



Portland State  
UNIVERSITY

# *STEP Court Evaluation*

Mark Leymon (PI), Brian Renauer, Aryn Infante,  
and Ann Leymon

Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice

October 28, 2024



# Research Questions

1. What are the characteristics of the STEP Court participants, and how do they compare to similarly situated justice-involved individuals?
2. To what degree is the program following relevant research-based best practices described in the NADCP's Best Practice Standards (2013, 2015) and current research in the field?
3. To what degree does the program meet the desired programmatic outcomes?
  - a. How do these outcomes compare to similarly situated justice-involved individuals?
4. What are the costs and benefits of STEP Court?
5. How can STEP court be a model for other jurisdictions?

# *Project Phases*

*The project completion in September of 2027*

1

Summary of Current  
Qualitative and Quantitative  
Data  
&  
Summary of STEP Court  
Participants

2

Conduct a Process  
Evaluation

3

Conduct Outcome a  
Series of  
Evaluations

4

Cost-Benefit  
Analysis



# *Phase I: Review and Summarize Existing Data*

## **Objectives:**

- **The PSU Team will work with STEP Court officials and other county stakeholders to identify and compile existing data.**
- **Review, analyze, and summarize the data.**
- **Identify appropriate self-monitoring measures and recommend additional data to be collected.**
- **Summarize and report the current participants, including their characteristics and circumstances surrounding the cases, quality of life, health, family relationships, demographics, and criminal history.**



# *Phase II: Process Evaluation*

## **Objectives:**

- Review the Court's characteristics, processes, and practices and how these may address disparities in the criminal justice system.
- Analyze the degree to which the program follows relevant research-based best practices as described in the NADCP's Best Practice Standards (2013, 2015) and current research in the field.



# *Phase III: Outcome Reports*

## **Objectives:**

- **Generate two outcome evaluations.**
  - **The first outcome will cover a 12-month period.**
  - **The second will cover a 24-months.**
- **A third follow-up report will be conducted at 36 months**
- **Primary outcomes (HB 3194) – *prison use, recidivism rates, public safety, and offender accountability.***
- **The PSU Team will work with the county to identify relevant outcome measures in addition to the traditional measures.**



# *Phase IV: Cost-Benefit Analysis*

## **Objectives:**

- **The costs will be presented as both the cost of the program per participant and the cost per agency.**
- **Criminal justice recidivism and societal costs will be presented for STEP court participants and comparison group members, including any cost-benefit (savings) attributed to the court.**



# *Implementation Manual*

## **Objectives:**

- **The PSU Research Team will work with key stakeholders in Multnomah County and the CJC to draft a manual that outlines the implementation and operation of STEP Courts in other counties.**





# ***Deliverables***

- **Summary of Qualitative and Quantitative Data Gathered (non-public)**
- **Summary of STEP Court Participants (non-public)**
- **Process Evaluation Report**
- **12-month Outcome Report**
- **24-month Outcome Report**
- **36-month Outcome Update**
- **Cost-Benefit Analysis Report**
- **Implementation Manual**
- **Three Conference Presentations**
- **Local and State Trainings and Presentations, as Requested**





1

# Currently in Phase I

**Expected completion in  
January 2025**

**Targeting the start of Phase II (Process Evaluation)  
in November**

**Recommendations for a timeline of remaining  
phases will be determined after an assessment of  
existing data and identifying and operationalizing  
new measures.**





# *Thank You – Questions?*

Mark Leymon, Chair

Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice



Portland State  
UNIVERSITY