



Promises Made, Promises Kept

Recommendations from the Citizens Advisory
Committee on Jail Planning
(1997)

September 12, 2024

Citizens Advisory Committee on Jail Planning Recommendations

- These recommendations were produced by the Citizens Advisory Committee on Jail Planning in their 1997 report to the Board of Supervisors- after considering consultant's proposals.
- The recommendations were intended to save costs by decreasing future bed needs.

Citizens Advisory Committee on Jail Planning Recommendations

Five Categories

- Consolidate criminal justice data
- Establish efficiencies in case management, court proceedings and staffing
- Improve and expand pretrial services
- Enhance substance abuse programming
- Expand jail capacity

Citizens Advisory Committee on Jail Planning Recommendations

1999-2005

Citizens Advisory Committee on Jail Planning

Final Report



CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

The Committee recommends the appointment of a Citizens Jail Project Oversight Committee by the Board of Supervisors. Such a Committee must be charged with conducting annual meetings to insure that the programs approved by the voters, are carried into action. The Committee shall report to the Board of Supervisors annually as to the progress and scheduling of the program. In other words, the Citizens Jail Project Oversight Committee will insure that the promises made to the voters are not broken over the years of program implementation. The Maricopa County 1986 Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee should serve as a model for the Citizens Jail Project Oversight Committee.

Status of Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION 1 - INTEGRATED CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEM

If Maricopa County implemented an integrated criminal justice information system:

- Duplication of effort would be reduced;
 - Staffing efficiency would be enhanced; and
 - Valid data would be available to make sound jail population management decisions.
- ✓ ICJIS was established using Jail Excise Tax Funds and now receives \$2 million from the Detention Fund for maintenance and operation.

Status of Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION 2 - IMPLEMENT DIFFERENTIATED CASE MANAGEMENT

Differentiated case management is one technique courts use to tailor the case management process to the requirements of individual cases. Benefits include:

- Significantly greater scheduling certainty and more efficient use of resources;
- Reduced disposition times;
- Greater judicial productivity;
- Fewer continuances;
- Fewer bench warrants due to failures to appear; and
- Reduced pretrial detention cost.

Note: This was not new to Maricopa County, as the Superior Court was already using the concept for domestic relations cases.

- ✓ Court and County leaders created a tailored case flow management plan to ensure a more efficient and fair resolution of lower-level drug-related cases. These efforts not only provided more opportunities for treatment rather than incarceration, but for quicker closure as well.

Status of Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION 3 - ELIMINATE UNNECESSARY COURT PROCEEDINGS

- Consider pursuing a rule change to allow Justices of the Peace to accept pleas in minor felony cases.
- Send Superior Court Commissioners to regional justice centers for arraignments or utilize video conferencing technology.
 - Case processing time could be decreased.
 - This was a key component to differentiated case management.
- ✓ Beginning with an Administrative Order in 2000, the Superior Court began taking the necessary steps toward streamlining those cases. First, filings were regionalized from 25+ facilities to 4, which gained processing efficiencies. After that was operational, additional orders in 2002 enabled direct filing into Superior Court itself.

Status of Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION 4 - MOVE THE FIVE SOUTHEAST CRIMINAL DIVISIONS

- The Maricopa County Superior Court should move the five criminal divisions at the Southeast facility to Downtown Phoenix.
 - Reducing inmate transports would improve staffing efficiency and enhance public safety.
- ✓ Effective with the opening of the South Court Tower in 2012, all criminal divisions were consolidated into the downtown court campus. The remaining Court Commissioners overseeing early disposition calendars located at the Southeast Regional Facility in Mesa were transferred to the downtown campus in 2023.

Status of Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION 5 – EXPAND PRETRIAL SERVICES PROGRAM

- Expand the Pretrial Services program through the addition of 32 new positions.
 - This would enable the supervision caseload to be increased from approximately 530 to 1,200.
- ✓ Adult Probation currently has 27 staff that completed 51,000 initial appearance pretrial reports and 57 staff with a pretrial supervision caseload of 2,603 in 2024.

Status of Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION 6 - IMPLEMENT ELECTRONIC MONITORING

- The initial recommendation was for 50 electronic monitoring units, expanded to 150 units by 2012.
 - The program would allow community supervision of 150 defendants who would otherwise be incarcerated awaiting trial.
- ✓ In June of 2024, the electronic monitoring program consisted of 973 individuals supervised by 40 officers and four supervisors. While the initial recommendation was for a specific number of units, the County has worked with the Court to establish an appropriate caseload size ensuring the program is staffed with sufficient resources to effectively supervise the population.

Status of Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION 7 - FUND A STUDY TO RE-VALIDATE BAIL MATRIX

- Fund a study to review the Pretrial Services bail classification matrix to determine whether the decision factors used have predictive capability. The study would have the following three benefits:
 - Enhance public safety by ensuring that offenders receive proper supervision;
 - Instill faith in the judiciary that release decisions are appropriate; and
 - Serve as a basis for expanding the Pretrial Services Agency, which will reduce jail capital and operating costs.

- ✓ The approval and use of specific assessments is governed by the Supreme Court's Arizona Code of Judicial Administration, Section 5-201.
 - The current risk instrument utilized by the Court is a nationally validated risk instrument. In 2021, it was also validated for the Maricopa County population.

Status of Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION 8 - FUND SUBSTANCE ABUSE EVALUATION AND PROGRAMING

- Maricopa County should enhance substance abuse evaluation and programming. This recommendation would reduce the number of sentenced offenders awaiting evaluation and placement in substance abuse programs in the jail.
 - Note: At the time of the report, many criminal justice systems nationwide were placing more focus on substance abuse treatment as a way to reduce recidivism.
- ✓ Maricopa County has and will continue to invest in substance abuse programs and evaluations. Below is a list of various programs:
 - Opioid treatment programs through Correctional Health
 - MCSO Alpha- 1996-2016
 - Correctional Health Services Mosaic Program- 2017-2020
 - MCSO Choose to Change- 2017-2020/2023-2024
 - MCSO In-Cell Breaking the Cycle Addiction Packet Program - 2021-Present
 - REDEEM- Recovering and Enduring with Dignity through Education, Empowerment, and Mindfulness 2024-Present
 - MCSO Tablet Substance Abuse Courses 2020-Present

Status of Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION 9 - MODIFY THE DRUG COURT

- Modify the existing Drug Court to include pre-adjudicated offenders and broaden the category of offenders placed in the program.
 - A pre-adjudication Drug Court with less restrictive criteria would allow for earlier release from jail along with appropriate treatment.
- ✓ The Maricopa County Attorney's Office (MCAO) developed a diversion program allowing a person charged with a felony offense to participate in an evidence-based treatment program.
 - Successful completion of the program results in charges being dismissed with prejudice (meaning the charges can never be re-filed).
 - Eligible offenses include personal possession of drugs (if the person is eligible for mandatory probation pursuant to 13-901.01) and drugs sales if the amount of drugs involved are below the statutory threshold.
 - *Case is filed, diversion is offered, prosecution is suspended to allow defendant the opportunity to complete diversion. If successful, the case is dismissed. If the defendant is not successful, the state notifies the court and prosecution resumes.*

Status of Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION 10 - EXPAND JAIL CAPACITY

- Expand jail capacity to 8,940 beds by 2012.
 - This number was an estimate based on the implementation of the system recommendations presented in previous slides.
 - The County would reduce bed requirements by 2,887 to total the 8,940 beds over those fifteen years.

- ✓ By December 2012, there were 9,035 beds. *Note: This number did not include portable beds (tents).*

Status of Recommendations

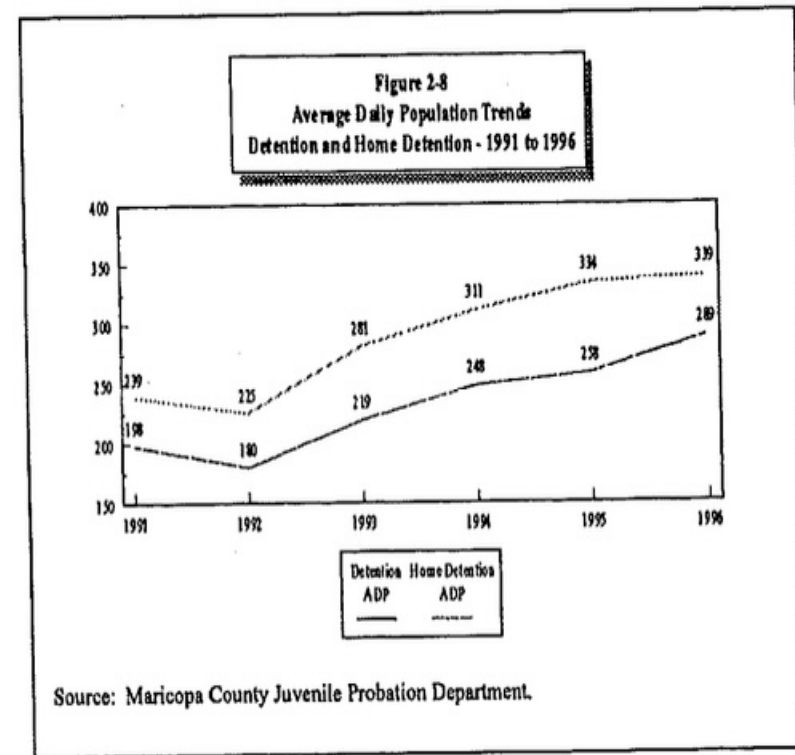
Juvenile System Recommendation

- Secure detention must be expanded along with community-based alternatives and other diversion programs. *(See slide from 1997 committee report depicting trends from 1991-1996)*
- Consultants recommended “detention services” would be needed for an average daily population of 780 by 2012.

NOTE: As of FY23 the overall average daily population was 151 due to:

- *Increased awareness of the negative effects of detention;*
- *Focus on diversion programs; and*
- *Changes in sentencing and charging practices.*

Figure 2-8 shows a tremendous growth trend in the number of juveniles in secure detention, and the number of juveniles placed on home detention. The average daily population in secure detention increased by 42% for the period, and the average daily population on home detention increased by 45% between 1991 and 1996.





Thank You