

# Dane County Stress Test Exercise Proposal

Submitted by

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## Introduction

The purpose of the stress test is to conduct a case based review of a representative sample of people who have been recently released from the jail, who, would not be incarcerated in the future if specific reforms were adopted. In other words, it is testing whether a plan will have its desired impact on the jail population if successfully implemented. But it will also point out other options the jurisdiction site should consider in its jail reduction plan.

## Work Plan

This is done by JFA first analyzing two data files (the past 12 months of jail releases and the current jail population) and identifying people who have been targeted by the jurisdiction in its SJC pan to either 1) be diverted from the jail and/or 2) have their length of stay (LOS) reduced. Statistical analysis is conducted to assess those release groups that are having the largest impact on the county's jail population. A 10 page report is provided to the county that summarizes this analysis.

Based on that report, about 35 cases are selected by JFA in advance of the site visit. The sample selection is done in close coordination with the site. For each case sampled, the site will need to create a packet of information to be reviewed by the stress test participants.

The following information needs to be compiled for each sampled case prior to the exercise and made available to the participants so they can assess whether released inmate could have been diverted or had the length of stay reduced:

1. Arrest report/description;
2. Criminal history summary;
3. Prior FTAs;
4. Number of court appearances;
5. Number of court continuances;
6. Reason for court continuances;
7. Jail conduct/classification level at release;
8. Pretrial risk assessment; and
9. Mental health status at booking or release.

The exercise should include a Judge, the DA, Public Defender, Sheriff and other relevant parties (pretrial services, mental health). There should be a single county staff person who presents the "case" to the group who then determine whether this person can 1) be diverted from the jail or 2) have their length of stay reduced by releasing the person to the community (and

perhaps a program) or expediting the processing of the case. This process should take about 4 hours.

At the end of the session, a summary discussion is held as to what reforms would have the greatest impact on the jail population. For Dane County, the focus will be on changes in existing policies that can be implemented with little if any additional costs.