

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA & THE SAFETY AND JUSTICE CHALLENGE

OVERVIEW

The Legacy and Ongoing Progress of the Clark County, Nevada Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC)

The Clark County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) stands as a model of collaborative leadership and systemic reform. Established to address the complexities and challenges of a large and diverse criminal justice system, the CJCC was created with a clear mission: to improve fairness, efficiency, and public safety by uniting stakeholders across the continuum of justice. Public safety stands as a foundational priority for the CJCC, uniting a wide array of stakeholders in a common mission to protect and serve communities effectively and equitably. From law enforcement officers on the front lines to judges in the courtroom, from public defenders advocating for due process to prosecutors upholding the rule of law, and from correctional staff managing rehabilitation to behavioral health professionals addressing root causes of criminal behavior—each plays a vital role in ensuring safety and justice.

From its earliest days, the CJCC emphasized transparency, accountability, and data-informed strategies. Recognizing that no single agency could solve systemic issues alone, the Council provided a forum where complex challenges could be examined holistically and addressed collectively. Through this collaborative approach, the CJCC has led transformative reforms that have reshaped justice processes in Clark County.

“As County Commissioners, our top priority is the well-being and safety of our communities. Through our partnership with the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, we are investing in smarter, more effective solutions that promote accountability, reduce recidivism, and build trust in our justice system. Together, we are creating a stronger, safer Clark County for everyone.”
— Tick Segerblom, Clark County Commissioner

“The work of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) has been instrumental in strengthening our justice system here in Clark County. Through collaboration, innovation, and a shared commitment to fairness and public safety, the Council has helped us make meaningful progress in addressing complex challenges. I am proud to

support the efforts of CJCC and look forward to a continued partnership in building a more effective and equitable criminal justice system for our community.”

-Melisa De La Garza, Chief Judge, Las Vegas Justice Court

“The North Las Vegas Justice Court is proud to work alongside the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council in advancing innovative, collaborative approaches to justice. Together, we are focused on improving outcomes, increasing efficiency, and ensuring that every individual who comes through our courts is treated with fairness, dignity, and respect.”

— Belinda T. Harris, Chief Judge, North Las Vegas Justice Court

SUPPORTING A MORE SAFE AND JUST SYSTEM IN CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

Landmark Initiatives: Initial Appearance Court and Pretrial Compliance Unit

Among its most notable achievements is the development of the **Initial Appearance Court**, a groundbreaking reform ensuring that individuals arrested and detained are brought before a judge within 24 hours. This timely judicial oversight not only upholds due process rights but also allows for more informed, fair, and individualized release decisions. By reducing delays and increasing judicial visibility into cases at an early stage, the Initial Appearance Court has helped safely decrease the unnecessary use of jail for low-risk individuals, thereby preserving community ties and promoting better outcomes.

Complementing this innovation is the creation of the **Pretrial Compliance Unit**. Recognizing that many individuals struggle to meet court requirements due to lack of resources, not intent—the CJCC supported the development of a unit dedicated to helping people succeed on pretrial release. This unit works directly with clients to provide support, reminders, and connections to services such as transportation. As a result, the unit has improved court appearance rates, reduced bench warrants, and lowered the risk of technical violations that often lead to reincarceration.

These two initiatives reflect a shift in philosophy—from a punitive to a supportive model of pretrial justice, while continuing to prioritize community safety. They demonstrate how structural reforms can enhance both individual outcomes and system performance when rooted in equity, data, and collaboration.

“Our collaboration with the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council reflects a shared commitment to enhancing public safety and ensuring justice is served effectively and equitably. By working together, we strengthen our ability to address the root causes of

crime and build a safer, more just community for all residents of Clark County."

— Steven Wolfson, Clark County District Attorney

"The CJCC is great because it allows you to work collaboratively with other justice stakeholders to solve problems and help people within the justice system in ways that traditional litigation cannot accomplish."

-John Piro, Clark County Assistant Public Defender

SUSTAINING AND BUILDING ON PROGRESS

Expanding Equity and Access Through Cross-System Collaboration

Equity remains at the heart of the CJCC's work. The Council has actively pursued strategies to address racial and ethnic disparities in the criminal justice system, recognizing that historic and structural inequities must be confronted head-on. Through data analysis, community engagement, and the inclusion of diverse voices—such as justice-impacted individuals, communities of color, behavioral health professionals, faith-based organizations, education/workforce development, local business, civic leaders and grassroots community organizations—at the decision-making table, the CJCC has worked to illuminate disparities and drive targeted solutions.

The Council also expanded diversion and deflection programs aimed at safely redirecting individuals—especially those with behavioral health needs—away from incarceration and toward treatment and community-based support. These alternatives not only reduce jail populations but also improve public health and safety by addressing the root causes of criminal behavior.

To ensure consistent implementation and alignment across agencies, the CJCC has prioritized interagency training and education. A key example is the recurring provider training, which brings together judges and service providers to build mutual understanding, improve communication, and coordinate care for individuals involved in the justice system. These efforts have fostered a more cohesive, person-centered approach that benefits both clients and the broader community.

Sustaining Momentum and Planning for the Future

While the CJCC has achieved significant milestones, it remains steadfast in its commitment to continuous improvement. Sustainability is not an afterthought—it is embedded in every reform. Many initiatives developed through the Council have now been institutionalized within Clark

County operations, ensuring they endure beyond individual champions or short-term funding cycles.

The Council meets regularly to assess progress, review data, and identify emerging issues. It has adopted a culture of iterative learning, where feedback and performance metrics inform future strategies. Equity-focused working groups continue to monitor and address disparities, while strategic planning ensures the Council remains agile and forward-thinking.

Community voice also plays an increasingly vital role. The CJCC recognizes that true reform requires the involvement of those most impacted by the system. Ongoing efforts to include community representatives and individuals with lived experience ensure that policy decisions are informed by real-world perspectives and grounded in justice.

A Living Legacy of Collaboration and Change

The story of the Clark County CJCC is not one of completed work, but of ongoing transformation. From its foundational reforms like the Initial Appearance Court and Pretrial Compliance Unit to its steadfast commitment to equity, the Council has reshaped how justice is delivered in Clark County.

Its greatest legacy may be the culture it has cultivated—a culture where collaboration is the norm, where decisions are made with transparency and data, and where the humanity of those in the system is never forgotten. By uniting agencies, empowering communities, and embracing innovation, the CJCC has built a foundation for lasting change.

As new challenges arise and the justice landscape continues to evolve, the CJCC is well-positioned to lead. With continued investment in relationships, resources, and reform, Clark County's CJCC is not just maintaining progress, it is building a more just and equitable future for all.

The following local partners helped lead the initiatives described in this fact sheet:

- Eighth Judicial District Court
- Las Vegas Justice Court
- Las Vegas Municipal Court
- North Las Vegas Justice Court
- Henderson Justice Court
- Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
- Clark County District Attorney
- Clark County Public Defender
- The Clark County Manager's Office
- Nevada Department of Public Safety

- Nevada Attorneys for Criminal Justice
- Clark County Commission.
- Clark County Outlying Courts
- Las Vegas Business Community
- Multicultural Community