

From Policy to Practice
Ohio Consortium of Crime Science
Video Transcript

Chris Asplen: I'm Chris Asplen, the Executive Director of the National Criminal Justice Association and the NCJA Center for Justice Planning. This is one in a series of videos where we're going to be examining innovative programs that are being implemented by state criminal justice planning agencies or state administering agencies, SAAs for short, where they're working with localities to identify, implement, and evaluate promising practices and programs that ultimately reduce crime and prevent recidivism. With me today is Karhlton Moore, and Karhlton is the Director of the Office of Criminal Justice Services in Ohio. He's here today to talk about the Ohio Consortium of Crime Science. Welcome, Karhlton.

Karhlton Moore: Thank you, Chris. It's a pleasure to be here with you.

Chris Asplen: Could you tell us a little bit about ... Generally, about what the Ohio Consortium of Crime Science is?

Karhlton Moore: Absolutely. The Ohio Consortium of Crime Science is a partnership between the Office of Criminal Justice Services and colleges and universities across Ohio. We have about 14 colleges who are partnering with us, and about 45 professors who are part of the collaboration. The purpose of the consortium is to spread evidence-based practices to anyone in our state who has a desire to implement evidence-based practices.

Chris Asplen: What kind of agencies might those be?

Karhlton Moore: It really runs the gamut of the entire criminal justice system, from those who are interested in prevention, corrections, enforcement, reentry, and everything in between.

Chris Asplen: How might your experts at your universities integrate into those systems and provide that kind of assistance?

Karhlton Moore: Well, the way the process starts is that someone will first notify the Office of Criminal Justice Services, and when they do that, they will identify whatever particular issue they may have. Perhaps they want some type of program evaluation, or they want assistance implementing some type of evidence-based practice. Whatever the case may be, it first starts with them notifying our office. We then take their information, we share that with a group of people who are on our selection committee, and that selection committee is made up of the members that I identified earlier. They will review the request that comes in from the practitioner, make a determination of whether or not there is an evidence-based or promising practice that is there to support the program that they would like to implement, and then, once we make that determination, we will notify the

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practitioner and ask them if that's something they would like to do. Once they tell us they'd like to do that, then we then pay for an expert to come out to their locality and implement the program or conduct the evaluation, whatever the nature of the request is.

Chris Asplen: Now, I assume that the length of that interaction between your experts and the agency is dependent upon the request.

Karhlton Moore: Absolutely, absolutely. And the hope, though, is that when we take that researcher and we partner them with a practitioner, that that is not a one-time event, that this becomes something that both the practitioner and the researcher see as mutually beneficial, and that they are then able to increase overall criminal justice in their municipality.

Chris Asplen: Is there an evaluation component to what goes on between the practitioner and the researcher at the university?

Karhlton Moore: We do do some evaluation after the fact. We'll work with the practitioner, we'll ask them about what their interaction was like, and certainly check up on the implementation of the program.

Chris Asplen: How long has this program been implemented?

Karhlton Moore: We've initially began discussions about the OCCS in 2012; we began implementation in 2013.

Chris Asplen: And how was it funded?

Karhlton Moore: It was initially funded through the JAG grant, so we ... I took a portion of our Byrne JAG grant and decided that implementing evidence-based practices was of such importance that this was something that we had to do, and then, shortly after that, the federal government took notice of it, and they actually gave us a Field-Initiated ... A Field-Initiated Innovation Grant -- that's a lot to say -- and so we've had that grant ever since, and we've been funding programs with that grant program.

Chris Asplen: Fantastic. Thank you, Karhlton, for sharing the Consortium with us. If you are interested in the Ohio Consortium for Crime Science, or if you have any other questions about innovative practices and programs that might be implemented by a state criminal justice planning agency, please feel free to contact us at NCJA and NCJA's Center for Justice Planning. We'd be more than happy to connect you with Karhlton, or with any other expert that we have access to, towards our common goal of reducing crime and preventing recidivism. Thank you.

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