

2025

City of New Orleans Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice Coordination

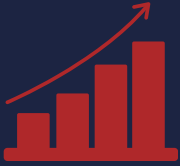


**Criminal Justice
Commissioner**

Tenisha Stevens


About the Office

MISSION



The Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice Coordination (OCJC) fosters system-wide communication and evidence-based policymaking to promote an accountable, coordinated, equitable, efficient, and effective criminal and juvenile justice system.

VISION



The Office of Criminal Justice Coordination envisions humane and comprehensive justice for all persons at all points in the justice system to foster safe and flourishing communities.



Office of Criminal Justice Coordination Leadership



Appointed as the first Black woman to serve in the highest advisory criminal justice role in New Orleans, Commissioner Tenisha Stevens is tasked with promoting an accountable, efficient, and effective criminal justice system in Orleans Parish. Her office fosters cross-agency communication and coordination among all sectors of New Orleans' justice enterprise, providing objective research, analysis, and recommendations that benefit the criminal and juvenile justice systems holistically. Under Commissioner Stevens' leadership, the OCJC has secured and administered over 17 million dollars in grant funding.

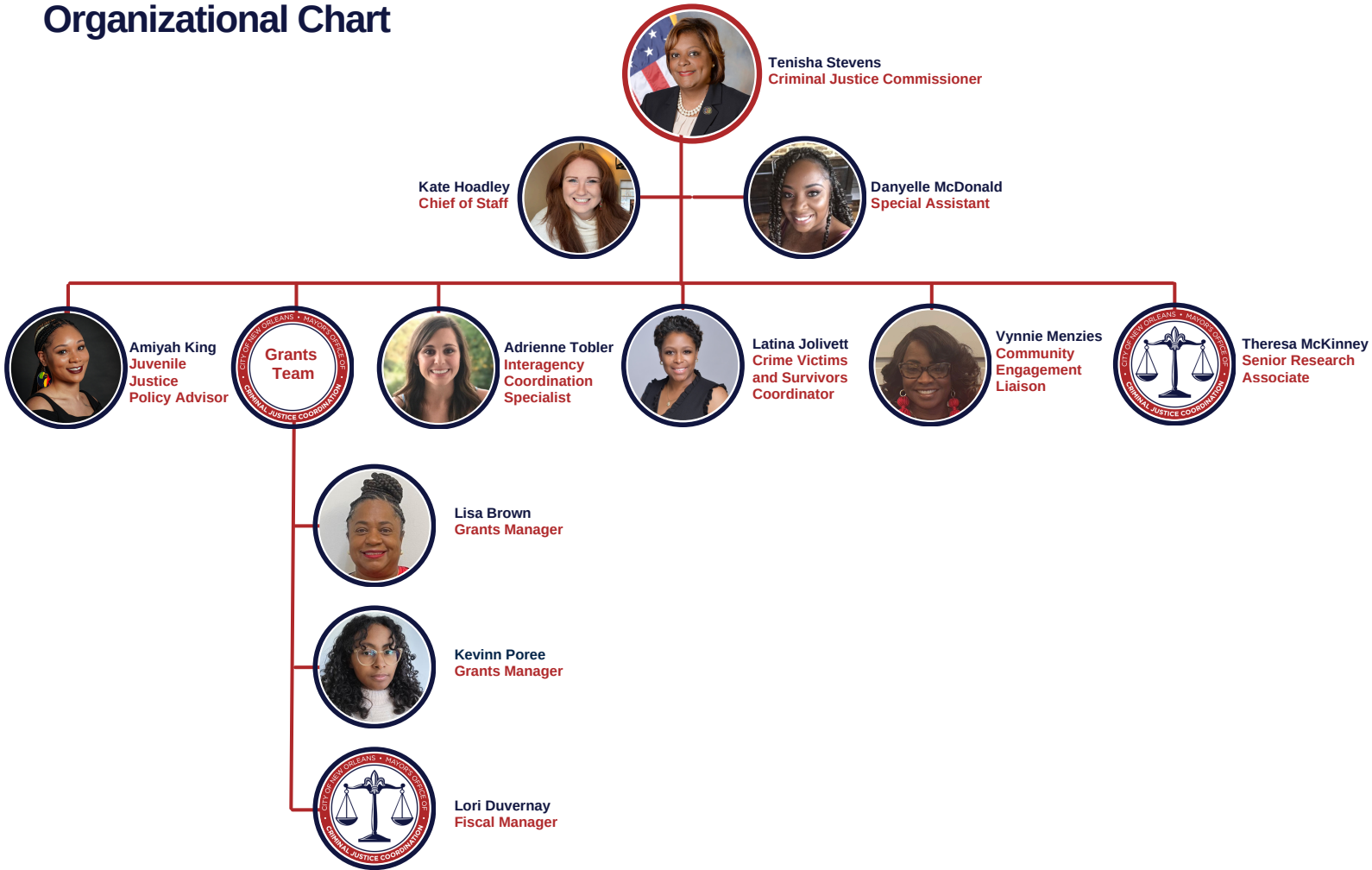
Prior to joining Mayor Cantrell's administration in 2018, Commissioner Stevens dedicated more than twenty years of professional public service in her careers with the New Orleans Police Department, the Louisiana Attorney General's Office and the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office where held the position of Deputy Chief of Investigations.

Commissioner Stevens received her Master of Arts in Criminal Justice from Southern University at New Orleans and completed her undergraduate studies at Dillard University. She is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.- New Orleans Alumnae Chapter. She sits on various Boards and Commissions throughout the metropolitan area. She is the devoted mother to Maddie. She is deeply invested in improving her community so that the next generation can reach their full potential.



Office of Criminal Justice Coordination Staff

Organizational Chart



Contact our team!

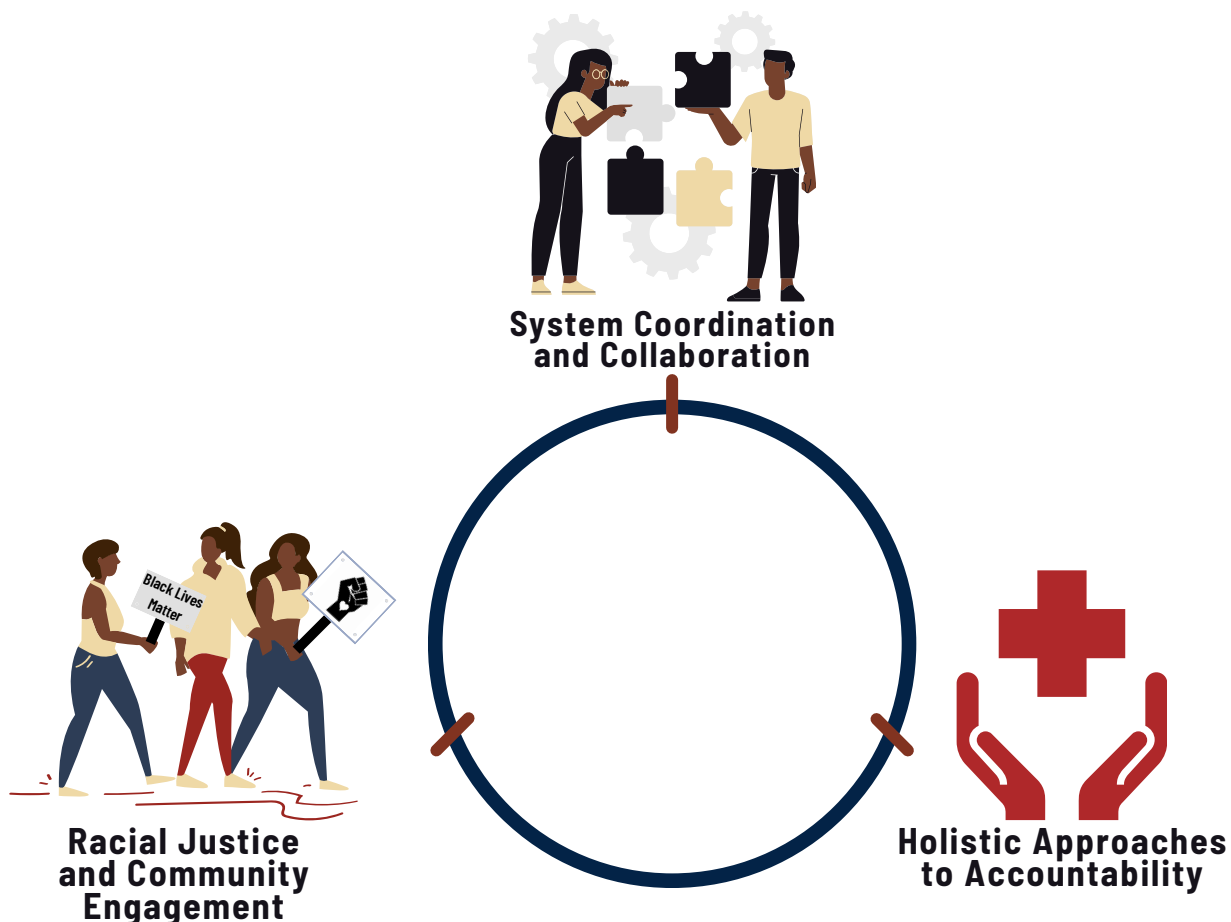
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OCJC's Priorities

To accomplish the goal of realizing comprehensive and humane justice for all the residents of New Orleans, we have identified three areas to prioritize resources: system coordination and collaboration, holistic approaches to accountability, and racial justice and community engagement. Together, these elements further our goal to advance a criminal legal system in New Orleans that safely ensures accountability and mitigates harm.

Throughout our work we adhere to the following values:

- **Reorient** government's response to safety, disorder, and health-related problems
- **Improve** public safety and public health through research-based, health-oriented, and harm reduction interventions
- **Reduce** the number of people entering the criminal legal system for low-level offenses related to drug use, mental health, sex work, and extreme poverty
- **Address** racial disparities at the front-end of the system
- **Sustain** funding for alternative interventions by capturing and reinvesting criminal legal system savings
- **Strengthen** the relationship between our criminal legal system and community



System Collaboration and Coordination

System Collaboration and Data Sharing

To advance data-driven policies and provide a platform for real-time data sharing, the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice Coordination (OCJC), in partnership with the Chief Administrative Office and the Office of Information Technology Innovation, has invested \$35 million in overhauling criminal legal system technology and legacy systems. The end result will be a coordinated system, where real-time information sharing occurs, and public data sets will be produced to increase system accountability and transparency.

Interagency Collaboration

The OCJC staffs several interagency bodies dedicated to system collaboration and coordination, which include: the Sanford "Sandy" Krasnoff Criminal Justice Committee, the Jail Population Management Subcommittee, the Criminal Justice Information Sharing Subcommittee, the Ethnic and Racial Disparity Working Group, and the Re-Entry Taskforce.

The Sanford "Sandy" Krasnoff New Orleans Criminal Justice Council

History: The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council was established by ordinance in 1970 to coordinate crime control and criminal justice activities in New Orleans. In 2004, the body was renamed the Sanford "Sandy" Krasnoff New Orleans Criminal Justice Council after the late victims' rights advocate. Although the membership and role has evolved over the years, the focus and purpose of the body has always been to bring stakeholders together to make the justice system function in a better and more coordinated way.

Vision: The SKNOCJC envisions system actors and stakeholders working collaboratively to create fair, just, and efficient criminal and juvenile justice systems.

Mission: The SKNOCJC coordinates criminal and juvenile justice systems that promote equity and fairness and support victims by fostering collaboration between the systems' leaders and stakeholders. The SKNOCJC enhances system services by maximizing public investment in accountable data-driven system outcomes. The SKNOCJC explores evidence-based best practices that increase community safety and provide recommendations to the Mayor and City Council to reduce overall recidivism.



Holistic Approaches to Accountability

Pretrial Services

Pretrial Services promotes public safety by ensuring appearance in Court and compliance with release conditions as established for defendants. Pretrial services assesses defendants on the following three dimensions: risk to fail to appear (FTA) in court, risk to be re-arrested, and risk to be re-arrested for a new violent crime.

Pretrial Services also provides supervision and services to defendants through case management services.

The Evening Reporting Center (ERC)

The ERC is a 45-day alternative to detention program that provides individualized supervision to youth who would normally be held in secure pre-trial custody. Youth referred to the ERC participate in structured activities during after school hours, are supported in their school work, and provided valuable services to both occupy their time and aid in their personal growth when they are at high risk of offending.

Re-Entry Initiatives



It is imperative to public safety that we invest in the success of our citizens that are returning home after incarceration and detention, as effective re-entry initiatives are a key element of breaking cycles of incarceration and community harm.

The OCJC has convened the New Orleans Re-Entry Taskforce and Re-Entry Triage Team to ensure

coordination among re-entry stakeholders, which is a key element in reimagining our criminal legal system. As a part of these efforts, the OCJC, in partnership with DOC, hosted a successful Resource and Career Fair for Returning Citizens, in which over 35 service providers participated.

Racial Justice and Community Engagement

Safety and Justice Challenge

The Safety and Justice Challenge (SJC) is a collaborative effort between the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and its community partners and allies to reimagine and rebuild local criminal justice systems – reducing jail incarceration and increasing equity for all. This Network of cities, counties, and states is proving it is possible to rethink local justice systems from the ground up, with forward-looking, smart solutions that are data-driven, equity-focused, and community-informed.

MISSION



As a Safety and Justice Challenge site, New Orleans commits to identifying the drivers of over-incarceration and racial disparities within our community; engaging a diverse set of community stakeholders to determine potential solutions; and building infrastructure to track data and measure performance.



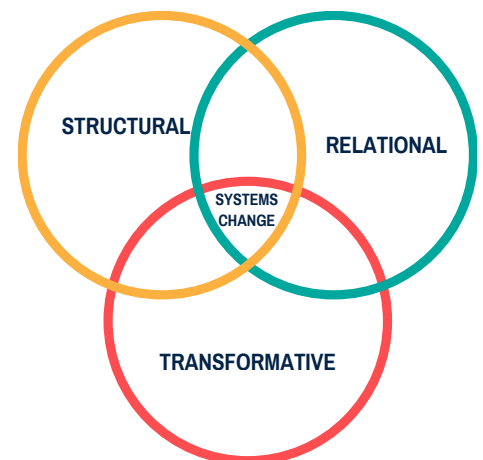
MORE
INFORMATION
ABOUT SJC IN
NEW ORLEANS

The Racial Equity Cohort

The Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice Coordination (OCJC) and Total Community Action, Inc. (TCA) are the recipients of a \$474K grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to deepen the push to eliminate racial and ethnic inequities in New Orleans' local criminal legal system.

As part of the Racial Equity Cohort, OCJC and TCA will create a citywide blueprint for advancing racial justice to reimagine criminal legal system reform – a strategy that will center data-driven analysis and community engagement. The planning and implementation process will engage a diverse group of community-based organizations and community leaders to gather direct input that will assist in implementing action strategies. The project will center a systems change model.

SYSTEMS CHANGE MODEL



Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

Contact Us!

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