



# **Pretrial Planning Update and Discussion**

**January 26, 2026**

Local Public Safety Coordinating Council

# Agenda

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- Budget Note
- Pretrial Subcommittee
- Successful Practices from Other Jurisdictions
- Key Elements Discussed at the Pretrial Retreat
- Questions/Discussion



# Budget Note: Subcommittee Focus Points

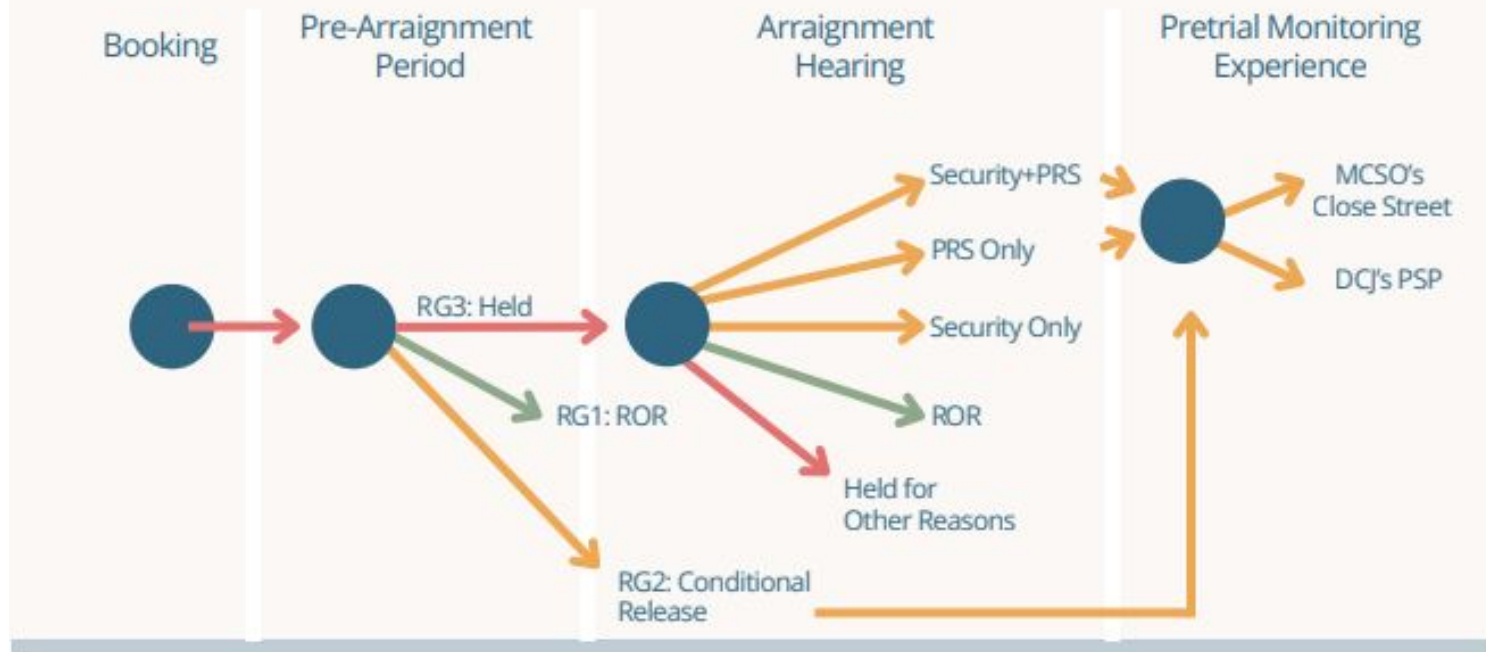
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The Board requests recommendations for pretrial monitoring options incorporating these considerations:

- Data-driven client prioritization such as/not limited to: Public Safety Assessment (PSA) score, pretrial numbers, population make up, and emerging practices
- Pros and Cons of options such as return to courts, consolidation in County department, fully Community Based Organization model, or a hybrid model of County and contracted services.
- Enhances public safety and pretrial justice
- What steps can be taken now and/or have been implemented to begin a strategic transition and ensure effective use of our pretrial system, both current and future.
- Models in-line with national best practices, including but not limited to those outlined in the Justice System Partners enhanced practice report.



**Figure 1**  
*Multnomah County's Pretrial Process*



# Pretrial Subcommittee Membership

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## **Multnomah County Departments:**

Sheriff's Office

Department of Community Justice

District Attorney's Office

Domestic and Sexual Violence  
Coordination Office (DCHS)

Chair's Office, D2 and D3 Staff

## **Courts:**

Judges

Trial Court Administration

## **Law Enforcement:**

Portland Police Bureau

## **Public Defense:**

Multnomah Defenders Inc.

Metropolitan Public Defenders

## **Other Partners:**

Justice Fellow

PSU Criminal Justice Policy  
Research Institute

Justice System Partners



# Current System Policy Changes

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- The Court approved transferring all non-person misdemeanors to PSP. Referees were instructed that non-person misdemeanors cannot be ordered on supervision with Close Street.
- The Court and DA's Office agreed that non-person felonies may be transferred from CS to PSP Level 1 after 90 days of compliant appearances and no new law violations/arrests.
- Movement to ROR was not approved. Clients in compliance at PSP Level 0 will receive no monitoring services, but remain on the PSP caseload at the request of the District Attorney's Office.



# Successful Practices

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- **Pima County, AZ:** Transition Center within walking distance to jail release, peer navigators and basic needs support
- **Missoula, MT:** Eliminated contact requirements and compliance reporting and instead focus on providing direct and targeted support to meet their basic needs and address barriers to success
- **Queens, NY:** Support-based model for pretrial focused on addressing needs and supporting individuals to get to court; uses peer navigators to increase success
- **San Francisco, CA:** Warm-handoffs from jail release to pretrial; pretrial presence in court, co-located services/housing access point
- **Clackamas County, OR:** Transition Center within walking distance to jail release, referrals to community-based services
- **Santa Cruz, CA:** Pretrial provides basic needs supports including: sleeping bags, food and hygiene supplies



# Pretrial Retreat: Aspirational Principles to Guide our Work





# Pretrial Retreat Concepts Discussed

## Transition Services

*Voluntary, available to anyone*

- Peer Navigators
- Resources and incentives (phones with minutes, transportation assistance)
- Referrals/connection to existing County services
- Located within, or within walking distance, to the jail
- Warm-handoff, pre-release connection

## Pretrial Monitoring:

*Not voluntary; limited to specific case types/risk-levels*

- In-person compliance monitoring and reporting to the Court
- Focus on barrier reduction to improve successful court appearance
- Time-limited with compliance
- Non-Enforcement focused
- Referrals made to transition services; existing county resources



# Pretrial Retreat Concepts

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## Electronic Monitoring/SCRAM:

- Limited use to cases with geographic restrictions with victim safety concern; specific case types
- Group acknowledgement that EM/SCRAM are expensive and *not effective* at improving court appearance. These are conditions judicially imposed when there are community safety concerns.
- EM *can* document violations after the fact and increase feelings of safety among victims



# Pretrial Retreat Concepts

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## Court Reminders:

- Nationally researched and cost effective best practice for improving court appearance
- Phone and text reminders used in Multnomah for at least 20 years
- Current reminders are sent 7 days & 1 day prior to the scheduled appearance; limited ability to modify frequency or content of messages
- Consider adopting new monitoring software to provide more frequent reminders (7 days, 3 days, 24h) and use behavioral messaging



# Pretrial Retreat: Delivery Mechanisms

The group explored the capacity and appropriateness of the following agencies to deliver the key components:

- Court
- County Department
- Community-Based Provider
- Hybrid models



# Pretrial Subcommittee: Options Development

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- Model with all the core components (warm handoffs, peer support, compliance monitoring, material supports, EM/SCRAM) will be costly and there is likely not a path to funding everything
- Costs include:
  - Staff: Intake staff, pretrial specialists, peer navigators, data analyst, program management
  - Material supports (cell phones, transportation, vital documents)
  - Space, administrative costs, EM/SCRAM



# Options Development: Discussion Questions

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1. Given budget constraints, how should we prioritize key components of the pretrial program?
2. Which population is most at risk for increased security holds without a pretrial option, and how can we prioritize eligibility for monitoring?
3. What steps must be taken to ensure equitable program design and implementation?

