](#). The grant is working to strategically redesign and reform various criminal justice and treatment system "Intercept" points ([GAINS Center](#)) that will also improve pre-arrest diversion, including assistance to local law enforcement that will soon contain imbedded, diversion-focused clinical staff in the process.

With the assistance of CSG and others, a sub-grant to Dallas County has led to crucial Judicial and executive leadership that resulted in 2-stage planning involving a comprehensive system process and data sequential intercept-mapping analysis (from pre-arrest through bond release and supervision/treatment) culminating in an assessment report and business sustainability plan, later with input from local stakeholders. Those plan recommendations served as a main source for MMHPI's July 2016 grant proposal that resulted in a 3 year, \$7 million Caruth implementation grant award in October 2016. This now includes an implementation sub-grant partnership with Dallas County to redesign pretrial assessment and criminogenic risk/need-driven bond processes, supervision strategies, and improved treatment connection and services. Additionally, a large portion of funding is going to enhanced risk-focused treatment providers during bond supervision to improve stability, treatment results, Court hearing engagement, and recidivism.

This implementation grant also funds project staff and operating costs along with initially 5 new MHPR bond pretrial officers, and soon another 5 officers who are working together to advance grant implementation. The revised protocols and new staff assets are working collaboratively with the Courts, Judges, defense attorneys, prosecutors, court administrators, and treatment providers to execute the new pretrial bond interview and actuarial risk tool processes ([Ohio Pretrial Risk Assessment](#) – ORAS PAT) and clinical assessment/recommendation which results in a bond report and release recommendations to the Magistrate by way of a newly dedicated Smart Justice docket each weekday afternoon. Risk and treatment-based bond release decisions are made based on the ability to manage the defendant (with or without conditions) in the community, and the availability of, and their willingness to engage in, stable treatment and housing plans. Lower risk defendants have minimal monitoring, but most being interviewed currently fall into the moderate risk category with just over 65% overall in need of intensive or standard outpatient treatment services (often also lacking housing).

Since the April 2017 start of the beta test through September 2017, we have screened all 30,824 defendants booked in identifying 6,737 potential MH bond candidates with 1,036 of these ordered for assessment after undergoing criminal record review, resulting in 286 of those not already released being presented to the Magistrate for review, and ultimately placing 247 of these on MH PR bond, generally with conditions (many requiring structured release processes to assist in transition). Our staff and teams continue to meet to work out the bugs and make improvements, but it is clearly heading in the right direction. Primary adaptations now are to mitigate some of the criminal record-based release impediments, and to increase available treatment and housing resources. For more information, please contact Michael Laughlin, Dallas County Smart Justice Jail Diversion Program Manager at Michael.laughlin2@dallascounty.org



NAPSA News

National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies
|www.NAPSA.org

HOLD-THE-DATE **2018 NAPSA CONFERENCE** **COMES TO TEXAS!**

**NAPSA'S 46TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE WILL BE
HELD AUGUST 19-22, 2018
AT THE OMNI HOTEL IN FORT WORTH, TEXAS**

On-Demand

Pretrial Certification Testing

The NAPSA Board of Directors and Education Committee are pleased to announce on-demand testing for its Certified Pretrial Services Professionals (CPSP) Level One certification exam. The twice-yearly exam is being replaced with a new on-line testing platform that allows pretrial professionals to take the exam throughout the year to better meet their individual schedules. Interested persons need to complete necessary forms and make payment to NAPSA. Once approved, practitioners will be provided a link to the testing platform to complete the exam. For more information click [here](#).



The University of Pretrial (UP) is PJI's state-of-the-art online learning community where policymakers and pretrial professionals can learn about the latest data-driven pretrial policies and practices. UP will meet the ever-expanding needs of those committed to reforming pretrial justice in America, and around the world, by facilitating learning, convening a national community of professionals, and offering access to expert assistance.

UP learning communities will explore:

- The law, science, and values of pretrial justice;
- Fundamentals of pretrial system reform;
- Strategies to improve racial, ethnic, and economic pretrial justice; and
- The changing pretrial justice landscape, including legislative action, promising local practices, and pretrial in the news.

As UP grows, pretrial justice professionals and their justice system partners will have on-demand access to diverse and timely information. The 2016 course catalog covers pretrial fundamentals, leading local reform, implementing preventive detention, and more.

Join the conversation with a free Basic Membership! A must for all Pretrial Practitioners!

[Click here to JOIN THE COMMUNITY](#)



EQUIVANT

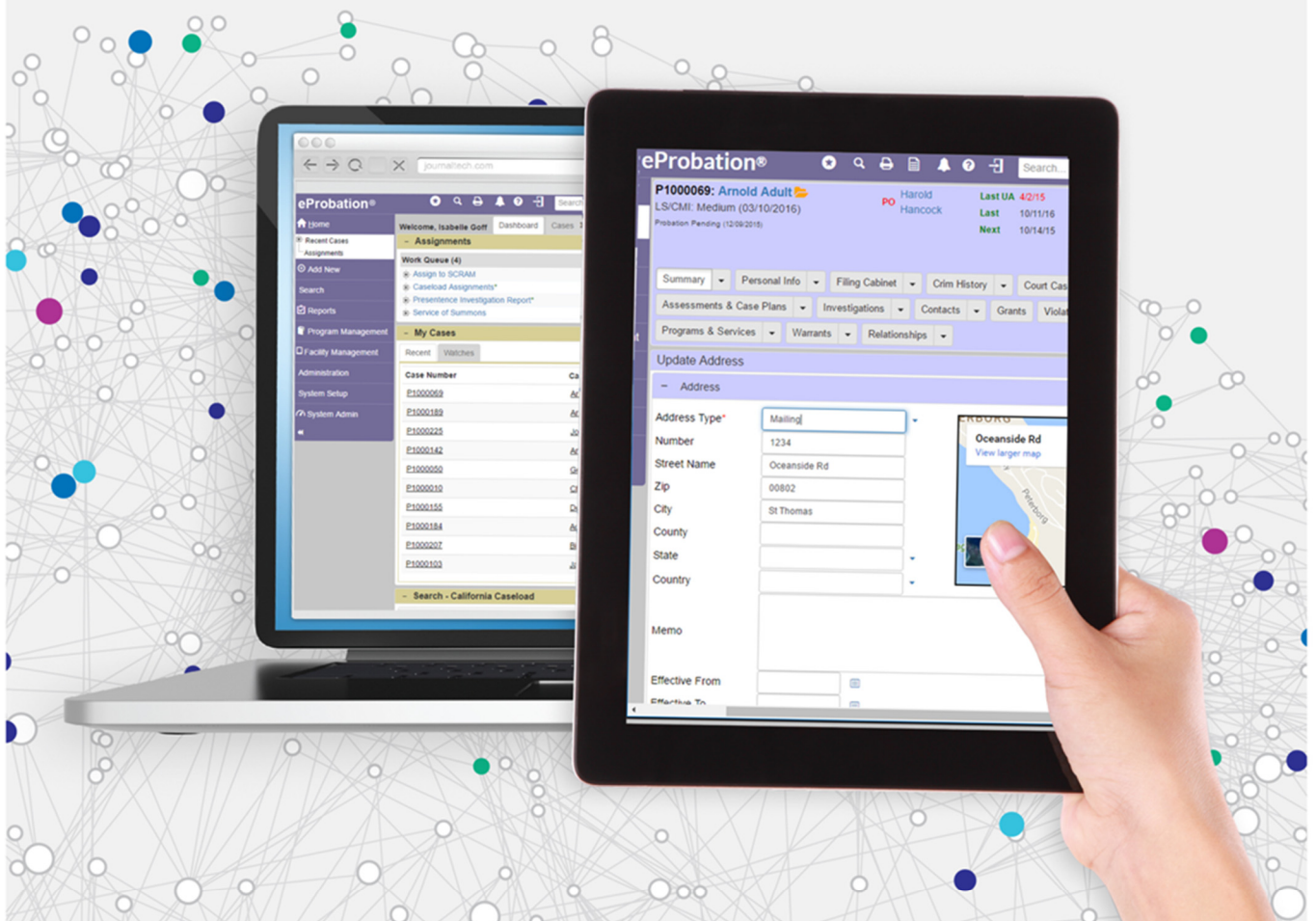
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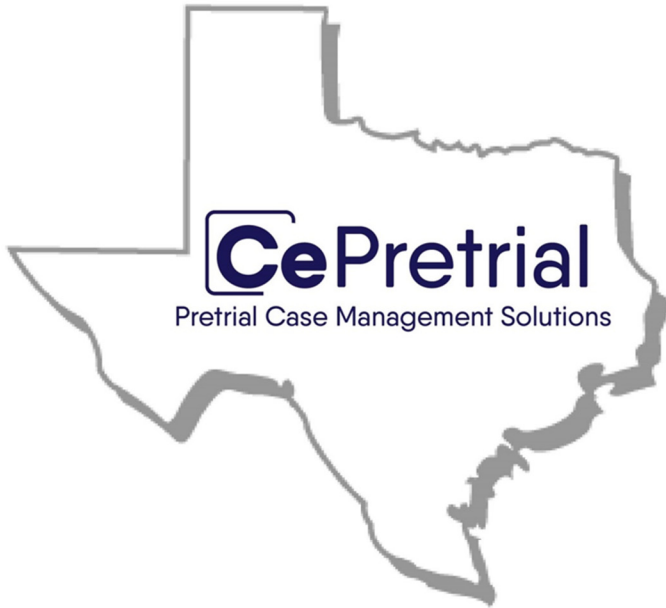
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Innovation

Because our team works directly with the counties, we build specialized solutions that meet county-specific needs. End user feedback is collected throughout the entire project, and continues on an ongoing basis once implemented.



Shared Cost

Since counties save money by sharing the cost of research and development, we can build solutions at a fraction of a cost they might incur through a traditional vendor.



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- Score your release instrument or assessment toll, track qualifying factors for release
- Print Legal forms for the Court – PR Bond Interview, Court Appointed Attorney, Financial Affidavit
- Case Management includes appointments, unit designation, assessment violation and court hearings
- Photographs, document scanning, client texting
- Drug testing, GPS, Ignition Interlock and other conditions are tracked
- Set accrue and collect bond fees via the financial package



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TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF PRETRIAL SERVICES

TAPS Annual Membership Form

(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

NAME:		TITLE:	
***(If organizational – list name of other voting members)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Level I - 1 voting member <input type="checkbox"/> Level II – 2 voting members <input type="checkbox"/> Level III – 3 voting members			
NAME:		TITLE:	
NAME:		TITLE:	
AGENCY:			
AGENCY ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE & ZIP:	
PHONE:		FAX:	
EMAIL:			

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

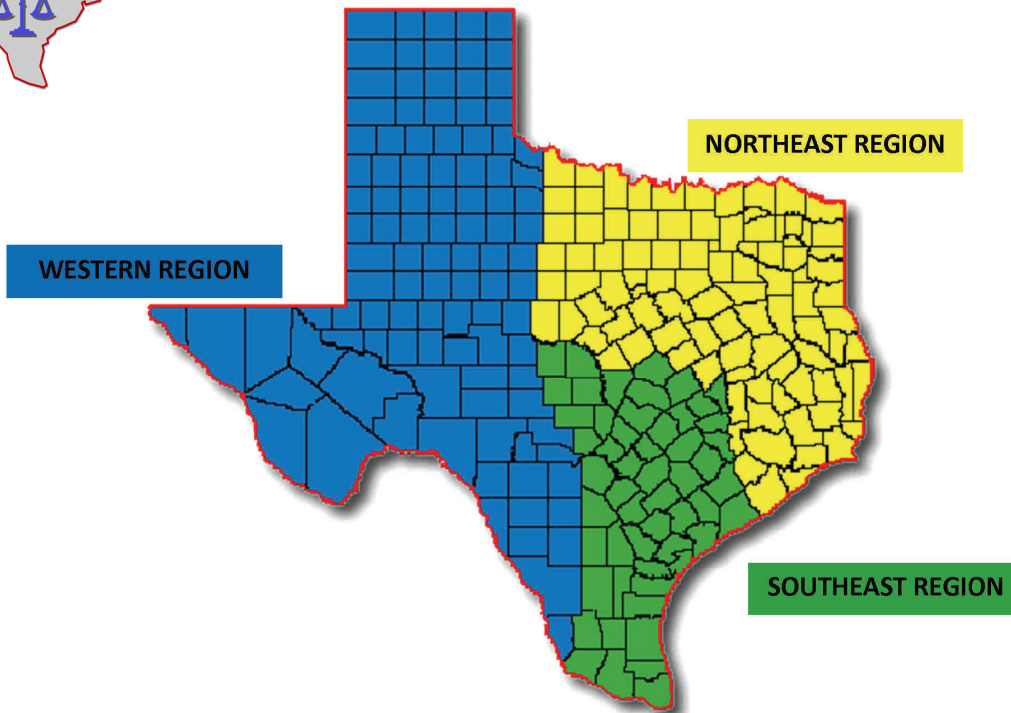
- \$ 35 **Professional** *(An individual employed in the field of Pretrial Services)*
- \$ 25 **Associate** *(An individual not employed in the field of Pretrial Services who subscribes to the purposes and goals of the Association)*
- \$ 25 **Student** *(Full-time Students of criminal justice, law or other related discipline)*
- \$200 **Organizational – Level I** *(A Pretrial Services Agency with 1 – 25 Employees)*
- \$250 **Organizational – Level II** *(A Pretrial Services Agency with 26 – 50 Employees)*
- \$300 **Organizational – Level III** *(A Pretrial Services Agency with over 50 Employees)*
- \$500 **Corporate** *(Person, Association or Business that supports and/or subscribes to the purposes and goals of the Association)*

Make checks payable to: Texas Association of Pretrial Services
 Submit this form along with payment to:

Texas Association of Pretrial Services
P. O. Box 685153
Austin, TX 78768-5153



TAPS Regions



Western Region

Andrews	Gray	Nolan
Armstrong	Hale	Ochiltree
Bailey	Hall	Oldham
Bandera	Hansford	Parmer
Borden	Hardeman	Pecos
Brewster	Hartley	Potter
Briscoe	Haskell	Presidio
Carson	Hemphill	Randall
Castro	Hockley	Reagan
Childress	Howard	Real
Cochran	Hudspeth	Reeves
Coke	Hutchinson	Roberts
Collingsworth	Irion	Runnels
Concho	Jeff Davis	Schleicher
Cottle	Jones	Scurry
Crane	Kent	Sherman
Crockett	Kerr	Sterling
Crosby	Kimble	Stonewall
Culberson	King	Sutton
Dallam	Kinney	Swisher
Dawson	Knox	Taylor
Deaf Smith	Lamb	Terrell
Dickens	LaSalle	Terry
Dimmit	Lipscomb	Tom Green
Donley	Loving	Upton
Ector	Lubbock	Uvalde
Edwards	Lynn	Val Verde
El Paso	Martin	Ward
Fisher	Maverick	Webb
Floyd	Medina	Wheeler
Foard	Menard	Winkler
Frio	Midland	Yoakum
Gaines	Mitchell	Zapata
Garza	Moore	Zavala
Glasscock	Motley	

Northeast Region

Anderson	Hall	Polk
Angelina	Hamilton	Rains
Archer	Hardin	Red River
Baylor	Harris	Robertson
Bosque	Harrison	Rockwall
Bowie	Henderson	Rusk
Brazoria	Hill	Sabine
Brown	Hood	San Augustine
Callahan	Hopkins	San Jacinto
Camp	Houston	Shackelford
Cass	Hunt	Shelby
Chambers	Jack	Smith
Cherokee	Jasper	Somervell
Clay	Jefferson	Stephens
Coleman	Johnson	Tarrant
Collin	Kaufman	Throckmorton
Comal	Lamar	Titus
Comanche	Lampasas	Trinity
Cooke	Leon	Tyler
Coryell	Liberty	Upshur
Dallas	Limestone	Van Zandt
Delta	Madison	Walker
Denton	Marion	Waller
Eastland	McLennan	Wichita
Ellis	Mills	Wilbarger
Erath	Montague	Wise
Falls	Montgomery	Wood
Fannin	Morris	Young
Fort Bend	Nacogdoches	
Franklin	Navarro	
Freestone	Newton	
Galveston	Orange	
Grayson	Palo Pinto	
Gregg	Panola	
Grimes	Parker	

Southeast Region

Aransas	Llano
Atascosa	Mason
Austin	Matagorda
Bastrop	McCulloch
Bee	McMullen
Bell	Milam
Bexar	Nueces
Blanco	Refugio
Brazos	San Patricio
Brooks	San Saba
Burleson	Starr
Caldwell	Travis
Calhoun	Victoria
Cameron	Washington
Colorado	Wharton
Comal	Willacy
Dewitt	Williamson
Duval	Wilson
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Gonzales	
Guadalupe	
Hays	
Hidalgo	
Jackson	
Jim Wells	
Karnes	
Kendall	
Kenedy	
Kleberg	
Lavaca	
Lee	
Live Oak	

What's Happening in Your Agency?

Give us an update on developments in your County. Post open positions and/or let others know what's happening in your program. The TAPS Newsletter allows you to communicate with other Pretrial Practitioners. Take advantage of a great opportunity to share your news. All it cost is the time it takes to write it!

Pretrial Services in the Media:

Pretrial reform a possibility in Delaware

<http://www.capec Gazette.com/article/pretrial-detention-reform-possibility-delaware/145232>

Support for the Yakima County (WA)pretrial services agency

<http://kimatv.com/news/local/study-shows-pretrial-release-program-is-doing-some-good-in-yakima-county>

Why New York City created its own fund to bail people out of jail

<https://www.citylab.com/equity/2017/12/nyc-bail-fund/546155/>

What's happening in Harris County now that the sheriff issues bail bonds?

<https://www.texastribune.org/2017/11/29/heres-whats-happening-harris-county-now-sheriff-issues-bail-bonds/>

Baltimore County (MD) launches a pilot pretrial program

<http://thedailyrecord.com/2017/12/01/baltimore-county-pretrial-pilot/>

Numbers tell the story of Los Angeles' cash bail system

<https://www.scpr.org/news/2017/12/04/78431/5-big-numbers-tell-the-story-of-la-s-cash-bail-sys/>



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