



# CASS COUNTY PRETRIAL SERVICES MAY 2020 REPORT

## MISSION

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To serve the community by using evidence-based practices to assess and supervise defendants in order to assist the Courts in making pretrial release decisions that prioritize public safety, maximize court appearance and reduce recidivism, while protecting the presumption of innocence.

## GOALS

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- Maximize Public Safety
- Maximize Court Appearance
- Maximize Release

## QUARTERLY OVERVIEW

This has been an unprecedented quarter. The COVID-19 pandemic has presented daily changes to our Country, Community, and Criminal Justice System. Despite these challenges, Pretrial Services has remained dedicated to serving our Community, Courts, and Clients by continuing to monitor and adapt our practices to ensure that we have not only remained operational and met our clients' needs, but have also been able to assist the courts and other agencies.

We have continued to take new clients and report another record quarter. We are excited to have reached the milestone of enrolling our 100th client this past March. To date, we have conducted over 417 IRAS-PATs and have had 113 clients in the program, including 110 adults and 3 juveniles. We have had a total of 64 felony cases and 62 misdemeanor cases.

I want to acknowledge and thank the Judges, Court Staff, Commissioners, Cass County Jail & Sheriff's Department, Community Corrections, Probation, and IT for their support in making this possible. Rest assured public safety, maximized release, and the needs of our clients remain a priority even in these uncertain times.

Best Regards,

*Hillary Hartoin*

Pretrial Services Coordinator

# COVID-19 RESPONSE & UPDATE

Defendants are still being evaluated, via non-recorded video interviews, within 24-48 hours of their arrest and initial hearings are being held the same day as arraignment whenever possible to expedite release and limit exposure to the Cass County Jail. The majority of the eligible Defendants arrested and booked are evaluated, arraigned, and released to Pretrial Services within 24-36 hours, in some cases less than 12 hours. All clients are currently being supervised by telephonic appointments or electronic monitoring at a dosage that correlates with their risk level and criminogenic needs. Pretrial Services plans to transition back to traditional supervision techniques and office appointments when deemed appropriate by the Judiciary.

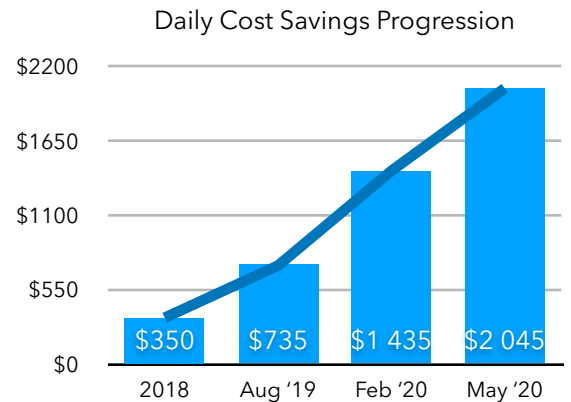
We are collaborating with the Community Corrections Therapist and Four County Liaison to connect clients with virtual peer support recovery groups, telephonic counseling, and recovery coaching. To date, Pretrial Services has made over 20 referrals. We also recognize that social distancing and isolation can be a trigger and have negative effects on our clients. Those with known mental health issues are being supervised at a higher dosage to offset these effects and better meet their needs and prevent relapse.

Approximately 15% of our current caseload is high-risk for COVID-19. Clients are screened for symptoms using CDC guidelines and encouraged to seek medical attention or get tested. We are conducting extra checks on clients known to be high-risk. Community-specific COVID-19 updates are provided and we continually encourage our clients to comply with social distancing and take precautions. Out of five clients who have reported being tested, all have reported to be negative.

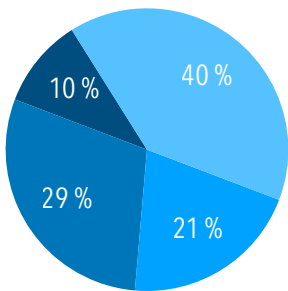
## COST SAVINGS

Currently, Pretrial Services saves an approximate \$2045 daily in incarceration expenses and juvenile detention savings, using the respective \$35 and \$200 daily per diems. This is 39% increase in savings from last quarter. The average savings per a month is \$63,395 and does not account for the intangible benefits provided to the defendant and the county that the data cannot capture.

For example, we have taken three cases this quarter where an inmate had medical issues or an injury that necessitated release, allowing said clients access to needed medical care without burdening the county. We have also tried to expedite the release of those who exhibited symptoms or were exposed to the COVID-19 virus.



Jail Analysis



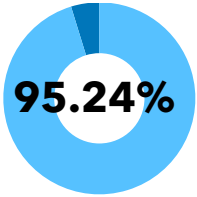
- Pre-adjudication
- Probation/CPCC Violations
- Serving Sentence
- Other

## IMPACT ON JAIL

Currently, the population average is approximately 150 inmates. The last jail analysis shows that 40% are pre-adjudication, 29% Probation/CPCC violations, 21% serving a sentence. These numbers are lower than projected and largely due to decisions made in light of COVID-19.

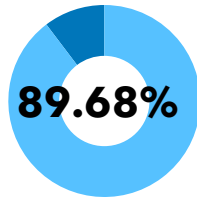
## PERFORMANCE METRICS

Despite necessary adaptations and changes to supervision strategies, we have continued to focus on monitoring our performance metrics for not only quality assurance, but also to ensure that changes and limitations were not adversely impacting public safety and the client success rates. We are happy to report that all metrics have remained stable or improved.



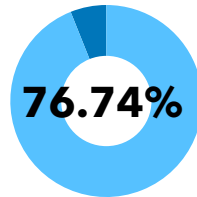
### Appearance Rate

the percentage of defendants who attended all court hearings during their pretrial period



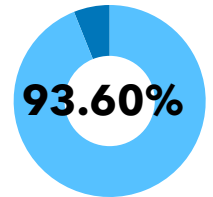
### Safety Rate

the percentage of defendants who were not charged with a new offense during their pretrial period



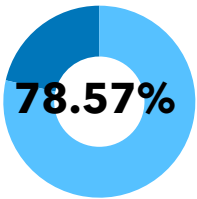
### Supervision Concurrence Rate

percentage of defendants being supervised at a level that matches their assessed risk; overrides not included



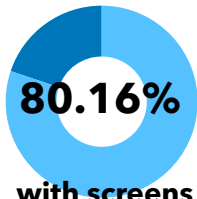
### Release Decision Concurrence Rate

percentage of court decisions that are consistent with the PSC's Recommendation



### Success Rate

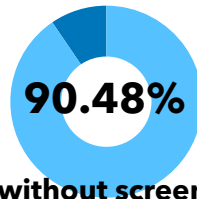
the percentage of defendants who have not received a violation, FTA, or new offense while under supervision



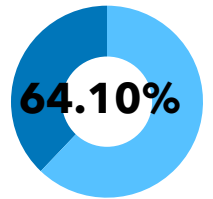
### with screens

the percentage of defendants who did not receive a violation, pending violations are included in calculations

Moderate risk clients are most likely to violate PTR and 47% of violations are for failed screens.



### without screens



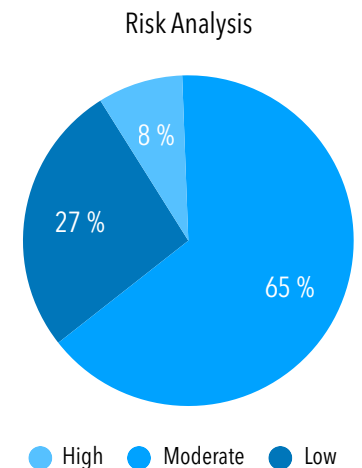
### Completion Rate

percentage of defendants who remained under supervision until disposition;

**Without drug screens projected rate is 83.10%.**

## DEMOGRAPHICS

We have 49 active clients and 59 cases: 28 Criminal Misdemeanors, 21 Level 6 Felonies, and 10 High Level Felonies; 47 adults and 2 juveniles. 34% of active participants are being supervised at Level 3 (High) Supervision, with weekly reporting and 20% of active clients have needs where supervised release was in the best interest of the county and the clients. 16% of active clients have multiple cases. Active clients instant offenses are identified as follows: 41% drug and alcohol related offenses, 22% crimes against property, 30% crimes against persons, and 7% traffic offenses. Trends show that 8% of active clients have been identified through the IRAS-PAT as High Risk, 65% as Moderate Risk, and 27% as Low Risk.



## UPDATES

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We are still working hard to meet our IDOC Program Performance Metrics and achieve our 2020 goals. Below are some notable additions and upcoming projects:

- Certification for the Ontario Domestic Violence Risk Assessment (ODARA) has been obtained and incorporated into our evaluations.
- The PSC also received a certificate in Evidence-Based Practices from the National Institute of Corrections.
- In partnership with Community Corrections we launched our mass text message system in March and are sending out informational and motivational texts, including program and community updates, surveys, and links to virtual therapy and peer recovery groups.
- We are also collaborating with Community Corrections to launch a dedicated website for both entities, that will be interactive and serve as a resource for attorneys and clients.
- Pretrial Services is now e-filing and has also developed a digital exit survey to more effectively gather client feedback.

The logo for ODARA 101, featuring the text "ODARA" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, with "101" in a smaller font to the right. A stylized orange and yellow swoosh underline is positioned beneath the text.The logo for the National Institute of Corrections (NIC), featuring a green square with a white stylized "N" shape inside, followed by the letters "NIC" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. Below the letters, the text "National Institute of Corrections" is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

### **For answers to any questions contact:**

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