Session Title:
“Is Supervise Release an Important Part of Justice Reform”? – Lessons from the New York Unified Court System

Abstract

The Supervise Release Program was created by the Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice to help promote and facilitate on-the-ground justice reform -- an innovative community supervision model that challenges the use of a cash based bail system that reduces the reliance on pre-trial detention while promoting public trust and safety.

This session will use a moderator and panel approach to present data findings and lessons learned from experts and providers. The panel will discuss program design, implementation, evaluation and program outcomes including issues of public safety.

Who We Are:

The Center for Court Innovation, a project of the Fund for the City of New York, is a non-profit organization that promotes new thinking about how to reduce crime and incarceration while strengthening public trust in justice. The Center creates operating projects, including the award-winning Red Hook Community Justice Center and Midtown Community Court, that have been documented to improve public safety and reduce the use of jail and prison. Nationally and internationally, the Center performs original research on topics of justice reform and provides consulting services to criminal justice innovators.

Bronx Community Solutions (also called “BCS”), a project of the Center for Court Innovation, provides judges, prosecutors, and defense attorneys in the Bronx with alternative community sentencing options that hold individuals accountable in a way that is meaningful, proportionate, and restorative. The goal is to connect defendants to services that help them to avoid future contact with the justice system, to reduce the use of unnecessary jail, and to promote swift case resolutions that bolster public confidence in justice.

The Supervised Release Program has been an integral part of reducing the pre-trial detention population. Launched on March 1, 2016 in all 5 boroughs, the Center for Court Innovation
operates 3 of the 5 borough-wide programs, located in Brooklyn, Bronx and Staten Island. Pre-trial supervision was new to the Bronx and Staten Island and an expansion of the previous Misdemeanor Supervised Release Program in Brooklyn. The program is designed to operate primarily in each borough’s arraignment part Monday thru Sunday and covers both day and night arraignment shifts. The Supervised Release Program provides supervision and voluntary social services to people charged with non-violent felony and misdemeanor offenses who are at risk of pre-trial detention (domestic violence cases are excluded). The goal is to provide community supervision to individuals who score as “Low to Medium High” risk of pre-trial felony re-arrest while decreasing the use of bail.

**Moderator**

*Elizabeth Taylor, Director of Court Operations, Bronx Community Solutions*

**Panelist**

*Tracee Page, Associate Director of Court Operations SRP, Bronx Community Solutions*

*Rosa Aguirre, Supervising Clinician, Bronx Community Solutions*

*Jamaal Anderson, Supervised Release Graduate (tentative)*

The panel will be moderated for 1 hours with 30 minutes for Q&A

Specific topics that presentation will cover:

- Research data – Specific to the Bronx Criminal Courthouse and city-wide
- Supervised Release model – supervision program design for low to moderate high risk individuals facing bail
- Program Implementation – Eligibility criteria and case processing
- Community Based Supervision – Supervision levels, voluntary engagement, light touch and Risk-Need-Responsivity approach
- Challenges of this Model – Public Safety implications and where should justice reform go from here?