



## **Findings from the Orleans Parish Criminal Justice System Stress Test**

### **September 2022**

#### Case Intake

- Emphasize case triaging at first appearance to move more eligible defendants to diversion.
- Improve access to discovery files beginning at arraignment. The use of evidence.com should be expanded and additional software licenses should be secured.

#### Case Processing

- Form a criminal case review team consisting of experienced prosecutors and public defenders to specifically examine in-custody cases on a regular basis. Attorneys from each office should select the cases they would like the team to review. Any risk level one cases in jail longer than 30 days should be included in the review process.
- Re-visit the plea offer process and determine if plea days should be re-instituted.
- Revise the criminal case allotment system and adopt vertical case processing.
- Pilot test opening some courts in the afternoon and/or Friday for judges willing to participate.

#### Jail Operations

- Ensure defendants are delivered to the courts as scheduled.
- Require the Jail Release Navigators to monitor in-custody individuals who are at-risk for mental health competency issues. The navigators should notify the individual's attorney of the competency concerns and efforts should be made to proactively provide care.
- Conduct additional training for Sheriff's Office staff on processing cases with warrants or detainers. The training should address steps staff should pursue when warrants or detainers are present.

#### Systemic

- Produce useful data on the inmate population and disseminate regularly to stakeholders. A daily population report should be created that provides the jail count and lists individuals detained who are low risk and/or held on low bond.

- Conduct detailed study of continuance requests and use results to determine if citation policy would be beneficial.
- Revalidate the PSA risk assessment instrument.
- Collaborate to improve the retention of attorneys on the District Attorney's Office and the Public Defender's Office. The offices should develop incentive strategies to retain qualified attorneys and approach the city for support.