

EBDM in Wisconsin Overview

Prior EBDM Phases

Phase I

NIC launched the Evidence-Based Decision Making (EBDM) Initiative in June 2008 to establish and test the application of evidence-based practices to criminal justice decisions, with the goal of achieving measurable reductions in pretrial misconduct and post-conviction risk of reoffending. During Phase I, a conceptual framework was developed: [*A Framework for Evidence-Based Decision Making in Local Criminal Justice Systems*](#) (the Framework). The Framework defined risk and harm reduction as fundamental goals of the justice system, summarized key research evidence, and outlined a structure and set of principles for achieving EBDM.

Phases II and III

NIC selected seven jurisdictions from across the country to implement the EBDM Framework. The seven local sites were: Mesa County, Colorado; Grant County, Indiana; Ramsey County, Minnesota; Yamhill County, Oregon; City of Charlottesville/County of Albemarle, Virginia; Eau Claire County, Wisconsin; and Milwaukee County, Wisconsin. Intensive technical assistance was provided to assist the sites in developing the processes and infrastructure to implement EBDM, including: establishing or advancing a multidisciplinary collaborative policy team, agreeing on a shared vision for the local justice system, assessing current policies and practices against goals and research evidence, determining methods to more effectively integrate research at key decision points, and developing work plans for the implementation of EBDM. During Phase III, the local EBDM sites implemented critical change strategies, developed communication strategies to support their work, and collected and measured data to track progress towards meeting their system-wide goals.

Statewide EBDM Participation in Phase IV and V

Building on the success of the original local EBDM sites, including Eau Claire and Milwaukee, the National Institute of Corrections held a national EBDM Summit in Madison in January 2014. This Summit signified the beginning of the next phase of the Initiative, which is envisioned to link county level efforts to state level protocols and initiatives. The purpose of the Summit was to share information with a broad group of state and local officials about the EBDM Framework. The Summit addressed the importance of statewide evidence-based decision making to achieving improved criminal justice outcomes and reducing the harm that crime causes Wisconsin's communities. The Summit provided state and local officials with the foundational information needed to consider engaging in a statewide EBDM effort.

Following the Summit, in February 2014, the State CJCC formally applied to for Phase IV of the initiative, which was focused on preparation work to gauge capacity and readiness to expand EBDM to additional local jurisdictions and on a statewide level. Wisconsin was one of five states awarded inclusion in Phase IV (along with Virginia, Indiana, Colorado and Oregon).

In May, 2014, work began in Phase IV. This phase included a series of activities designed to help Wisconsin prepare itself to competitively apply for Phase V. To complete these activities, a planning team was assembled, which included more than a dozen state and local leaders from a broad spectrum of criminal justice system agencies. At the close of Phase IV, the state of Wisconsin formally applied for inclusion in Phase V of the EBDM Initiative. This phase is a year-long planning phase to expand EBDM to six additional counties in tandem with a state-level team. On February 25, 2015, the state of Wisconsin was officially selected as one of three states, including Indiana and Virginia, to advance to Phase V of the EBDM Initiative.

Phase V Local Sites

A total of 21 Wisconsin counties applied for inclusion in Phase V. Through a competitive process, Chippewa, Marathon, Outagamie, La Crosse, Rock and Waukesha counties were selected as the local jurisdictions for Wisconsin.

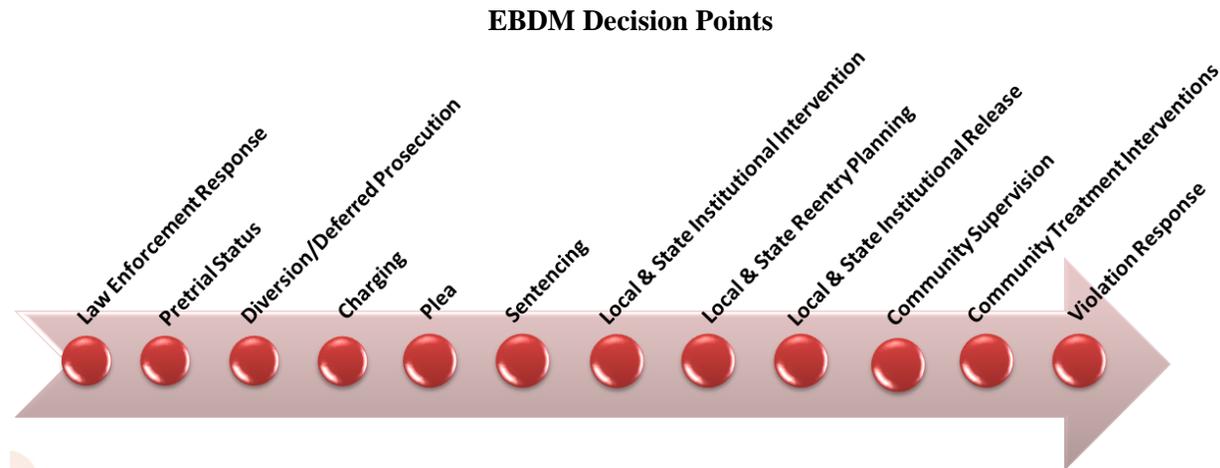
State Team Committee Structure

The Evidence-Based Decision Making (EBDM) Subcommittee serves as the Phase V State-Level EBDM Policy Team, operating under the State Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC). In this role, the EBDM Subcommittee is working in parallel with the local teams in conducting Phase V Roadmap activities, while providing a constant feedback loop to the CJCC and its Executive Committee.

The Change Target Workgroups are co-chaired by members of the EBDM Subcommittee and will report back on their work to the subcommittee, which will then report up to the State CJCC for final approval.

EBDM Phase V State Team Change Target Workgroup Background

To begin Phase V of the Evidence-Based Decision Making (EBDM) Initiative, the EBDM Subcommittee engaged in mapping the criminal justice system, and discussed a number of topics at each of the 12 EBDM decision points.



The goal of these discussions was to analyze opportunities for improvement and ultimately identify focused “change targets” for the criminal justice system. This process is similar to that of Eau Claire and Milwaukee’s earlier EBDM work, in which each team developed selection criteria, reviewed its list of potential opportunities, and ultimately selected change targets to be the focus of their EBDM work.

The State CJCC EBDM Subcommittee is focusing on six change targets, and created multidisciplinary workgroups dedicated to each change target at the 1/21/16 subcommittee meeting.

Change Target Workgroup Activities

Over the next five months, these change target workgroups will further develop strategies to address the selected change targets. Each Change Target Workgroup’s activities will include:

- ✓ Analysis of current policies and practices;
- ✓ Collection of quantitative and qualitative information;
- ✓ Review of relevant research;
- ✓ Determining if improvement is desirable and possible (based on the activities above);
- ✓ Seeking consensus from the full EBDM Subcommittee; and
- ✓ Developing a logic model and action plan.