

Evidence Based Decision Making

by Judge Michael Schumacher and Tiana Glenna
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Eau Claire County **Judge Michael Schumacher** and **Tiana Glenna**, Eau Claire County Criminal Justice Coordinator, presented an overview of the "Evidence Based Decision Making in the Local Criminal Justice Systems" initiative.

The concept and goal of this initiative is to build a system wide framework that will result in more collaborative evidence based decision making and practices throughout our criminal justice system (arrest through final disposition and discharge).

In Eau Claire County there are 14 members of the Evidenced Based Decision Making Framework Policy Team representing the full range of departments involved in criminal justice. Established in 2006, the team meets every other month to, simply stated, figure out which decisions throughout the criminal justice system, based on the evidence, result in the best outcomes. Previously, each department worked somewhat independently and hoped that the collective efforts of all departments were positive.

In August 2010, Eau Claire County was fortunate enough to be selected to participate as one of seven "seed sites" in a nationwide Evidenced Based Decision Making initiative being sponsored by the National Institute of Corrections.

According to Judge Schumacher, this whole concept and initiative is a "huge deal". The state of Wisconsin spends \$1.2 billion per year in corrections, and it is imperative that we at the county, state and national level do a much better job of getting the best outcomes, based on the evidence.

For more information on the Criminal Justice Collaborating Council , go to www.co.eau-claire.wi.us/courts/cjcc_committee.htm



Eau Claire County Judge **Michael Schumacher** and **Tiana Glenna**, Eau Claire County Criminal Justice Coordinator