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## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

September 27, 2021



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### JUSTICE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING — SEPTEMBER 2021

**Meeting.** The [Justice Advisory Board](#) (JAB) met virtually on September 23, 2021.

**Division Update.** Steve Michael, Division Administrator of the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP) Division, provided the following updates:

- The CJJP is in the process of filling two vacant research positions.
- Applications for four federal grants are currently being considered.
- Youth Action Squads are being planned for fall and winter.
- The CJJP is looking to recruit eight youth for the Youth Justice Council, a new subcommittee of the [Juvenile Justice Advisory Council](#) (JJAC).
- The Department of Human Rights developed a new policy to pay youth for their participation with the CJJP as a way to show that the CJJP values the time and commitment of its youth partners.

**Marshalltown Police and Community Team (MPACT).** Michael Tupper, Police Chief of Marshalltown, and David Hicks, Director of Marshall County Youth and Shelter Services (YSS), gave a presentation on the MPACT program.

MPACT is a pilot intervention program provided by the Marshalltown Police Department and YSS of Marshall County. In this program, community advocates are embedded with the Marshalltown Police Department to provide social services and resolve crises related to mental health, family conflict, substance abuse, and emotional/behavioral situations. Officers respond to calls, assess the situation, and bring in community advocates if needed. Community advocates work to stabilize situations, determine the best resources for those in need, and connect individuals with organizations that provide long-term treatment.

The Marshalltown Police Department received \$150,000 from the Marshalltown City Council to launch MPACT in January 2021. Two YSS social workers were contracted with the Marshalltown Police Department to serve as community advocates for MPACT.

The goal of the MPACT program is to provide preventative-based services at the right time and place, reduce unnecessary arrests, utilize ongoing case management to support people from repeatedly visiting emergency rooms for emotional concerns, and to assist the Marshalltown Police Department to better allocate resources for public safety.

The Marshalltown Police Department receives approximately 800 calls per week, with more than 40.0% being mental health related. As of September 23, 2021, MPACT community advocates have responded to 207 calls and assisted 330 people. A survey of Marshalltown police officers provided the following results:

- There was a 65.0% response rate.
- 69.0% replied that MPACT has likely prevented an arrest on their shift.
- 69.0% replied that MPACT has likely prevented an escalating situation from becoming worse on their shift.
- 77.0% replied that MPACT's involvement reduced their time spent dealing with non-criminal situations.

- 84.0% replied that MPACT's involvement increased their resources to provide assistance to the public.
- 100.0% replied that they support MPACT's continued partnership with the Marshalltown Police Department.

**Specialty Courts.** Dr. Eric Howard, statewide problem-solving court coordinator, presented on the standardization of Iowa's Specialty Courts.

The Judicial Branch now has formal standards for adult criminal drug court. The goal of these standards is to improve referrals, identify high-risk and high-need individuals for treatment, and reduce the number of individuals from dropping out of drug court. Drug courts typically last 12-18 months and have the mission of reducing recidivism and crime related to drugs and alcohol, as well as providing stabilization and support to those in need. Also, a case management system is being built to collect data on the impact of standardization.

**Further Action.** A motion was approved to dedicate staff to study, support, and report on specialty courts and the MPACT program.

**Updates on Three-Year Priorities.** Mindi TenNapel, justice researcher, and Steve Michael provided the following updates on the Board's three-year priorities:

- A website is currently being designed for the Board that provides resources related to past, current, and future projects, as well as information about meetings, needed resources, and other relevant topics.
- The Board discussed the creation of an update report on the current three-year plan due December 1, 2021, that details what has been accomplished, what steps are left to complete, and how these steps will be completed.

The Board's Three-Year Plan was created on December 1, 2020, and prioritizes issues related to racial justice, mental health, community-based corrections and alternatives to incarceration, and sex offenders.

**Next Meeting.** The time and location for the next meeting has not been determined.

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