



Workgroup B: Pretrial Investigations, Supervision, Training, and Resources

Status Update to Stakeholder Group

Wednesday, July 11, 2018

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Virginia Department of
Criminal Justice Services

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Workgroup B Summary

- Scope
 - Develop strategies to ensure that investigations of all defendants who are eligible for pretrial services are completed and information is provided to the courts
 - Identify staffing and resource needs of local pretrial services agencies, as well as what is required from DCJS to provide adequate support to those local pretrial services agencies
 - Continue to educate stakeholders on the role, duties, and appropriate uses of pretrial services agencies

Workgroup B Summary

- Scope
 - Other Topics:
 - Use of resources between investigations and supervision
 - The necessity of a release recommendation from pretrial services agencies
 - Verification of information obtained during the pretrial investigation
 - Removal of the pretrial monitoring component from the PRAXIS
 - Scoring substance abuse history (UNCOPE, prior charges/convictions, alcohol)
 - Timely notification of pretrial violations to all stakeholders for defendants ordered to pretrial supervision

Workgroup B Summary

- Meetings
 - March 26, 2018
 - May 14, 2018
 - June 11, 2018

Workgroup B Summary

- Key Topics
 - Virginia Pretrial Services Map of Practices
 - Value of Pretrial Services Core Functions (Pretrial Investigation/Supervision)
 - Training

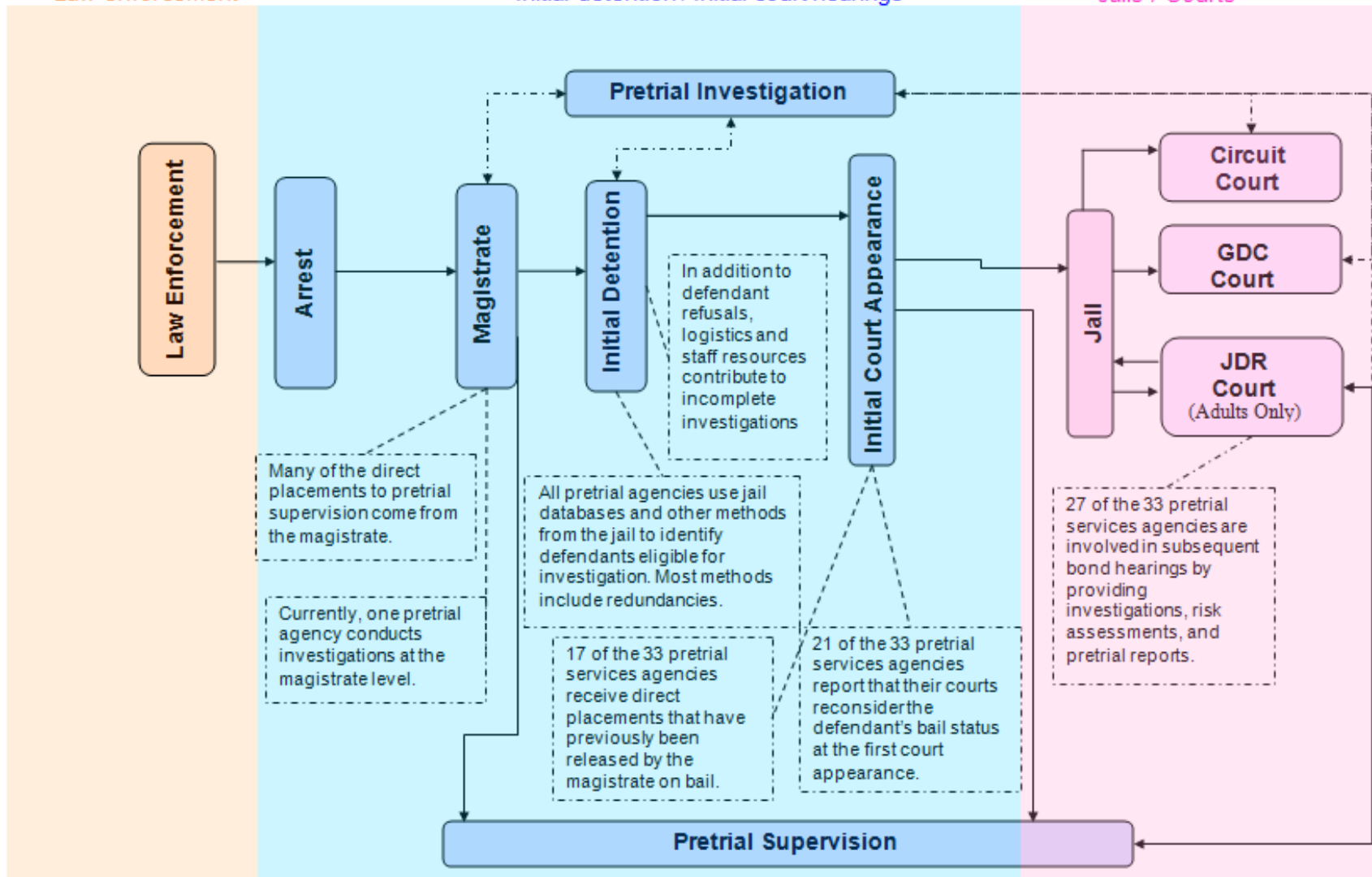
Virginia Pretrial Services Map of Practices

Virginia Pretrial Services Mapping May, 2018

Decision Point 1
Law enforcement

Decision Point 2
Initial detention / Initial court hearings

Decision Point 3
Jails / Courts



Virginia Pretrial Services Map of Practices

- Pretrial Services Map of Practices Highlights
 - Fairfax County is the only pretrial services agency that conducts investigations at the magistrate level
 - All pretrial services agencies use jail databases and other methods from the jail to identify defendants eligible for investigation and most include redundancies to reduce error
 - 17 of the 33 pretrial services agencies receive direct placements that have previously been released by the magistrate on bond
 - 21 of the 33 pretrial services agencies report that their courts reconsider the defendant's bail status at the first court appearance
 - 27 of the 33 pretrial services agencies are involved in subsequent bond hearings by providing investigations, risk assessments, and pretrial reports

Virginia Pretrial Services Map of Practices

- Key Findings
 - Developing a standardized practice to identify eligible defendants for pretrial investigation is not practical due to the differences among each jail
 - Direct placements are due to a variety of factors outside the control of pretrial services agencies
 - Many courts do not reconsider bail at the first court appearance
- Suggestion
 - Expanded mapping of pretrial services practices

Core Functions: Pretrial Investigation vs. Supervision

Pretrial Investigation vs. Supervision

- Examined value of informing bail decisions
 - Pretrial risk assessment (VPRAI)
 - Pretrial investigation report
 - Pretrial recommendations (Praxis)
 - DC-327, Checklist for Bail Determination Form
 - Screening tools for substance abuse, mental health, domestic violence, etc.
- Examined the value of pretrial supervision provided by pretrial services agencies

Pretrial Investigation vs. Supervision

- Key Findings
 - VPRAI is helpful, but the information provided in the pretrial investigation report is most important
 - The Checklist for Bail Determination form has some overlap with the VPRAI, but the purposes are different
 - The Checklist for Bail Determination (DC-327) is a form to document the information gathered in the initial bail hearing
 - The VPRAI is an actuarial tool used to assess the likelihood of failure (FTA or new arrest)
 - The consensus of the workgroup was that information from multiple sources is valuable to inform bail decisions
 - VPRAI report presentation needs improvement to be meaningful for stakeholders

Pretrial Investigation vs. Supervision

- Proposed Changes to Investigation Services
 - Modify the VPRAI report to break out risk of FTA, new arrest, and add risk of new violent arrest
 - Improve definition of acts of violence
 - Improve training and education about the VPRAI to help stakeholders better understand the risk assessment information presented
 - Further discussion is needed about “risk tolerance” to guide recommendations made by pretrial officers

Pretrial Investigation vs. Supervision

- Proposed Changes to Pretrial Services Supervision
 - Pretrial services agencies should be required to send information to all parties involved in the case to ensure they are well informed about the progress of the cases, including magistrates
 - Adjust supervision level on the Praxis to remove monitoring

Training

Training

- Identified 2 primary questions:
 - 1) What pretrial services training(s) or training curriculum/materials currently exists, and are unmet for judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, magistrates, court clerks, jails, and law enforcement, and what is the best way to deliver training?
 - 2) What pretrial services training(s) or training curriculum/materials currently exists, and are unmet for pretrial officers, supervisors, and directors, and what is the best way to deliver training?

Training

- Proposed Training Format
 - Regional trainings for the different criminal justice disciplines is the preferred method of delivery
 - Trainings should provide consistent information
 - Trainings should be conducted by one pretrial services professional (someone doing the day to day work), and someone from the stakeholder discipline (also involved in the day to day work)
 - Local Bar Associations or Bench Bar panels can be used as a training venue

Training

- Proposed Training Format
 - Local multi-disciplinary trainings are a way to ensure all those in the criminal justice system hear the same message
 - Training should be practical, a balance between research (for understanding) and day to day use
 - Local government leaders need to be included in trainings because they are the fiscal agents for local pretrial services agencies

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