

In This Newsletter

The Strategies for Policing Innovation (SPI) team is excited to share updates from the SPI sites. This winter 2019 newsletter dives into important issues in policing, such as addressing the opioid crisis and developing strong relationships with partner agencies. It also recaps training and technical assistance (TTA) activities across the entire SPI, introduces a new SPI team member, and invites agencies to provide input into upcoming SPI workshops.

Recognizing Innovation and Impact - Atlanta SPI Update

In January 2019, Georgia State Senator Kay Kirkpatrick issued a resolution commending the Atlanta SPI on their project. The commendation included recognition of the partnership between the Atlanta Police Department and Grady Memorial Hospital to implement the Atlanta Program to Interrupt Violence through Outreach and Treatment (PIVOT), a response to prevent gun violence in Atlanta. PIVOT includes immediate, hospital-based response after a shooting and resources to assist with housing, employment, and mental health needs.

Additionally, PIVOT officers from the Atlanta Police Department engage with communities with high levels of gun violence to reduce crime, build trust, and solve emerging issues.

Learn more about Atlanta PIVOT and other hospital-based violence intervention programs in an Atlanta-area news article from January 2019 [here](#).

Learn more about the Atlanta SPI [here](#) and recent TTA the Atlanta SPI received [here](#).



Members of the Atlanta SPI receive a commendation from the Georgia State Senate.

About Us

SPI is a collaborative effort by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), CNA, state and local law enforcement agencies, and researchers. It is designed to assist agencies with identifying innovative and evidence-based solutions to use in effectively and efficiently tackling chronic crime problems in their jurisdictions.

As always, feel free to share your thoughts and experiences with us at SPI@cna.org. You can sign up for the SPI mailing list online at <http://bit.ly/1M6qLhP>.

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Expanding Partnerships to Address Overdoses: An Update from the Madison SPI



The Madison, Wisconsin, SPI formally implemented their Madison Addiction Recovery Initiative (MARI) on September 1, 2017. The Madison SPI created MARI in response to the rise in opioid-related overdoses and fatalities in Madison. MARI also intends to reduce the negative consequences that may result from arrest and incarceration for low-level drug-related offenses, such as difficulty obtaining services, housing, and employment. MARI is a collaborative effort between the Madison Police Department (MPD), Public Health Madison and Dane County, Safe Communities of Madison-Dane County, the Dane County Department of Human Services, and the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health.

The program refers individuals who overdose or commit low-level drug-related offenses to the MARI Assessment Hub for medication-assisted and behavioral drug treatment as an alternative to jail. MARI additionally connects participants to recovery coaches through the MARI Assessment Hub. If MARI participants successfully complete six months of treatment, MPD does not file charges for the initial incident. As of January 2019, MPD referred 115 eligible individuals for assessment through MARI. Of those, 73 individuals contacted the MARI Assessment Hub and began treatment. In January 2019, the MARI program had a 25 percent graduation rate of all eligible individuals referred for participation, with 29 individuals having successfully completed six months of participation in MARI and 24 individuals continuing to participate in treatment.

Since the inception of the MARI program, the Madison SPI expanded their work to reduce and prevent harm related to opioid use. In January 2019, MPD partnered with the Dane County Sheriff's Office (DCSO) to allow DCSO deputies to make referrals to the MARI program along with MPD officers. Additionally, MPD has created a Community Outreach initiative, which pairs an MPD officer with a member of the MARI Assessment Hub to reach out to individuals identified through MARI who have not scheduled a treatment assessment. The Madison SPI uses these in-person visits to encourage individuals to contact the MARI Assessment Hub, offer resources and treatment options, and provide training on and distribution of naloxone. The Madison SPI has also begun to partner with the Madison-area ED2 Recovery program, which connects individuals who have overdosed to recovery coaches while they are still in the emergency room. The partnership with ED2 Recovery will create more in-depth involvement with individuals who have experienced an overdose. The Madison SPI hopes this involvement will encourage them to remain participants in MARI and successfully graduate. Members of the MARI team regularly participate in outreach efforts, including presenting at local conferences on addressing the opioid crisis, appearing in the media, and collaborating with local organizations to provide training and education on naloxone and opiate use.

The Madison SPI will continue to encourage MARI participation and collaborate

with local service agencies to promote treatment and reduce overdoses. For more information on the MARI program, refer to the [Madison SPI site page](#).



SPI Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) activities

Shoreline, Washington, Meeting: On October 10 and 11, 2018, the Shoreline SPI convened its team members and SPI Subject Expert Julie Wartell to kick off the last year of their SPI project. During the meeting, they discussed current project activities, technology innovations, and plans for expanding the Response Awareness, De-escalation and Referral (RADAR) program. Participants also discussed past challenges that Shoreline experienced and topics for sustainability, including securing buy-in and local funding. The Shoreline SPI is now working on final products for the initiative, including a how-to guide for other agencies, a video highlighting Shoreline's work, and a final meeting to convene partners and educate other law enforcement agencies on RADAR.

SPI Introduction Webinar: On January 15, 2019, the SPI TTA Team hosted a webinar for newly awarded SPI sites (Los Angeles, California; Kansas City, Kansas; Pasco County, Florida; Reno, Nevada; and St. Louis, Missouri) that introduced SPI principles, BJA, and the TTA team. The webinar also included an overview of grants management from the BJA team. Team members from all five sites participated in the event. Webinar materials are available [here](#).

SPI Collaboration Webinar: On February 21, 2019, the SPI TTA Team hosted a webinar titled "Taking Collaboration to the Next Level" on the use and measurement of collaboration to improve performance and outcomes in law enforcement. Collaboration has been a key principle of SPI from the outset, and the 2016 SPI workshops on collaboration helped articulate and define how police agencies could advance and evaluate their collaboration practices. The webinar discussed what collaborative policing means, the principles that make it effective, and methods for assessing and improving collaboration. The webinar included presentations from the Atlanta, Georgia; Lowell, Massachusetts; and Pinellas County, Florida, SPI sites. The webinar had more than 45 participants. A recording of the webinar and the event materials are available [here](#).

St. Louis, Missouri, Joint Site Visit: On February 25 and 26, 2019, the SPI TTA team conducted a joint site visit to St. Louis, Missouri, in collaboration with fellow BJA initiatives including the National Public Safety Partnership and the Police-Prosecution Partnership Initiative teams. The purpose of the visit was to connect with the teams on the progress of their initiatives and identify potential opportunities to collaborate across initiatives on common goals. The SPI team also connected with the site on the progress of their action plan centering on violence reduction using hot spot strategies and technology.

Newark, New Jersey, Peer Exchange: On February 27 and 28, 2019, several representatives from the Newark, New Jersey, SPI site visited the Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, Police Department, a previous SPI awardee. Newark's SPI incorporates community outreach strategies in its efforts to reduce violent crime. The Brooklyn Park SPI implemented, sustained, and expanded on many such strategies during and after their award and shared best practices and lessons learned that Newark can apply in their site. As follow-up in March 2019, SPI will send a Brooklyn Park commander to Newark to provide a training to line officers on similar topics discussed at the site visit, particularly collective efficacy. This training will deliver innovative ideas directly to Newark and further institutionalize the lessons learned.

MSU Fellows Academy: On April 23–26, 2019, the Brighton/Commerce City, Colorado, and Wilmington, Delaware, SPI site teams will attend the Michigan State University (MSU) Innovations Suite Researcher-Practitioner Fellows Academy in Denver, Colorado. The academy intends to bring together a network of researchers and practitioners to support evidence-based practices. The academy will build capacity for identifying and responding to emerging and chronic crime problems and analysis of these problems. Many SPI sites have attended the academy in the past, which provided a platform for them to address common challenges and offer innovative solutions within their own team and with other sites.

2019 SPI Workshops



SPI will offer workshops in 2019 based on the needs of current SPI sites. SPI teams are encouraged to talk to their subject experts and analysts about any topics of interest. The SPI TTA team will take into account areas of interest and suggested topics when developing SPI workshops. These workshops provide a unique opportunity for SPI sites to meet, discuss, and exchange ideas on pressing or emerging needs within policing. The workshops also allow SPI teams to connect with partners and further develop goals, strategies, and priorities of their SPI project. Read about past SPI regional meetings and workshops [here](#).

New SPI Outreach Coordinator Announcement



In 2019, SPI named Ms. Emma Wohl as the new SPI Outreach Coordinator. In this role, Ms. Wohl oversees all SPI dissemination activities, including developing SPI newsletters, monthly outreach materials, and social media products. Ms. Wohl also serves as an analyst for nine SPI sites.

Learn more about Ms. Wohl in her Staff Spotlight in the [SPI Winter 2018 Quarterly Newsletter](#).

Staff Spotlight: Brittany Cunningham



The SPI welcomes Dr. Brittany Cunningham to the TTA team. Dr. Cunningham is a Research Scientist with CNA's Institute for Public Research with more than a decade of experience designing, implementing, and managing rigorous research studies and program evaluations at the local, state, and national levels in various research areas including education, justice, and defense.

She supports several criminal justice projects at CNA and serves as an analyst for the [2018 Los Angeles SPI award](#) focusing on homicides and non-fatal shootings clearance rates and gang-related crime. In her role supporting SPI, Dr. Cunningham says, "It is exciting to support police departments in using evidence-based policing to challenge existing policies and practice to strengthen local strategies to prevent crime and make communities safer." In addition to her SPI work, Dr. Cunningham serves as the project manager and research scientist on a National Institute of Justice-funded randomized controlled trial of the impact of body-worn cameras in the Loudon County, Virginia, Adult Detention Center. Dr. Cunningham also supports the Maricopa County, Arizona, Sheriff's Office in examining potential racial bias in traffic stops. Previously, she served as principal investigator for several education-related evaluations funded by the National Science Foundation and the US Department of Education.

Dr. Cunningham earned her Ph.D. at the University of Louisville specializing in evaluation.