



OHIO

CRIMINAL SENTENCING COMMISSION

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TO: Commission Members, Advisory Committee & Those Interested

FROM: Sara Andrews, Director

RE: Sentencing Commission Survey of Pretrial Practices – UPDATE

DATE: September 19, 2019

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As you know, earlier this summer we embarked upon a groundbreaking statewide survey of local pretrial practices. We are now analyzing the results with assistance from a team of interns, representing several universities, assigned to the project.

The Commission coordinated the survey effort with staff from the Supreme Court of Ohio, the Ohio Association of Pretrial Services Agencies, the Ohio Chief Probation Officers Association, and the Ohio Association for Court Administration, among others. The survey team reached out to 127 municipal courts and 87 common pleas courts, completing 183 interviews with a few remaining interviews to be conducted. With the vibrant survey process nearly completed, the researchers and interns at the Commission are currently compiling results to produce a report for presentation and sharing in the late fall of 2019.

In addition to conducting the remaining interviews, the team of interns is currently transcribing audio recordings of the open-ended portion of the survey interviews and coding them to extract key themes and subjects for qualitative analysis. Researchers in the office are also aggregating survey responses on questions such as program size, caseload, age, data collection, and scope. The subsequent quantitative analysis will capture the intricate picture of the near-200 pre-trial programs surveyed in Ohio.

This ambitious survey supplements the prior work of the Commission on bail practices and pretrial services in a meaningful and credible way to better understand pretrial processes in Ohio. The robust information from the survey, for the first time, will give practitioners, policy makers and others first-hand, fresh and powerful aggregate information about the current status of pretrial services in our state.