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Letter from The President Gerald Rodriguez  
Exciting Time Under the Dome

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Welcome fellow Pretrial Professionals to the latest installment of the TAPS Newsletter. As an Organization we strive to bring you meaningful information from around the State regarding the field of Pretrial Services. This newsletter is an opportunity for us to connect and share our ideas and experiences.

It continues to be a very busy time in the world of pretrial services. The Texas Legislature is continuing its work on pretrial justice reform and recently held a joint committee hearing between the Committee on County Affairs and the Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence. They invited witness testimony from an amazing group of individuals from the pretrial justice world. They heard testimony from the Chief Justice Nathan Hecht from the Supreme Court of Texas. David Slayton provided detailed testimony on the practice of pretrial release the recommendations from the Office of Court Administration. Professor at Law Sandra G. Thompson provided moving testimony on the impact of pretrial detention. Pretrial Services Directors from around the state shared information about how they operate in their local jurisdictions. This included Mike Lozito, former TAPS President, who did an excellent job providing testimony on the Bexar County initiatives. The Vice President of Criminal Justice for the Arnold Foundation, Matt Alsdorf, was present and provided engaging testimony on the research around risk assessment and the impact of incarceration on recidivism. Testimony from Kentucky regarding their statewide pretrial system was coordinated via video conference.

I was honored to be invited to provide information about our organization and its role in addressing disparities in the application of personal bond release, enhance communication between various pretrial organizations and encouraging the use of appropriate personal bond release practices throughout the State of Texas. In addition, I was able to share with and describe some challenges faced by pretrial service professionals around the state such as limited and timely access to incarcerated defendants, artificial restriction placed by local Judicial Officers that limit who can be considered for pretrial release, and the reluctance of some Magistrates and Judges to release defendants on personal bond. This joint hearing is another example of the potential for positive change in pretrial justice reform.

I am excited to be working in the field of pretrial services at this time in our history. I also wanted to mention that the TAPS Board of Directors had met in Austin 9/23/16 to continue work on the next annual conference. The 2017 Conference in Bexar County is shaping up to be a very special event. We have been focused on expanding our coalition of support around pretrial services. We will share information with you about the conference as soon as it becomes available. I hope you enjoy the newsletter and find the articles enjoyable and informative.

\*\*\*\*\*



How are things done in your county? Let us know. Send an email providing information on your department, how it's structured, how things work and what you do. Part of working as a team is getting to know your teammates. So come on, share your story! [wlongoria@bexar.org](mailto:wlongoria@bexar.org)



Having the Pre-Trial Bond program in Caldwell County has had many positive effects on defendants that were able to maintain stability through receiving a Pre-Trial bond.

## Caldwell County Pre-Trial Program

By \*April Craig (Caldwell)



Caldwell County is a rural County 30 minutes Southeast of Austin, Texas. Lockhart, the county seat, has a population of about 12,700 people with the entire County having about 38,000 residents. Due to the size of this county and its financial restraints, there is only one Community Supervision Officer within the Probation Department assigned with the task to manage Pre-Trial bond release for this County.

The Caldwell County Jail can hold approximately 300 inmates and averages about 180 inmates currently. During the week, the Pre-Trial Officer goes out to the jail daily to review the jail roster to see if there are eligible inmates that are unable to post bond and need to be screened for Pre-Trial bond release. This screening entails the Pre-Trial officer reviewing the circumstances of the offense, criminal history and then conducting a risk assessment with the inmate. Unfortunately, this

County does not have the resources to have an onsite Pre-Trial Officer at the jail.

Once the interview is conducted the officer will write a report including all relevant case facts to present to either the District or County Court Judge for their review. Upon the Judge approving a bond, the Pre-Trial Officer takes the signed bond back out to the jail and explains the conditions of bond with the inmate. The conditions of bond include that the inmate will stay in contact with the officer, appear at appointments designated by the Officer and submit to random drug tests. It is very important to this County that inmates released on Pre-Trial bond maintain their sobriety while their cases are pending disposition.

At this stage in the proceedings there are limitations to required bond stipulations, however the Pre-Trial officer works with defendants who express having a substance abuse problem and attempt to get them placement into local treatment groups. The conditions, referrals, and frequency of reporting are based on the defendant's risk level and assessment conducted.

Once the defendant's case has been filed or indicted the Pre-Trial officer sends out reminders of the defendant's Court date.

Inmates who might not qualify for Pre-Trial bond upon arrest may later be released on Pre-Trial bond if their cases are not filed or indicted within the allotted time mandated by the Code of Criminal Procedure. The Pre-Trial officer is responsible for working closely with Judges, the District Attorney's office and the Clerk's offices to insure that inmates are not left in jail, or experience any unnecessary delays in Court proceedings.

Having the Pre-Trial Bond program in Caldwell County has had many positive effects on defendants that were able to maintain stability through receiving a Pre-Trial bond. Additionally, in monitoring the jail population Pre-Trial Supervision is able to provide monetary savings to the County Jail by reducing the number of low risk offenders incarcerated due to indigence.

**April Craig is a Pre-Trial Community Supervision Officer in Caldwell County and TAPS Board Member.**

Additionally, Webb County Pre-Trial Services can provide help, where necessary, to the individuals they are supervising by utilizing a variety of community resources aimed at assisting defendants.

## Webb County Pretrial—

By Cornell Mickley



Big changes are happening in Webb County. The board of judges has implemented a new magistration process effective August 01, 2016. We now have two magistrate judges that have been appointed by the board of judges to handle the Magistration process. This includes bond reduction hearings and examination trial hearings, etc. The justices of the peace will no longer have that responsibility.

Our magistrate judges are pro-pre-trial services. This will help our county tremendously. Webb County Pre-Trial Services will now serve as a central document processing center for all magistration hearings. This change will also help our community be a safer environment. Pre-Trial Services will be supervising more individuals that are released from custody as

a condition of bond.

These modifications to the criminal justice system will likewise help with the county's financial deficit. Webb County will now be able to charge the defendants a 3% fee for all personal recognizance bonds, making it affordable to their family while also helping out the county's financial situation.

Additionally, Webb County Pre-Trial Services can provide help, where necessary, to the individuals they are supervising by utilizing a variety of community resources aimed at assisting defendants. They can do so with any number of health related issues such as drug or alcohol dependency and physical or mental health illnesses.

**Cornell Mickley is the Director of Webb County Pre-Trial Services and TAPS Board member.**



TAPS

**The Texas Association of Pretrial Services invites you to attend the 4th Annual TAPS Conference and Training Institute which will be located in San Antonio, Texas on April 5th & 6th, 2017.**

***Heeding the results of the recent survey sent out to members, plans are already in the works to address the topics you indicated would be most interesting and informative to you.***

***Hotels, sites and other useful information will be divulged in the coming editions of our newsletter and on the website. So plan ahead and be there for our next conference. You'll be happy you did!***



*In most counties, few people will ever be released immediately on a personal bond (as that is defined under Texas law).*

*Making release decisions contingent on the ability to pay can have terrible consequences.*

The following is a copy of the testimony of Professor Sandra Guerra Thompson of the University of Houston Law Center before the Texas Joint Hearing of the Committees on County Affairs and Criminal Jurisprudence which took place on September 21, 2016.

Good morning, my name is Professor Sandra Guerra Thompson, and I'm a law professor at the University of Houston Law Center. I previously served as a prosecutor in New York and I've been teaching as a criminal law professor for 26 years. I am also the director of the Criminal Justice Institute at the law school. Today, I am here to speak to you about an issue I have studied for the past five years. In 2011, a representative of the American Bar Association called me as director of the Criminal Justice Institute at UH and sought to partner with UH to host a conference on pretrial justice. In 2012, UH and the ABA hosted a statewide conference with national speakers, and we held it here in this same building on the State Capitol grounds. Since that time, I have done extensive research and writing on the subject. I've attended countless meetings with stakeholders, and I've interviewed officials in numerous small counties including Lee County, Washington County, Bee County, and Goliad County. I've also spoken to officials from larger counties such as Bexar, El Paso, Laredo, Travis, and Harris.

For over a year, I have written a monthly email update that I started as a means to share what I was learning from my conversations and research. I sent it to those people I had encountered who shared an interest in this subject. People began to forward my updates to others, and soon I had dozens of people asking to join my list. Today, my monthly updates go out to over 200 stakeholders from across the state—legislators, judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, pretrial services officials, court administrators and others.

What I've learned is that practices vary from county to county, but one thing is generally true: magistrates and JPs set money bail as a condition of pretrial release in the majority of cases that come before them. In most counties, few people will ever be released immediately on a personal bond (as that is defined under Texas law). Magistrates and JPs, routinely set money bonds on the people who come before them, typically calibrating the amounts with their sense of the seriousness of the charged offense and the seriousness of the person's criminal history. They do not, however, take into account a person's ability to pay. Thus, they generally have no way of knowing whether the person will have the money available to get out of jail.

Far too often, the individuals do not have the money needed, so they sit in jail at taxpayer's expense. Also far more often than one might imagine, individuals who the judge feels are dangerous to the community do have the money—although the judge may have set a high money bond—so they go free to victimize the community again. BOTH of these situations imperil public safety, and I will explain why.

#### **Decisions Based on Money Create Public Safety Risks of Two Types**

##### **Public Safety Risk Type 1: High-risk people are released under a money bond system.**

Setting a money bond is a decision to release. When a judge sets a financial bond, the judge is making a decision to release a person—if he or she has enough money. At this point, the judge has agreed to let the person out contingent on one thing: how much money the person may be willing and able to pay.

The goal of a bail hearing is supposed to be to find a way to release a person while safeguarding against certain risks. Bail conditions should ensure that if a person is released, she will return to court and not pose a danger to public safety. For most people, simply informing them of their court dates, coupled with the threat of arrest if they fail to appear, is enough. On the other hand, some people present a great risk of not showing up. For them, the courts may need to take other measures such as community supervision. If a person presents a danger of committing a violent crime, courts should have the discretion to deny release altogether.

Judges attempt to use a high money bail as a means of keeping the public safe. Under Texas law, judges do not have the statutory authority to hold all dangerous people in jail. A high money bond doesn't keep dangerous people in jail if they happen to have access to money.

You may remember the \$1 million bonds set for all 177 of the bikers arrested in the Waco biker shooting. This certainly appears to be an attempt to hold these people in jail to give the police time to investigate and determine who had done what. The \$1million bail amounts were not the product of individualized decisions based on each person's flight risk or risk of committing another offense while awaiting trial. The high money bond was supposed to keep the community safe by detaining them.

Using money as a means of protecting the community is a fool's errand. First, the million dollar bail was not sufficient to keep many of the bikers in jail. Many of them came up with the 10% fee charged by bondsmen to gain their release. They paid the \$100,000—non-refundable—to get out of jail. We know that most of the people arrested in Waco were probably not involved in the violence that day, but some may have been cold-blooded murderers. So, who got out on the \$1 million bonds? The judge in Waco has no way of knowing. From news reports, it appears that some of the gang leaders got out first, and I would guess a lot of low-risk people ended up sitting in jail long-term.

Making release decisions contingent on the ability to pay can have terrible consequences. In January of 2015, a dangerous man named Dante Thomas was released in Harris County on a \$50,000 bond after he killed his girlfriend in front of her children. His family gave a bondsman \$5,000 to gain his release within a few hours, before the Pretrial Services Agency could even complete its risk assessment. Within days, he had killed his aunt and critically wounded a cousin. <http://www.khou.com/story/news/crime/2015/02/16/attorney-for-suspect-in-willowbrook-mall-shooting-to-withdraw-from-cases/23514247/>. Imagine the frustration of the police officers who arrest dangerous people only to watch them walk out of jail a few hours later to commit more crimes.





The following is a copy of the testimony of Professor Sandra Guerra Thompson of the University of Houston Law Center before the Texas Joint Hearing of the Committees on County Affairs and Criminal Jurisprudence which took place on September 21, 2016. (cont. from page 3)

Setting a high money bail—without examining a person’s ability to pay—creates a public safety risk because we know from studies that 50% of the people considered “high-risk” will be released under a money bond system.

The low-risk poor who end up in jail pretrial include some of society’s most vulnerable: the mentally and physically ill, foster kids, veterans, drug abusers, and, increasingly, women.



*In short, locking up the low-risk poor for even 48-72 hours creates more crime. We turn low-risk people into higher risk people by locking them up unnecessarily.*

Setting a high money bail—without examining a person’s ability to pay—creates a public safety risk because we know from studies that 50% of the people considered “high-risk” will be released under a money bond system. The most recent national study showed that 90+% of all arrestees charged with rape, robbery, felony assault, or who had a prior felony had a money bail set in their cases, as well as 55% of all murder defendants.<sup>1</sup>

As billionaire murderer Robert Durst said in the HBO series *The Jinx*, about paying the 10% of his the \$2.5 million dollar bail in his murder case: “Goodbye, \$250,000. Goodbye, jail. I’m out.”

**Public Safety Risk Type 2: Low-risk poor people who cannot bond out of jail will become much more likely to commit a new crime in the future.**

Texas jails hold a total of 41,470 pretrial detainees, which make up 63% of the entire jail population. In many counties like Harris, Bexar, and Tarrant, the percentage of pretrial detainees is much higher, in the area of 75%. (See Illustration 2) *Many of the people held in jail are the low-risk poor.*

The low-risk poor who end up in jail pretrial include some of society’s most vulnerable: the mentally and physically ill, foster kids, veterans, drug abusers, and, increasingly, women. Overwhelmingly, a characteristic that cuts across all of these groups is that they are racial minorities. In Harris County, African-Americans make up 18% of the county’s population, but they make up 48% of the pretrial detainee population in the county jail. (See Illustration 1)

A majority of the people in pretrial detention in Harris County are accused of non-violent offenses (54%). (See Illustration 3) These include mostly drug or property offenses. (See Illustration 4) When we look at this group of non-violent pretrial detainees in Harris County, the number of African-Americans being held is 55%. (See Illustration 4) If we consider whether those pretrial detainees have special medical needs such as physical and mental illness, the percentage of African Americans jumps again to 61%. (See Illustration 5)

Often these are people who are accused non-violent and even trivial crimes. They are people like Sandra Bland, a poor, previously suicidal African-American woman who did not appear to present a safety risk to the community.

A major study of the effects of pretrial detention on the low-risk poor had some remarkable findings on the public safety threat caused by pretrial detention. They examined the frequency with which low-risk defendants committed new crimes, comparing those who bonded out within 24 hours to those detained pretrial for longer periods. They found that even a short period of pretrial detention increased the likelihood that a low-risk person would commit a new crime. Here’s what they found:

Two to three days of pretrial detention increases the risk of recidivism by a low-risk person by 17%, as compared to a low-risk defendant who is released on bail within 24 hours.

Four to seven days of pretrial detention increases risk of recidivism by 35%.

Eight to fourteen days of pretrial detention increases risk of recidivism by 51%.

*In short, locking up the low-risk poor for even 48-72 hours creates more crime.* We turn low-risk people into higher risk people by locking them up unnecessarily.

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<sup>1</sup> Thomas Cohen & Brian Reaves, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Pretrial Release of Felony Defendants in State Courts* (2007), available at <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/prfdsc.pdf>.



The following is a copy of the testimony of Professor Sandra Guerra Thompson of the University of Houston Law Center before the Texas Joint Hearing of the Committees on County Affairs and Criminal Jurisprudence which took place on September 21, 2016. (cont. from page 4)

Because of the effect on the poor, Harris County is being sued by a group called Equal Justice Under Law. The group has been remarkably successful in other states, so I expect they will prevail here, too. From my observations of county practices around the state, many counties are as vulnerable to litigation as Harris. Also, a number of Texas advocacy groups are participating in the Harris County litigation, so I would expect to see additional similar lawsuits in the future unless changes are made.

**A Note in Defense of Those Who Can Pay to Get Out of Jail**

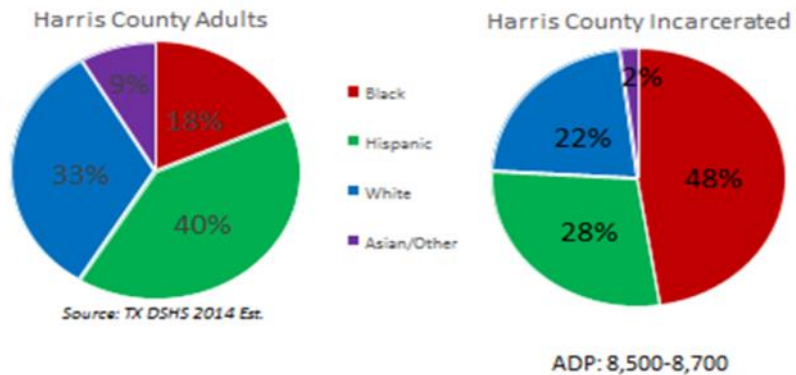
The people who have the money to pay almost never have the full amount to post with the court. These are usually not rich people. They must scrape together the 10% + fees to pay a bondsman—non-refundable. Hundreds, or even thousands, of dollars flushed down the drain. Statistically, most of those people are low-risk people. So why should they have to pay? Forcing low-risk people to lose hundreds or thousands of dollars to get out of jail when there is no justification for holding them in the first place is morally wrong. We know from empirical studies that low-risk people require nothing more than a phone call reminder to get them to court. Making their freedom contingent on a substantial payment of money is a form of state-sponsored extortion. Here's the choice they face: be caged in a place so depressing and dangerous that people often commit suicide, and meanwhile their lives outside jail fall apart, or pay the money. So, they pay. Once they've paid for a bail bond, they often don't have money to hire a lawyer, so they go without lawyers or they get taxpayer-funded lawyers.

**A sensible system would base release decisions on public safety risks and the risk of flight.** The money bail system becomes a trap for the low-risk poor, so destabilizing their lives that it makes them more criminogenic, and a "get out of jail" card for the high-risk rich. Bail decisions should instead be based on a scientifically validated determination of risk with the least restrictive conditions of community supervision necessary to ensure their return to court.

The Illustrations included in this report come from a Harris County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council presentation with figures based on "TX DSHS 2014 est." Laura and John Arnold Foundation, *Pretrial Criminal Justice Research*, available at <https://www.pretrial.org/download/featured/Pretrial%20Criminal%20Justice%20Research%20Brief%20-%20LJAF%202013.pdf> The study is based upon data gathered in Kentucky in 2009 and 2010 from over 153,000 defendants. The defendants were tracked for a period of two years after the disposition of their case to see if they committed any new crimes after release.

**Illustration 1**

Harris County Adult Population  
Compared to Incarcerated  
Population by Race/Ethnicity



Forcing low-risk people to lose hundreds or thousands of dollars to get out of jail when there is no justification for holding them in the first place is morally wrong.

Bail decisions should instead be based on a scientifically validated determination of risk with the least restrictive conditions of community supervision necessary to ensure their return to court.



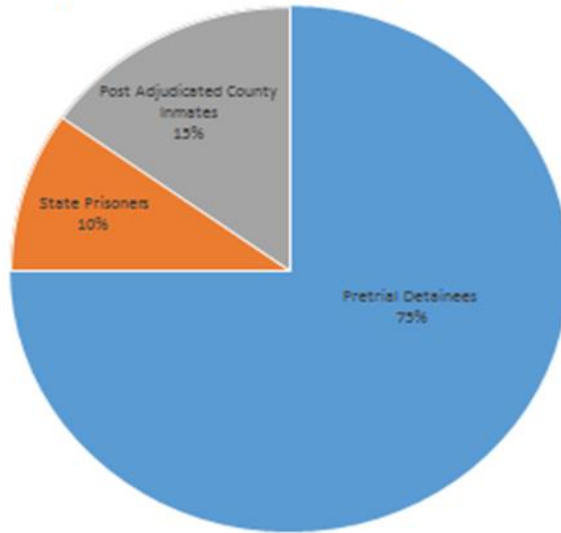


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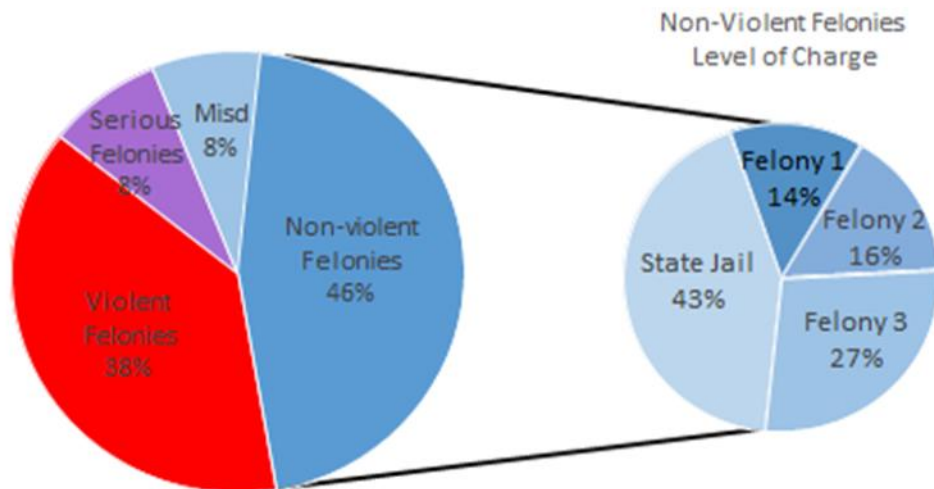
Illustration 2 Harris County

Illustration 3  
Harris County

### Snapshot Jail Population



### Pretrial Jail Population



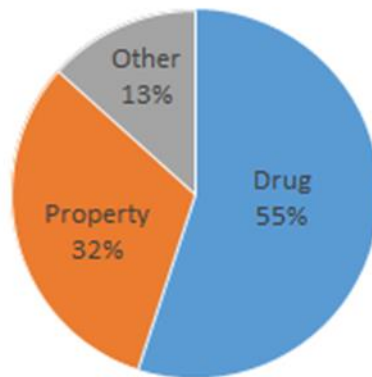


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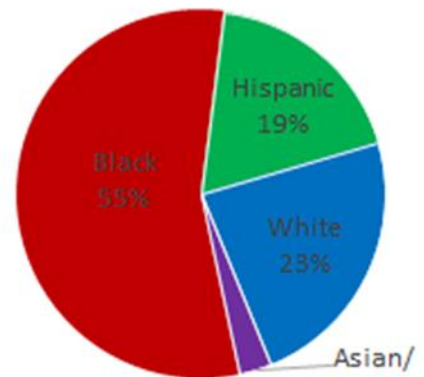
Illustration 4 Harris County

## Non-violent Pretrial State Jail Felonies

Recidivism Rate: 50-70%



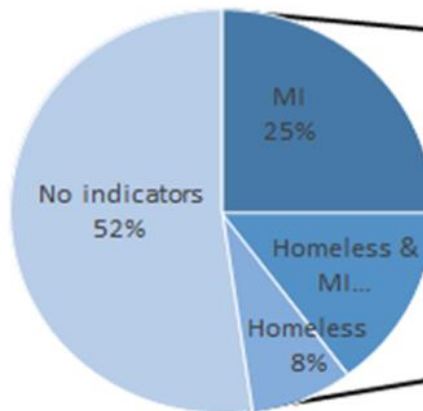
Charge Types



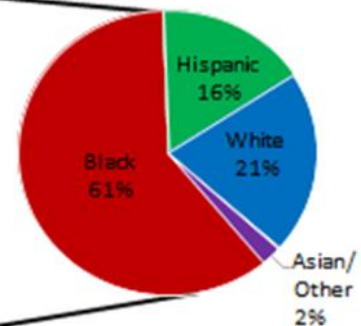
Race/Ethnicity

Illustration 5

## Pretrial Population 48% Special Needs



Special Needs 48%



Race / Ethnicity







**A Word From The National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies (NAPSA) - By Brian Joseph Brittain—Southern Regional Director**

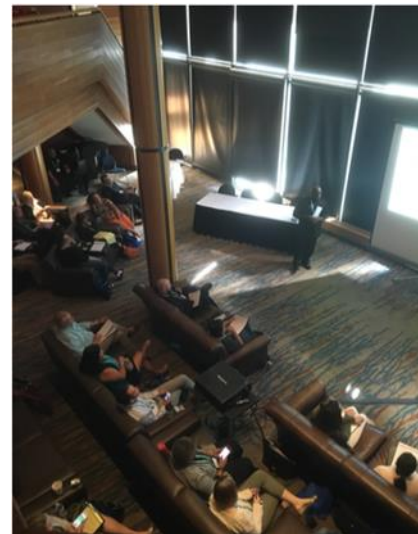
The 2016 National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies Annual Conference in Salt Lake City was a tremendous success. Amidst the beautiful backdrop of the Snowbird Resort, pretrial practitioners from around the globe engaged in a learning environment designed to inform the field of the latest trends as well as foundational concepts. I was very proud to be part of the most well-attended regional breakout. As you can tell in the photo below, the Southern Region knocked it out of the park thanks to our Texas friends

who made up nearly half the of the breakout’s attendees.

The Fundamentals Track might have been the hottest ticket in town. The unique learning environment, furnished with leather sofas and coaches, was a big hit. The track began with Pretrial 101 and worked through Interview Skills, Risk Assessment, Supervision Recommendations, Supervision, and Measuring What Matters. Every session was standing room only!

NAPSA’s 2017 conference will be taking place in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. We hope to

see you there! Also, please remember that pretrial release and diversion certification is available on-demand at [napsa.org](http://napsa.org).



*NAPSA, 2016 Fundamental’s Track Room*



*NAPSA, 2016 Southern Region Breakout Session*

**“The Fundamentals Track might have been the hottest ticket in town.**

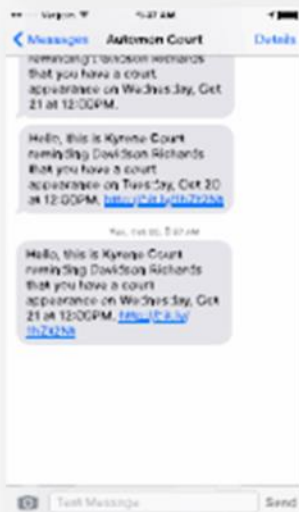
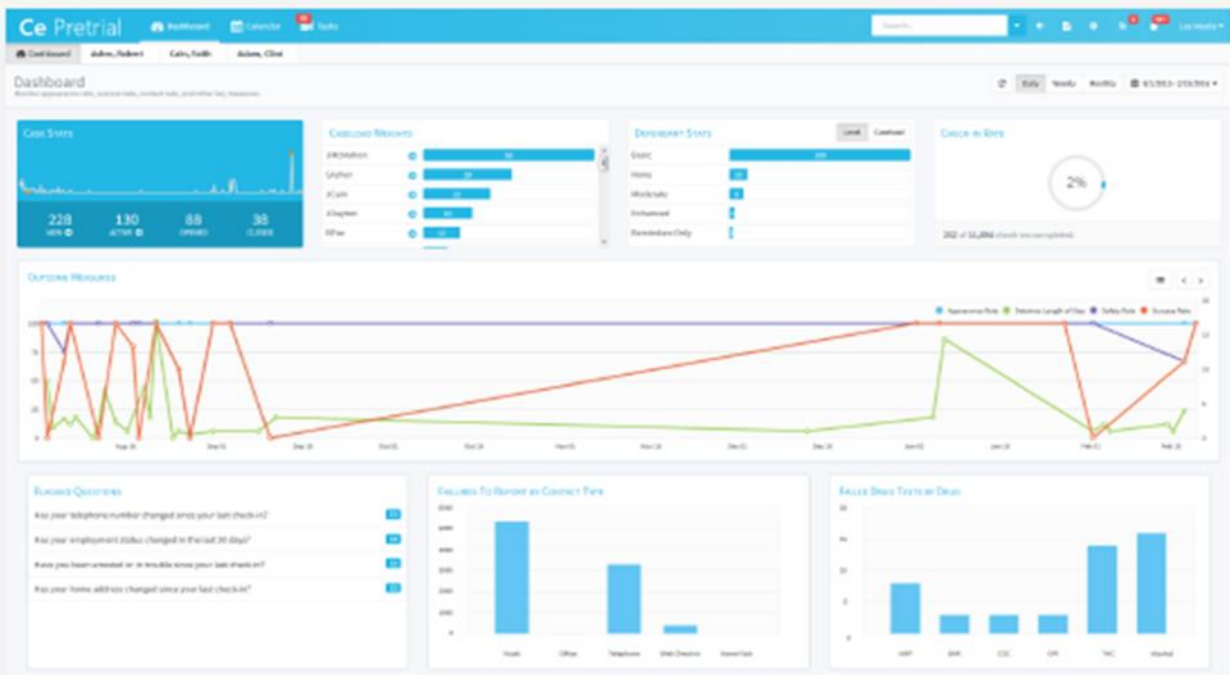
**As you can tell in the on the right, the Southern Region knocked it out of the park thanks to our Texas friends who made up nearly half the of the breakout’s attendees.**



# THE TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF PRETRIAL SERVICES Thanks Our Vendors for Their Support



How are you Measuring What Matters?



Ce Pretrial is the first Pretrial case management system designed to reflect the specific metrics and best practices defined by the U.S. Department of Justice's "Measuring What Matters" Pretrial case study. Ce Pretrial provides intuitive workflows to manage all aspects of Pretrial services.

Success Metric	Low	Below Average	Average	Above Average	High
Low	100% with Court Reminders	100% with Pretrial Supervision	100% with Pretrial Supervision	100% with Enhanced Supervision	100% with Enhanced Supervision or Bonds
Below Average	100% with Court Reminders	100% with Pretrial Supervision	100% with Pretrial Supervision	100% with Enhanced Supervision	100% with Enhanced Supervision or Bonds
Average	100% with Pretrial Supervision	100% with Pretrial Supervision	100% with Pretrial Supervision	100% with Enhanced Supervision	100% with Enhanced Supervision or Bonds
Above Average	100% with Pretrial Supervision	100% with Pretrial Supervision	100% with Pretrial Supervision	100% with Enhanced Supervision or Bonds	Bonds
High	100% with Pretrial Supervision	100% with Enhanced Supervision	100% with Enhanced Supervision		Bonds

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## COMING SOON TO A FEDERAL COURT NEAR YOU Editorial by: Will Longoria

“In most areas of Texas, in order to *not* prolong their time in jail, defendants are, more often than not, encouraged to “plead out” (even if the state has a weak case) and as part of the plea agreement, they receive “time served.”

This will probably come as a surprise to almost no one but have you heard about the lawsuit pending in Harris County? The one brought about by Equal Justice Under Law challenging pretrial detention? You know, the group that has successfully won lawsuit after lawsuit in federal courts ranging from Montgomery, AL. to Velda, MO.? Yeah, I thought you did.

It was no surprise that Harris County was targeted; it was a matter of time before a lawsuit would be filed. For those few of you who are unaware, Equal Justice Under Law is a national non-profit organization who are challenging the age old process of money bail and bail schedules and they have been very successful. Harris County has already begun to implement changes to their system.

The Houston Press states, “In Harris County, 77 percent of the jail population are people who have yet to be convicted of crimes, who are in jail because they cannot afford to get out.” And quotes Equal Justice Under Law attorney Elizabeth Rossi as saying, “Harris County has really perfected and, in a lot of ways, epitomized the efficient processing of human beings in and out of cages. Shining a light on a place like Harris County really highlights the pervasiveness of money bail and the thoughtlessness with which criminal justice systems throughout this country keep people in jail cells just because they're poor.” Wow, pretty rough.

To Harris County's credit, they have already begun taking steps to correct the problem. Since judges had been “feeling uncomfortable” about using Harris County Pretrial Services' risk assessment, they are developing a new one. In preparation for the anticipated increase in personal recognizance bond releases, they have hired 7 new pretrial supervision officers.

Harris County has even approved a pilot program that will allow defense attorneys to be present at all bail hearings.

We'll don't look now but ALL OF US are in the same boat. You do realize wherever you go in our great state of Texas, the criminal justice system is run pretty much the same way, using money bail and bail schedules with little to no consideration for a defendant's ability to pay? In most areas of Texas, in order to *not* prolong their time in jail, defendants are, more often than not, encouraged to “plead out” (even if the state has a weak case) and as part of the plea agreement, they receive “time served.” So the choice is, plead “not guilty” and remain in jail an undetermined amount of time *longer* or plead guilty (whether they are or not) and at least get out of jail. So as not to lose jobs, housing, SSI checks, etc. most will plead out but there is a group that can't even seem to catch *that* break.

Numerous studies have revealed that of all the various populations who remain in jail in a pretrial status, the one group who tend to spend the most time incarcerated both before and after adjudication are the mentally ill. Additionally, they are among the most expensive to maintain in custody.

Previously, difficulties for the mentally ill in our criminal justice system began at the time of arrest. Defendants, especially the mentally ill, were herded through the process without concern for their rights, let alone their needs. Here in Bexar County our Mental Health Department and Pretrial Services Office are trying to address the matter by screening defendants as soon as they enter the system and taking action to assist *those that can be readily helped* and diverted from the standard process. Though success has come in small increments, it is still far from enough.

Presently, few in Texas' Judiciary are taking full advantage of the risk assessment tools that the

various Pretrial Services Offices provide. On the contrary, Pretrial Services has been shackled and prevented from using the full extent of the validated and very useful instruments they have at their disposal. Instead we seem to ignore those that need our help the most.

One final and tragic example of our damaged and distorted criminal justice system was noted in the Houston Press. “Patrick Brown, a man accused of stealing a guitar, is the most recent person to die in the Harris County Jail. A source with knowledge of the case told the Press that Harris County Pretrial Services had recommended Brown for a personal bond. Yet even though he had no violent criminal history, for some reason a judge still denied it, and Brown couldn't afford his \$3,000 bail. Two men, one of whom had just posted bail and was on his way out of lockup, have been charged with beating Brown to death inside a holding cell later that night.”

These things happen all over our country and appallingly on too regular a basis. They happen in every state in the nation, in the smallest of towns and the largest of cities. No matter where you go in these United States we will find crimes taking place and too many are now occurring while defendants (both the perpetrator and victim) are in our custody and *because of* our current system of pretrial detention. In the meantime, the jail populations steadily rise and that population continues to drain the pocketbooks of the taxpaying public while simultaneously creating tragedy and heartache for the weak, the ill and the indigent.

Presently, few in Texas' Judiciary are taking full advantage of the risk assessment tools that the various Pretrial Services Offices provide.







## SAVE THE DATE

2016 TAPS 4th ANNUAL TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF PRETRIAL SERVICES  
CONFERENCE AND TRAINING INSTITUTE  
APRIL 5th & 6th, 2017.

# In San Antonio, Texas





THE TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF PRETRIAL SERVICES  
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CMIT provides a world of information, training and technical assistance. They are a huge resource for criminal justice professionals. Find out more by visiting their website @

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The Correctional Management Institute of Texas, created in 1994, is *Enhancing Corrections* in adult and juvenile community and institutional corrections agencies by providing the following:

- **Training Variety** – a broad range of professional development programs and initiatives.
- **Value, Quality and Relevance** – high quality and relevant professional training.
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Leadership is solving problems. The day soldiers stop bringing you their problems is the day you have stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help or concluded you do not care. Either case is a failure of leadership.  
Colin Powell

## Free Training Opportunities with CMIT

### Mid-Management Leadership Program

**Who Should Attend:**

**Limited to Texas Criminal Justice Professionals**

**Leadership**

Mid-Level Managers from Texas Juvenile and Adult Probation Departments, Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Texas Juvenile Justice Department, and jail staff from Texas Sheriff's Offices

**Training Hours: 36**

[ [Nomination Form](#) ]

**Date/Time:**

Dec. 4 -(05:00 pm) - 9, 2016 (01:00 pm)

**Registration Deadline:**

**Nov 01, 2016**

**Price:**

**FREE**

**Location Information:**

George J. Beto Criminal Justice Center

Sam Houston State University

Huntsville, TX 77340

Phone: 936-294-1668

**To participate in this program, the participant must be nominated by their agency Director, Chief, or Sheriff. 0**

**Correctional Management Institute of Texas (CMIT), created in 1994, is *Enhancing Corrections* in adult and juvenile community and institutional corrections agencies by providing the following:**

**Training Variety – a broad range of professional development programs and initiatives.**

**Value, Quality and Relevance – high quality and relevant professional training.**

## Free Training Opportunities with NIC



The 2016 Annual Virtual Conference hosted by the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) is a dynamic platform for sharing information with the field of corrections in a virtual online setting. The purpose of this year's conference will be to share current and emergent innovations in correctional practice through a keynote address, workshops, interactive LiveChat, networking, discussion forums, and virtual information booths. This year's theme is "Leading with Innovation."

The Conference will go live **November 9, 2016 from 10:00 AM ET to 2:00 PM ET.**

The goals of the conference are to:

- 1) Inform the field regarding breaking trends, issues, and solutions in corrections.
- 2) Demonstrate the link between theory and research to practical applications in the field.
- 3) Create opportunities for corrections professionals to network with each other.

<http://nicic.gov/training/vc2016>

**NIC will cover all costs**

**for travel & lodging if you are selected to attend this training.**



If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.

John Quincy Adams

## THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



What We Do . . .



**Identify**

We use surveys and conduct outreach with professional organizations to identify Texas counties with pretrial bond programs.



**Evaluate**

We work with Texas counties to conduct analyses and evaluate existing pretrial bond programs. This allows us to help counties develop, understand, and implement best practices for pretrial services.



**Develop**

We work directly with Texas counties to develop and establish standards-driven pretrial bond and pretrial service programs that meet the needs of the local community.

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and have a say in  
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*Are you energetic, passionate and looking for a way to get involved in your professional organization?*



**JOIN the MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE.  
YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**



The Texas Association of Pretrial Services (TAPS) is looking for members to serve on the Membership Committee. *Membership is the lifeblood of every organization.* Come be involved as we strive to grow the membership of our professional organization, *the only state organization dedicated specifically to the pretrial services field.*

Send your name, email address, phone number, agency name and position to:

Michelle Brown  
TAPS Membership Committee  
[mbrown@tarrantcounty.com](mailto:mbrown@tarrantcounty.com)  
phone: 817-884-2561



**CORRECTIONS**  
From The Field



## Apply Now - Orientation for New Pretrial Executives

As the premier training for pretrial leaders, NIC's [Orientation for New Pretrial Executives](#) engages participants in a comprehensive 40-hour instructor lead course of study aimed at the unique issues, challenges and opportunities within the pretrial field. A experienced and diverse faculty of pretrial, performance management, evidence based practice, and legal experts lead orientation participants through study and discussion on the legal foundations of pretrial justice, professional standards for pretrial release and diversion, legal and evidence-based release and diversion practices, organizational leadership, performance measurement and communication and messaging. Instruction is completely interactive and participants have opportunities throughout the week to work with one another and with faculty to build a long term professional networks. Faculty members and NIC staff also work with and help participants problem solve, through peer interaction and discussion, their individual key challenges. Registration is open to pretrial release and diversion professionals with decision making responsibilities in a high level management position.

**Dates:** February 8 to February 11, 2016

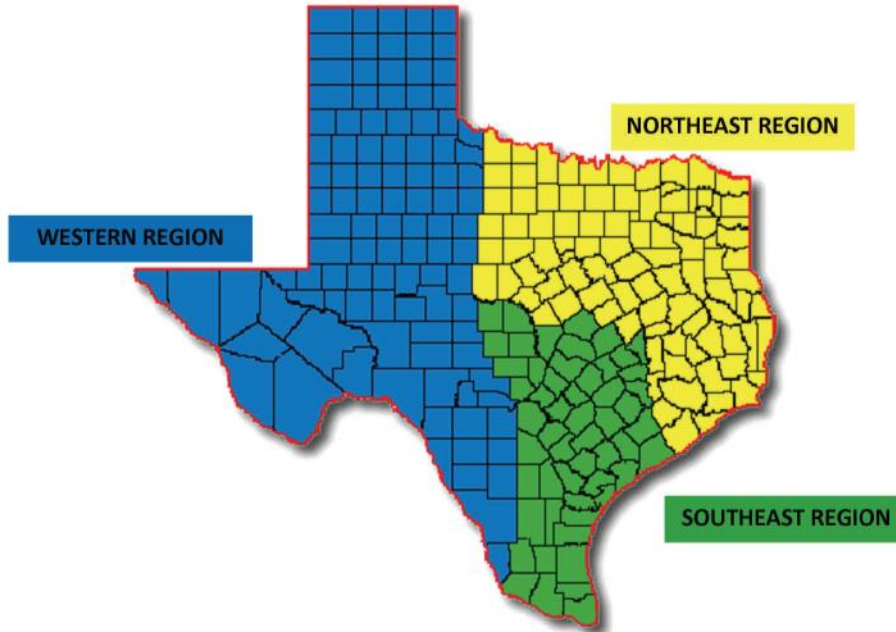
Application deadline is December 14, 2015

[Register here](#)





# TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF PRETRIAL SERVICES REGIONS



### Western Region

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Bandera	Hansford	Parmer
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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
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Deaf Smith	Lamb	Terrell
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Fisher	Maverick	Webb
Floyd	Medina	Wheeler
Foard	Menard	Winkler
Frio	Midland	Yoakum
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Glasscock	Motley	

### Northeast Region

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Archer	Hardin	Red River
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Bosque	Harrison	Rockwall
Bowie	Henderson	Rusk
Brazoria	Hill	Sabine
Brown	Hood	San Augustine
Callahan	Hopkins	San Jacinto
Camp	Houston	Shackelford
Cass	Hunt	Shelby
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Cherokee	Jasper	Somervell
Clay	Jefferson	Stephens
Coleman	Johnson	Tarrant
Collin	Kaufman	Throckmorton
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Cooke	Leon	Tyler
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### Southeast Region

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Atascosa	Mason
Austin	Matagorda
Bastrop	McCulloch
Bee	McMullen
Bell	Milam
Bexar	Nueces
Blanco	Refugio
Brazos	San Patricio
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# TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF PRETRIAL SERVICES

## TAPS Annual Membership Form

(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

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

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Make checks payable to: Texas Association of Pretrial Services

Submit this form along with payment to:

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