

Criminal Justice 101 Series

Project Overview and Proposal

Project Overview: The Dane County Criminal Justice Council (CJC) will host a 6-week virtual learning series for community members to learn more about the criminal justice system in Dane County. This will be an educational series and a community dialogue.

What it's intended to achieve: The purpose of this learning series is to educate and have conversations with the public on the nuances of the criminal justice system that might not be widely known. This is a chance to converse with your constituents, share the realities of your work, and share your vision of criminal justice in Dane County.

Audience & Engagement: CJC invites community members with diverse perspectives of the criminal justice system to engage in this learning series. Individuals with lived experience of criminal justice system involvement and their family members are encouraged to join, as are youth who are interested in criminal justice reform and advocacy. The program is open to interested residents, particularly community members working toward a safer, more equitable justice system. All participants will receive a certificate of completion at the conclusion of the six-week program.

Logistics (Content, Time & Structure): Community members will enroll in a six-week program, with 1.5 hours weekly sessions. Sessions will occur in the evenings beginning in January 2021. Community members must commit to attending every session. CJC stakeholders will be asked to participate in interviews that will be pre-recorded and shared throughout the sessions. These interviews will be brief (approximately 5 minutes) and CJC stakeholders will receive the questions ahead of time. CJC members will be asked to attend a portion of the learning series sessions for approximately one hour. CJC members will be grouped into sessions based on their agency's role at different stages of the criminal justice process.

Event Advertising & Promotion: This virtual learning series will primarily be promoted online through the websites and social media accounts of the CJC and participating partners (if they choose to do so). The CJC will also partner with local criminal justice nonprofits and educational institutions to advertise and develop creative ways to make this program accessible and open to everyone.

Future Directions: If the CJC in the future decides to have a community engagement subcommittee made up of diverse stakeholders including people of color, individuals with lived experiences of criminal justice system involvement, family members of incarcerated loved ones, and others with personal experience regarding Dane County criminal justice, then those members would ideally attend each of these convenings.