



## **An Agenda for Safer Wisconsin** (rev. 1-22-15)

Safety is fundamental to building socially connected and economically strong communities. For years, there has been growing recognition that we can't look to police alone to create a safer and more nurturing environment for families and children. In neighborhoods around the country, residents and community organizations are stepping up to tackle persistent community safety issues in concert with progressive law enforcement agencies. These efforts are yielding sustained drops in crime, increased trust between residents and police and new investment in neighborhoods otherwise left behind. Safety partnerships which have aligned resident engagement activities, enforcement and physical revitalization activities have achieved double digit reductions in crime, replacing trouble spots with quality housing, active businesses and safe play spaces. We believe that greater safety can be achieved in Wisconsin by pursuing the following objectives:

1. Create safe, nurturing environments that support successful family life
2. Expand economic opportunity for all families by increasing access to family-supporting jobs
3. Create an effective, inter-disciplinary system to provide person-centered, recovery-oriented intervention for persons having acute or chronic substance-abuse and/or behavioral health issues
4. Expand opportunities for career and personal development for disadvantaged youth
5. Reform state and municipal criminal justice practices to insure greater transparency, accountability and better alignment with current evidence-based practices
6. Promote the successful re-integration of formerly incarcerated individuals back into their communities of origin

Many public and private agencies are actively pursuing strategies to advance these objectives and are pursuing new collaborations in order to achieve greater impact and leverage from existing programs and resources. That inter-disciplinary work needs to continue and expand, but the Wisconsin State Legislature also has a role to play. Consequently, a broad-based coalition of individuals as well as public and private agencies have come together to advocate for policy changes and budgetary investments to support the above-stated objectives to enhance public safety and economic well-being for Wisconsin residents. Two fundamental principles underlie this agenda:

1. Existing resources, i.e. in the form of shared revenue to local communities, need to be maintained and
2. All new policy initiatives and investment activities should be driven by evidence-informed practices and there needs to be a commitment to continually re-evaluate policy and practices to insure that they remain aligned with the best "state of the art" practices.

## Policy initiatives and investment activities:

1. Create safe, nurturing environments to support successful family life
  - Require health impact assessments on all new proposed state legislation
  - Provide funding for the expanded application of the community prosecution unit model to address neighborhood nuisance situations.
  - Provide funding to support the greater application of CPTED (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) principles by resident-led groups
  - Provide additional funding for targeted demolition of blighted houses that are not economically viable for rehabilitation
  - Expand the ShotSpotter program
  - Require background checks on private party gun sales without CCW permit.
  - Include habitual criminality as an exclusion to CCW permit eligibility.
  - Enact new restrictions on the purchase and possession of firearms by individuals found guilty by a court of having engaged in specific criminal offenses shown to be significant risk factors for future violence and by individuals subject to a domestic abuse restraining order.
  - Enact legislation authorizing law enforcement officers
    - ✓ to remove firearms when they identify someone who poses an immediate threat of harm to self or others
    - ✓ to request a warrant authorizing removal of firearms when the risk of harm to self or others is credible, but not immediate.
  - Enact a new civil restraining order process to allow family members and intimate partners to petition the court to authorize removal of firearms and to prohibit firearm purchase and possession temporarily based on a credible risk of physical harm to self or others, even when domestic violence is not an issue.
  - Extend city right to take property that is a public nuisance, similar drug houses.
  - Allow for local control over tobacco licensing.
  - Support neighborhood based domestic violence and child abuse services
2. Expand economic opportunity for all families by increasing access to family-supporting jobs
  - Provide greater funding for mass transit
  - Keep transit in the Transportation Fund
  - Expand Badger Care to insure access to primary healthcare and mental health services for all families
  - Create a Transitional Jobs Program to allow unemployed or underemployed Wisconsin adults who do not receive Social Security or SSI to earn the minimum wage at a transitional job.
  - Increase funding for transitional jobs and apprenticeships (i.e. Compete Milwaukee).
  - Establish a Senior and Disability Tax Credit to adults receiving Social Security or SSI to make up the difference between an individual's or couple's resources and a poverty-level income
  - Increase the minimum wage to \$10.10 and index it to inflation
  - Replace the current Earned Income Tax Credit with two refundable credits – Working Americans Tax Credit of up to \$3,500 per worker and a Working Parents Tax Credit providing up to \$5,000 for families with children.
  - Restore and increase funding for civil legal indigent services.

3. Create an effective, inter-disciplinary system to insure person-centered, recovery-oriented intervention for persons having acute or chronic substance abuse and behavioral health issues
  - Fund a pilot program in Milwaukee involving a community trauma response team.
  - Expand the use of “trauma informed care” strategies in all aspects of the Wisconsin Criminal Justice system
  - Provide grant funding for Crisis Intervention Training for local law enforcement officers
  - Expand the Community Domestic Abuse Advocacy Project (CDAAP) which involves targeted outreach by domestic abuse advocates to households identified as “at risk” for domestic violence.
  - Fund and support partnerships that work to prevent domestic violence and sexual abuse
  - Create cross system, multi-disciplinary collaborative efforts to address children’s exposure to domestic and sexual violence
  - Pilot school-based education and outreach to educate administrators, teachers and students about how to respond to and reduce incidents of adverse childhood events.
  
4. Expand opportunities for career and personal development for disadvantaged youth
  - Raise the age of adult court jurisdiction from 17 to 18 and insure sufficient funding to implement
  - Restore funding for universal driver’s education in all public schools
  - Increased funding for summer youth jobs programming (i.e. Earn and Learn).
  - Promote summer youth recreation opportunities.
  - Providing funding to support post-secondary educational opportunities for youth/young adults who’ve been involved in the criminal justice system
  - Support the continuation of the Police Listening Circles (started by Safe & Sound) as a means to facilitate real dialogue and understanding between youth and police officers
  - Increase resources to expand the use of Restorative Practices and Circles of Accountability within the juvenile justice system
  - Support efforts to increase communications and information sharing between government agencies, educational institutions, and youth-serving agencies (Beyond the Bell)
  - Develop and support programs that develop soft skills in youth for professional growth and development (Skills enhancement grants).
  - Support/Create a pipeline from government supported youth jobs to private sector employment opportunities (sustainability/momentum)
  
5. Reform state and municipal criminal justice practices to insure greater transparency, accountability and better alignment with current evidence-based practices
  - Pass a Criminal Justice Reinvestment Act to reduce their future incarceration costs and use the savings to invest in sound, evidence-based practices in criminal justice system programming. Justice Reinvestment Initiatives (JRI):
    - ✓ Reinstating the Risk Reduction Sentence to provide for a judge to order confinement completed at 75% of time served upon successful programming completion.
    - ✓ Provide for a time certain amount of extended supervision capped at 75% of the sentenced confinement period.

- ✓ Create a standard revocation period of 6 months, with discretion for DOC to impose a further 90 day extension for bad behavior and risk, for revocations.
  - ✓ Expand Community Corrections capacity by investing the remaining \$20 million in the fund as recommended by CSG and reinvest savings in DOC into Community Corrections.
  - ✓ More info on JRI: [http://csgjusticecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/Wisconsin\\_Analyses\\_and\\_Policy\\_Options.pdf](http://csgjusticecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/Wisconsin_Analyses_and_Policy_Options.pdf)
  - Align the discretionary parole system with evidence-based, structured decision making models employed as best practices around the nation in the Criminal Justice System
  - Promote employability and self-sufficiency through adoption of the Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act, providing judges the ability to restore privileges and rights that are collateral consequences of conviction (licensing restrictions, etc.) to those who have successfully completed sentence without vacating or expunging the sentence.
  - More info at:
    - ✓ <http://uniformlaws.org/Act.aspx?title=Collateral>
  - Require Racial Impact Statements on any new legislation relating to the imposition of new criminal justice penalties.
  - Increase funding for the Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) Program.
  - Fund DataHUB Milwaukee.
  - Establish the Cardiff Model in Milwaukee, an evidence based community/emergency department program to reduce violence (MCW/IRC)
6. Promote the successful re-integration of formerly incarcerated individuals back into their communities of origin
- Continue to prohibit bail bondsman from operating in the State of Wisconsin
  - Adopt “Ban the Box” legislation.
  - Reformat the on-line C-CAP system to make it more understandable to causal users and to better differentiate between convictions, acquittals and open cases
  - Allow for retroactive expungement of criminal records for non-violent, felony convictions of individuals who have not re-offended.
  - Amend state legislation to permit the waiving of municipal citations and warrants for person who are indigent or suffer from acute or chronic substance abuse and behavioral health issues
  - Reduce from felony to misdemeanor a second and subsequent offense marijuana possession.

The **Agenda for a Safer Wisconsin** grew out of a series of meetings, convened by LISC, and included representatives of a wide array of public and private agencies. This document benefited from the input of the following individuals (organizational affiliations are for identification purposes only, and do not necessarily imply official organizational approval of this document or its contents):

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