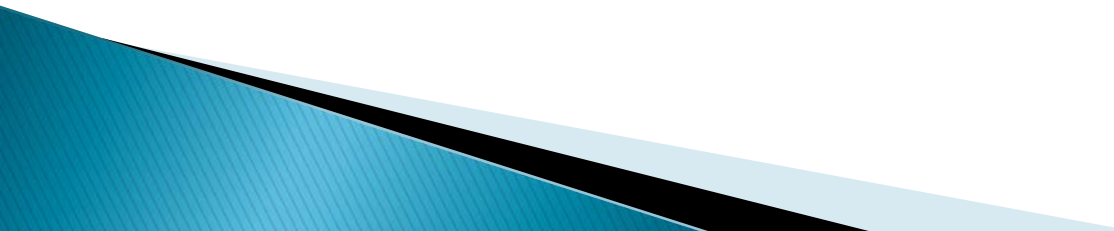# Charleston County
Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
Phase One Summary

Criminal Justice as a System

▸ *What happens with victims, witnesses, defendants, and offenders? How do we know if what we are doing is working?*

▸ Silos
  ◦ Snapshots and ripple effects that may/not create benefits for others

▸ Systems
  ◦ Comprehensive efforts led by a sustained group to focus on the system and address common challenges

CJCC's Mission

- To assist in making sustainable, data-driven improvements to our local criminal justice system and thereby improve public safety and community well-being.

- Aim to promote a system guided by data-driven and proactive decision making and increase public confidence in fairness and justice.

Key Milestones to Date

03/2015
- Applied for a highly competitive Safety and Justice Challenge grant

05/2015
- Became one of 20 sites accepted into the Challenge

06/2015
- Hired a Project Director

07/2015
- Formalized the CJCC Charter (expanded membership and included community representatives)

Key Milestones to Date

Summer/Fall 2015	• Exhaustive efforts to gather and analyze data on the drivers of jail use and racial and ethnic disproportionality
Fall/Winter 2015	• Prioritized critical areas for intervention and a three year transformation plan
01/2016	• Applied for $3.4 million (over 2 years) to support implementation
Winter/Spring 2016	• Get Started, Get Better

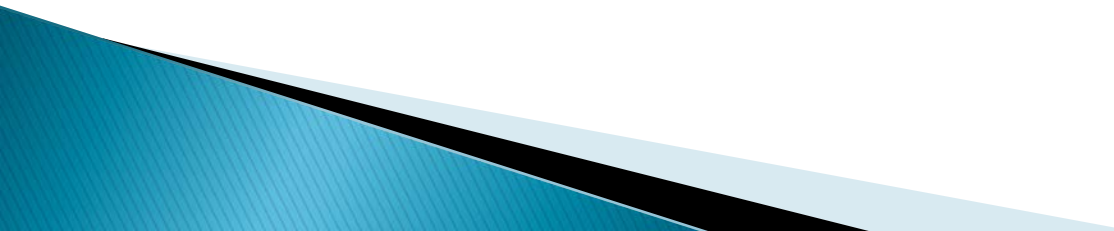# Transformation Plan

>> 2016 to 2018

Deliberate Focus

- Three year transformation plan to improve:
  - Community relationships
  - Consistency in decisions across similarly situated individuals
  - Capacity for recidivism reduction
  - Data-driven decision making at all levels
  - Effectiveness and efficiency, includes cost-benefit analyses

Strategies

1. Implementing a risk assessment instrument for law enforcement officers enabling them to have a uniform approach during decisions to arrest.

Strategy #1:Officer Risk Tool

- Implement a risk assessment tool for officers
  - Most frequent charges at booking are low-level charges that need not always result in the use of jail
  - Disproportionality is highest at system entry
  - Consistent treatment of similarly situated individuals
- Target
  - **Reduce bookings for simple possession marijuana, open container, trespassing/loitering, public intoxication and misdemeanor shoplifting by at least 30% (927) from the CY2014 baseline of 3,809**
- Method
  - Tool development and validation (race-ethnicity-gender-geography-offense-risk), training process, neighborhood based pilots, mapping, and gradual full-scale expansion across largest arresting agencies.

Strategies

2. Identify and create appropriate real-time alternatives to jail for individuals presenting substance use, mental health, medical and/or social issues.

Strategy #2: Triage Center

- Open a triage center to provide opportunities for real-time alternatives
- Relevant Data
  - Significant population of recidivists and others at-risk
  - Limited risk, need, and responsivity data
- Target
  - **Reduce jail bed days consumed by chronic offenders by 10% (7,835) and those at-risk thereof by 15% (2,010) from the baseline of 78,345 and 13,400 bed days, respectively.**
- Method
  - Offer multiple opportunities to triage individuals presenting substance use, mental health, medical and/or social issues and dedicated professional staff to do so.

Strategies

3. Launch an automated court date reminder system to reduce the need for criminal bench warrants.

Strategy #3: Court Reminders

- Implement automated court reminder systems in General Sessions and Charleston Municipal Court
- Relevant Data
  - Challenge to distinguish reasons for criminal bench warrants (e.g., FTA or STP)
  - Disproportionality is present, 5 to 1.
- Target
  - **Reduce bookings for criminal bench warrants by 30% (870) from the baseline of 2,900.**
- Method
  - Gather defendant and significant other contact information for those booked as well as cited and released, and automatically send phone reminders.

Strategies

4. Enhance the bond setting process to be more risk-based and provide bond setting judges comprehensive information about defendants.

Strategy #4: Pretrial Risk

- Enhance bond setting process to be more risk based, includes risk assessment and screening for indigence
- Relevant data
  - 70% pretrial
  - Use of financial bond (80% in GS and 49% in Summary)
  - Limited pretrial risk data and capacity to mitigate risk
- Target
  - **Increase non–financial bonds in GS, from 20% to 30% and increase in non-financial bonds in summary courts, from 51% to 66%**
- Method
  - Significantly increase screening for indigence and aid in earlier assignment of counsel, pretrial risk assessment, risk mitigation, and dedicated professional staff to do so.

Strategies

5. Significantly reduce the time it takes for General Sessions cases to be resolved.

Strategy #5: Case Processing

- Reduce time to case resolution in General Sessions
- Relevant data
  - 191 days for in-custody and 350 days for out-of-custody
- Target
  - **Reduce median days to disposition by 37%, in-custody reduction from 191 to 120, and out-of-custody from 350 to 220**
- Method
  - Install technology, improve timeliness of discovery, expedite assignment of counsel, accelerate scheduling of first and second appearance , and dedicated staff and judicial leadership to make this possible.

Strategies

6. Create a centralized database where all agencies can share information and store data used for study and implementation of future improvements and projects.

Strategy #6: Data Warehouse

- Centralized data warehouse
- Relevant data
  - Challenges of the phase one data analysis
  - Limited capacity to connect individuals, incidents, and cases across decision points
  - Challenges in data sharing
- Target
  - **Meet specifications in three annual enhancement plans**
- Method
  - Advance from the pilot, expedite frequency, and grow data sharing per user needs, performance management, technology, and dedicated staff to make this possible.
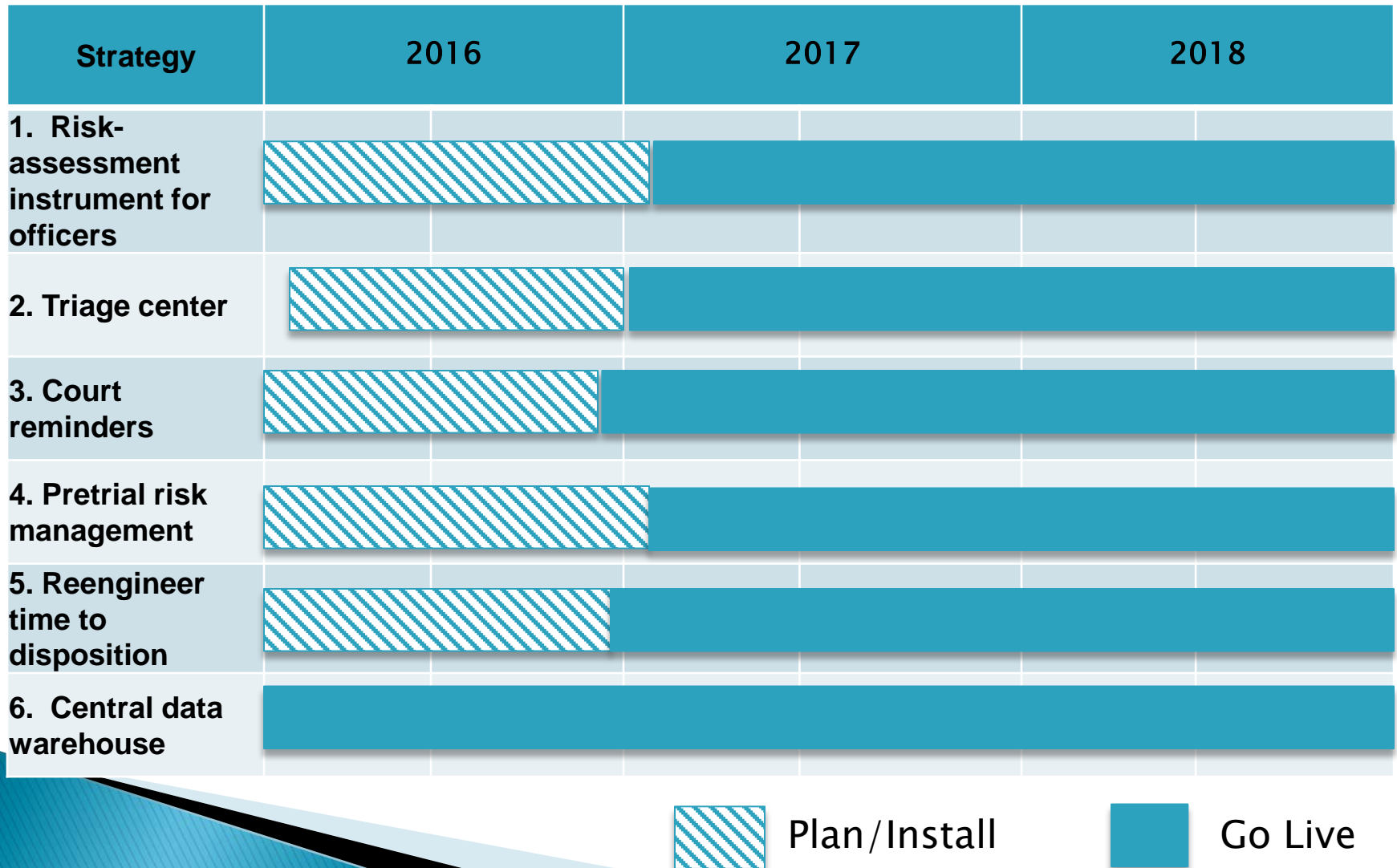
Positions Requested by Strategy	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6
(1) Director of System Utilization	X	X	X	X	X	X
(1) Project Director (Existing)	X	X	X	X	X	X
(1) Communications and Outreach Coordinator	X	X	X	X	X	X
(1) Analyst/ Statistician	X	X	X	X	X	X
(1) Database Administrator	X	X	X	X	X	X
(4) Pretrial Professionals		X	X	X	X	X
(4) Triage Case Managers	X	X	X	X		X
(1) Senior Defense Counsel			X	X	X	
(2) Defense Counsel			X	X	X	
(1) Legal Assistant			X	X	X	
(1) Computer Specialist			X	X	X	X
(1) Docket Manager			X	X	X	X
(1) Docket Coordinator			X	X	X	X

Infrastructure and Other Assistance

- Pretrial Risk Management training and technical assistance
- Risk-Based Decision Making Guide for Law Enforcement training and technical assistance
- Automated Court Reminder System
- Discovery interfacing
- Pretrial risk management software
- Triage Deployment software
- Centralized data warehouse
- Specialized training and professional conferences (e.g., cost-benefit analysis)
- Mandatory challenge meetings
- Supplies, equipment, and furniture

Timeline

Strategy	2016	2017	2018
1. Risk-assessment instrument for officers	▨ Plan/Install	■ Go Live	■ Go Live
2. Triage center	▨ Plan/Install	■ Go Live	■ Go Live
3. Court reminders	▨ Plan/Install	■ Go Live	■ Go Live
4. Pretrial risk management	▨ Plan/Install	■ Go Live	■ Go Live
5. Reengineer time to disposition	▨ Plan/Install	■ Go Live	■ Go Live
6. Central data warehouse	■ Go Live	■ Go Live	■ Go Live

▨ Plan/Install   ■ Go Live

Thank you!

cjcc.charlestoncounty.org