

# Community Engagement in the State Courts Initiative:

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Franklin County, Ohio  
Public Engagement Pilot Project

May 2021



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**Note:**

Portions of the information in this report are available online as part of the NCSC's Community Engagement Toolkit.

See <https://www.ncsc.org/engage>

## Acknowledgments

This report is one of a series of reports produced to provide a record of the activities, materials, and results achieved by the Public Engagement Pilot Project (PEPP) sites involved in the pilot phase of the Community Engagement in the State Courts Initiative (Initiative). This phase and the entire project would not have been possible without the generous support of the State Justice Institute (SJI).

The Public Engagement Pilot Initiative is a collaboration between the [National Center for State Courts](#) (NCSC) and the [University of Nebraska Public Policy Center](#) (NUPPC), with assistance from [Michigan State University](#) researchers [Joseph A. Hamm](#) and [John Ropp](#). The pilot phase was overseen by a Steering Committee drawn from members of the Advisory Board on Community Engagement in the State Courts. These members are listed on the following page. The Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ) convened the Initiative in partnership with the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts (Consortium) with support from the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). We extend our deep appreciation to CCJ, the Consortium, and NCSC for their vision and dedication to this vital effort.

After a nationwide call for proposals, six public engagement pilot projects were selected out of a significant number of proposals. Following the kickoff convened at the National Science Foundation in Washington, D.C. on February 25, 2019, the PEPP teams received resources and support from the NCSC/NUPPC implementation team. The PEPP sites worked both individually and collaboratively with the other sites and NCSC/NUPPC to engage their communities, while also advancing understanding of how courts can best engage the public to overcome social inequities and bias and build trust. We hope the efforts of these individual PEPP sites serve as blueprints for courts across the nation.

The six pilot sites are (in alphabetical order):

- Franklin County, Ohio Municipal Court
- Kansas City, Missouri Municipal Court
- Administrative Office of the Massachusetts Trial Court
- Nebraska Supreme Court Office of the State Court Administrator
- Puerto Rico Judicial Branch
- Texas Office of Court Administration

## Future Work

We are committed to assisting court leaders in their community engagement and public trust efforts. To discuss future work and for more information about the Community Engagement in the State Courts Initiative, please contact Jesse Rutledge at [jrutledge@ncsc.org](mailto:jrutledge@ncsc.org)

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## Introduction

In 2018, the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) issued a nationwide call for proposals from courts to implement public engagement pilot projects (PEPP) designed to engage people, especially minorities and low-income communities, to improve problems facing courts and disparities in trust in the courts. The PEPP initiative built off a national listening tour called “Courting Justice” in which judicial actors heard perspectives from the public about judicial decision-making, bias and unfairness, lack of diversity in juries and on the bench, and other issues that impaired trust and understanding of court systems, especially among marginalized populations.

From a significant number of high-quality applications nationwide, six grantees were selected to design and implement pilot engagement projects. Selections were made based on consideration of a number of factors, including the problem(s) the court actors were attempting to address, extent of community involvement in the solutions, likelihood of the projects to promote trust in the community, probability of sustainability after cessation of funding, and complementarities among projects. As a requirement of grant receipt, all grantees worked with the NCSC and the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center (NUPPC) to develop their programs to include high levels of community involvement and bi-directional court-community dialogue and to integrate an evaluation component into their projects. The purpose of the evaluation was to document participation in the pilot projects and efficacy of project activities, examine issues of engagement and trust between communities and courts, and evaluate the overall pilot project experience as well as other issues of interest to the grantees. Each pilot also was asked to agree to their materials and work products being incorporated into an overall toolkit for use by the nation’s courts.

The present report contains information specific to the engagements conducted by the Franklin County, OH Municipal Court (FCMC), one of the six projects selected to participate in the pilot phase of the National Center for State Courts Community Engagement in the State Courts Initiative. The FCMC PEPP team has reviewed this report before publication and contributed to the substance thereof.

## Background

The Franklin County, OH Municipal Court (FCMC)<sup>1</sup> is located in Columbus, Ohio. The FCMC traces its origin to the creation of the Columbus Municipal Court in 1916. In 1916, the General Assembly of the State of Ohio created the Columbus Municipal Court. Prior to this

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<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.fcmcclerk.com/> for more information about the FCMC.

time, the court operated under the Justice of the Peace System. On July 5, 1955, the Columbus Municipal Court was given countywide jurisdiction and, in 1968, the state legislature changed the name of the court to the Franklin County Municipal Court. In 1979, the FCMC moved from its facilities in City Hall to the Franklin County Municipal Court building, located at 375 South High Street. Now, as one of two unified municipal courts in Ohio, the geographic jurisdiction of the FCMC is all of Franklin County and those portions of the City of Columbus that extend beyond the boundaries of Franklin County. The FCMC has 14 judges in the General Division and one judge in the Environmental Division. Judges serve six-year terms, unless appointed or elected to fill a vacancy. Annually, they elect one of their peers to serve as the administrative and presiding judge.

The FCMC has jurisdiction over Columbus and other municipalities in Franklin County. Columbus (est. pop. 898,553) is the largest municipality in Ohio. As of 2019, US Census estimates indicate the racial and ethnic make-up of Columbus was 58.6% White, 29% African American, 0.3% Native American, 5.85 Asian, 0.0% Pacific Islander, and 4.2% from two or more races. Hispanics or Latinos of any race were 6.2% of the city's population.<sup>2</sup>

The FCMC has several resources aimed at providing services to the community, particularly specialized populations, and racial and ethnic minorities. The FCMC has the largest number of specialized docket programs in the state, with dockets to serve individuals with severe mental health conditions, opiate abusers, general substance abusers, veterans, and victims of human trafficking. Of the 416 residents served by the FCMC's specialized dockets in 2017, 87.5% did not recidivate – a sign of success compared to national rates among specialized dockets. The FCMC also has the Self Help Resource Center – a partnership between the court and Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. The Self Help Resource Center is a free, walk-in resource center designed to increase access to court services, improve court efficiency through education, and be a positive resource for the community in general. It is currently the only such self-help resource center for a municipal court in the state.

Despite these court programs resources, data suggests that the population the FCMC serves still need further access to legal services in a variety of areas. As the most populous county in Ohio, Franklin County is also the home of the Franklin County Correctional Center I and II (FCCC) and is the primary jail system for the area's municipalities. Over 48% of individuals arrested and booked into FCMC comprise African Americans, a much higher number than their overall population. Across the participants of the five certified specialized dockets of the

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<sup>2</sup> Source: U.S. Census, QuickFacts, Columbus city, Ohio. Retrieved January 27, 2021, from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/columbuscityohio>.



Franklin County Municipal Court (FCMC), 23.5% are African American and 1% Hispanic. This is a significant under-representation of the jail population. Adding complexity, Franklin County, Ohio has been significantly impacted by opiate use. As of April 2019, 59% of the FCMC specialized docket participants used opiates.

To better address access to legal services, disparities in use, and lack of knowledge or trust in the court generally, the FCMC and its partners developed Listening Inspires Future Trust (LIFT) for its PEPP. The purpose of the LIFT project was to identify and address barriers to services and racial disparities in its specialized dockets, increase use of court programs like the Self Help Resource Center, and develop trust between the FCMC and minority communities. Within this context, FCMC's engagement efforts focused upon outreach to minority faith and community leaders in the Columbus area to share information about the specialized dockets offered by the FCMC and seek insight from the community regarding the potential barriers to access and/or participation in these proven programs.

The LIFT project complemented other work that the FCMC had done in this area. Franklin County had previously received funding through the MacArthur Foundation, which focused on quantitative data analysis to evaluate the drivers of discrepancy in the FCMC's specialized dockets, and an evaluation of the formal and informal policies and procedures that create unintentional barriers. The Franklin County PEPP team's activities benefited from examining court access and data collection issues from this project and integrated those findings into their PEPP planning.

## Methods

### Participants

**PEPP Team Leaders.** The FCMC experience was somewhat unique due to significant personnel changes that occurred during a critical point of time in the grant cycle. Paige Allen, former Specialized Dockets Manager for the FCMC, had spearheaded the application for the FCMC. Ms. Allen left the Court but remained involved with the larger and complementary project for Franklin County. Ms. Allen's continued participation and knowledge of the origination of the project were key to its eventual completion. During this transition, Melinda Brooks, FCMC Grants and Special Projects Manager came on board and acted as the primary FCMC contact for the project going forward. Robert Southers, Managing Attorney for the FCMC Self Help Center, was the consistent FCMC presence during the shifts in roles, providing insight and guidance as the project progressed. Additional leaders of the Franklin County PEPP team included John Davenport, Assistant Court Administrator; Kysten Palmore, Office of Justice and Policy Programs; Emily Shaw, FCMC Court Administrator; and Kyle Strickland, Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity.

**Court Actor Collaborators.** The Franklin County PEPP team worked with the judges and staff from all five specialized dockets. These judges and their respective dockets included Judge Ted Barrows, Administrative Judge and Presiding Judge over the FCMC Military and Veterans Services Specialized Docket; Judge Cindi Morehart, Presiding Judge over the FCMC Learning to Identify and Navigate Change Specialized Docket; Judge Jarrod Skinner, Chair of the FCMC Specialized Dockets Judicial Committee; Judge Jodi Thomas, Presiding Judge over the FCMC Helping Achieve Recovery Together Specialized Docket; and Judge David Tyack, Presiding Judge over the FCMC Recovery Court Specialized Docket. Specialized Dockets Assistant Supervisor Chris Boyd, who also served as the interim Specialized Dockets Manager, was a key coordinator of data gathering and worked with staff to develop printed materials for engagement events. Learning to Identify and Navigate Change (LINC) court coordinator Kyle Keckley was particularly helpful in developing these materials for each of the dockets in time for printing and sharing.

**Stakeholder Involvement.** Several community stakeholders were involved in planning and convening the Franklin County PEPP team's activities. The PEPP team included a representative from the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, a research institute focusing on issues of racial and ethnic diversity at the Ohio State University. They also partnered with the Franklin County Reentry Coalition – a collaboration between local court, law enforcement, government, and health and human service providers in the area working to reduce recidivism rates in the county. Finally, the Franklin County PEPP team worked closely

with Pastor Frederick LaMarr, President of the Baptist Pastors Conference for Columbus & Vicinity, and Senior Pastor of Family Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus. Pastor LaMarr played a key role connecting to stakeholders, and also offered his church as a meeting place for the Franklin County PEPP engagement.

**Engagement of General and Specific Publics.** The Franklin County PEPP team primarily targeted stakeholders in its engagement project, specifically African American community leaders within faith networks. Although stakeholders were the targeted population, some members of the general public also attended this event.

## Procedures

**Recruitment.** The Franklin County PEPP team primarily used purposive and convenience sampling to recruit stakeholders to their engagement activities. The Franklin County PEPP team worked through Pastor Frederick LaMarr, President of the Baptist Pastors Conference for Columbus & Vicinity, to identify and invite community leaders to its second engagement. As Pastor LaMarr was a well-known and trusted figure in the community, the PEPP team worked with him to spread word of the engagement event with other faith and community leaders in the Columbus area. Pastor LaMarr hosted this engagement at Faith Missionary Baptist Church, which was well-known by the community as a hub for various social justice activities. The Franklin County PEPP team provided lunch to all stakeholders who attended the engagement.

**Pre-Post Survey Administration.** Pre- and post-surveys were provided to stakeholder attendees at the engagement activity. As participants arrived, they were presented with a folder. This folder held printed materials about each of the specialized docket programs, general probation information, materials from the FCMC Self Help Center, and the pre- and post-survey documents. Franklin County PEPP team members invited participants to pick up their boxed lunches and introduced them to the pre-surveys. After all guests arrived, participants completed the pre-survey before the engagement began. At the conclusion of the event, the facilitator asked all participants to complete the post-survey prior to departure.

**Preparatory Activities and Procedures.** The Franklin County PEPP team convened a two-and-a-half hour meeting with team leaders and judges from the FCMC's Specialized Docket Courts to orient them to the project. Kyle Strickland - a PEPP team leader from the Kirwan Institute, facilitated the discussion. The goal of this session was to provide context and training on larger issues around race and inequality and provide context and information about the local landscape. During this preparatory meeting, participants discussed and reviewed issues surrounding racial and ethnic disparities, inequality, implicit bias, and historical structural issues driving inequality in the Franklin County/Columbus area.

The Franklin County PEPP leadership team also reviewed data regarding participation, disparities, and outcomes from their specialized docket programs. This data was collected and analyzed with the support of the MacArthur Foundation grant, and helped the team understand the extent and parameters of disparity and access issues facing the FCMC. This process revealed inconsistencies and challenges among the specialized dockets in data collection practices. Prior to the engagement event with local religious leaders, the Franklin County PEPP team and Pastor LaMarr met to discuss roles, procedures, and invited guests.

**Engagement Events and Procedures.** In addition to the pre-engagement training and preparation sessions, the Franklin County PEPP team convened one community engagement event prior to the time COVID-19 restrictions and cautions had begun to prevent travel and face-to-face gatherings. The event targeted local religious leaders from the African American community (February 29, 2020). All preparation and engagement events and numbers of attendees are listed in Table 1.

**Table 1: Engagement Events and Activities Supported by NCSC PEPP**

Date(s)	Engagement/Group	Meetings	Court actors	Stakeholders	General public	Total
10/25/19	Racial equity workshop with judges	1	8	2		10
11/5/19	Data collection process review	1	1	2		3
1/30/20	Process discussion	2				2
2/20/20	Event planning meeting	1	7	2		9
2/29/20	<b>Public engagement with judges and local religious leaders (First Missionary Baptist Church)</b>	1	6	7	2	15

*Note.* Pre-post surveys were obtained from the engagement/groups listed in bold. Not all participants completed surveys however.

**Agenda for Engagement.** The Franklin County PEPP team used the following agenda to guide their engagement activity with community religious leaders. The session was convened from 11 AM – 1 PM at Faith Missionary Baptist Church, and employed a large group discussion format.

- Welcome (distribution of boxed lunches and pre- and post-survey packets)
- Description of Franklin County and Franklin County Municipal Court’s complementary projects examining and addressing underrepresentation of minorities in specialized dockets
- Overview of the role of the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in the Franklin County projects

- Introductions and presentations (judges and FCMC staff described each specialized docket and resources such as the Self Help Center)
- Open floor group discussion around community experiences with the courts and specialized dockets
- Conclusion (post-survey completion)

## Data and Measures

**Engagement Form.** Each of the PEPP teams was asked to complete a form (preferably online, but they were also given paper forms to facilitate information gathering, the paper short form is in the appendix to this document) describing each engagement that they held with stakeholders and/or the general public. Engagements could range from meeting with community leaders or court actors individually to discuss the engagement initiative and goals, to larger engagements involving many stakeholders or the general public in engagements of different types (e.g., surveys, listening sessions, panel discussions, deliberative discussions, and so on).

The form for each engagement had three main sections. The first section asked for reports of the engagement date, time, length in time, goals, target populations, and counts of different sorts of participants (community leaders, general public, court actors). In the second section, drawing from theory regarding the potential importance of different types of information flow during public engagements,<sup>3</sup> the form also asked for the PEPP teams' reflections on certain activities that may have been included in their engagements. These activities included the extent to which the engagement involved court actors providing background information and/or answering questions, court actors listening to the general public and/or stakeholders, court actors engaging in back-and-forth discussion with community members, and community leaders and the general public sharing information with one another. In the third section, the form contained a checklist of materials and methods that may have been used for that engagement (e.g., recruitment activities and methods, use of incentives for attendees to participate, preparatory materials and activities such as background information or training/preparatory activities for the court actors or publics likely to attend, use of surveys, use of small group or large group discussion, use of discussion facilitators, recordings, and so

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<sup>3</sup> See, for example, Rowe, G., & Frewer, L. J. (2005). A typology of public engagement mechanisms. *Science, Technology & Human Values*, 30(2), 251-290.

on). As a follow-up to the checklist, PEPP teams were asked to provide additional information about the materials and methods (e.g., provide samples of materials used, provide additional description of facilitators, size of small or large discussion groups, and so on).

**Cross-site Surveys.** Each PEPP team was requested also to use pre-post surveys designed by the evaluation and research team to provide data for the evaluation of the engagements (these, and the consent form, are also included in the appendices to this document). It was requested that the teams ask for all engagement participants (including court actors as well as stakeholders and the general public) to complete the surveys. Each team was also asked to give all participants an information sheet (consent form) with the survey. Each team was given a script that they could use or adapt to introduce the surveys to their engagement participants. PEPP teams were given the latitude to use either a short (three-page) or long (five-page) version of the pre-survey and the corresponding short or long post-survey. The surveys were designed so that they would use the name of the court(s) within the text of the questions, and thus varied slightly between PEPP teams. Nonetheless, all the surveys for each team contained the same substantive measures.

The pre-surveys asked engagement participants to report demographic information (age, gender, race/ethnicity, education, ideology, and ZIP code), their role/position in the court if relevant, and any leadership roles/positions they held in the community. In addition, participants were asked to report on their prior experiences with the courts in general. Additional questions asked for ratings of familiarity with the specified courts (courts specific to each PEPP team), and ratings of positive feelings, negative feelings, and trust in these courts, as well as rating the specified courts on aspects of trustworthiness (e.g., honesty/integrity, fairness, caring, and respect). All participants were also asked open-ended questions concerning their beliefs about positive and negative effects that courts can have on the community, and asked to rate these in terms of their likelihood and severity. These questions about the effects of the courts, however, were held to last and described as optional on the short survey, but not on the long survey. Furthermore, the long version of the survey (although rarely used by any of the PEPP projects) also included questions concerning people's beliefs about the positive and negative effects the public could have upon the courts.

**Common Discussion Questions.** Each PEPP team was also asked to administer two common discussion questions as part of their engagements, to maximize learning across sites:

- What are the most important things learned during this engagement?
- What would you like to see as a follow-up to this engagement?

The teams were given a document which contained an overview of the rationale for these questions, a short sample script regarding how they might introduce the questions to their engagement participants, and examples of follow-up prompts to create more in-depth discussion.

**Site-Specific Data, Measures, and Methods.** The state-specific data gathered by the Franklin County PEPP team included answers to various discussion questions used during the engagement. The event was facilitated by Kyle Strickland of the Kirwan Institute, and the team worked together in advance to prepare a PowerPoint slideshow to provide structure and visual interest to the presentation. However, upon arrival to the venue, the seating was set in a roundtable format, allowing a much more relaxed and engaging atmosphere for dialogue and active participation among attendees. With that in mind, the PowerPoint was not shared, though the information within it was relayed by participants as noted in the agenda. Surveys were distributed upon arrival and participants were given time to complete them prior to beginning the program. After introductions were completed, team members introduced the project and themselves, discussed their various programs with participants, and the dialogue flowed with little prompting from there. The judges were very engaged and active in listening to participants' experiences and concerns while addressing questions as they arose. While generally framed by the presentation framework, the dialogue was free flowing and well received. Post-surveys were requested prior to participant departure and collected at the conclusion of the program.

# Results

## Analyses

Analyses in this report are entirely descriptive. Due to the small numbers of participants included in each individual engagement, we have not conducted statistical differences tests of group comparisons.

## Participant Characteristics

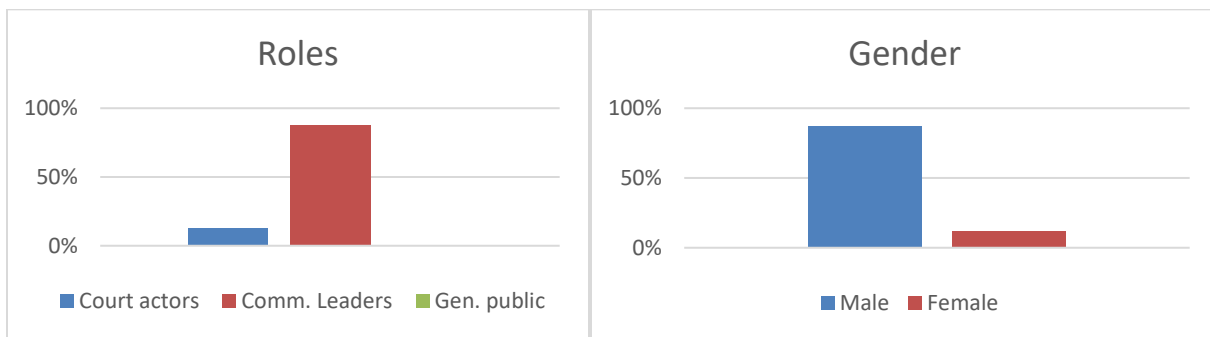
One key metric for success of engagements is the involvement of intended target populations, whether that be the involvement of a representative sample of the public or a focus on specific demographics relevant to certain court processes, procedures, or problems. To see if you are succeeding to involve those you intend, you need to examine the characteristics of those who attend. The descriptive statistics in Table 2 present those demographics. As shown, the majority of the participants were male, Black, and leaders in their communities. They leaned slightly conservative ideologically and were highly educated.

**Table 2: Self-Reported Demographics of Engagement Participants**

Total N	Court Actors	Comm. Leaders	Gen. Public	Mean Age	SD Age	Range Age	Mean Educ.	SD Educ.	Mean Ideol.	SD Ideol.
8	12.5%	87.5%	0	53.38	13.33	33-68	5.25	1.49	3.5	.54
	Male	Female		Native	Asian	Black	H/PI	SHLPR	White	Other
	87.5%	12.5%		0	0	100%	0	0	0	12.5%

*Notes.* Statistics based on surveys received from the PEPP project. Demographics were asked on the pre-survey only. Total N may differ from count of total attendees if some attendees did not complete a pre- and/or post-survey. Missing values for court actor question were assumed to be no (not a court actor); community leaders were only classified as such if they were not court actors. Educ. = education measured on a scale of 1 = No high school diploma, 2 = High school diploma/GED, 3 = Some college, 4 = Tech/Assoc/Jr college (2yr), 5 = Bachelors (4yr), 6 = Some graduate school, 7 = Graduate degree. Race/ethnicity is based on self-reports. Native = Native American or Alaskan Native, H/PI = Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, SHLPR = Spanish, Hispanic, Latino/a/x, or Puerto Rican. Respondents could choose more than one race/ethnicity so percentages may exceed 100%. Ideol. = ideology measured on a scale of 1 = very conservative to 7 = very liberal.

**Figure 1: Participants' Roles and Gender Distributions**





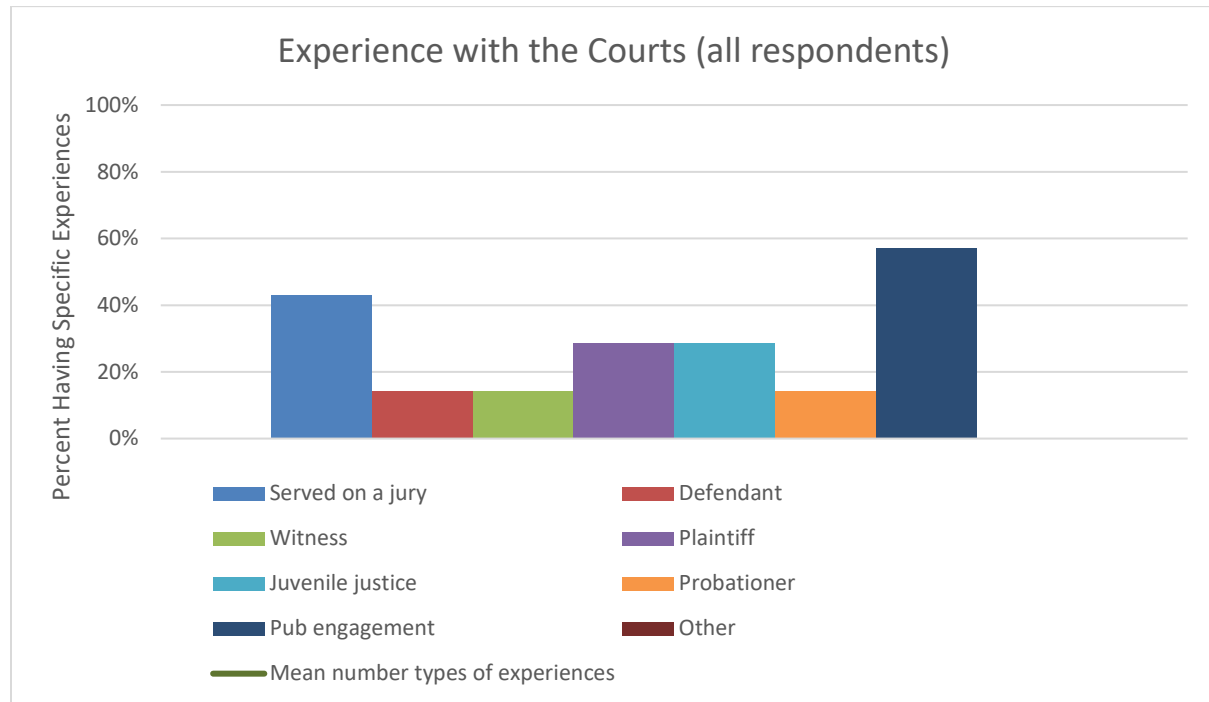
Also important is the inclusion of persons with a variety of experiences with the courts and a variety of feelings about the courts. Table 3, Table 4, and Table 5 provide descriptive statistics concerning participant prior experiences with the courts (any court). Note that Table 3 focuses on different types of experiences and Table 4 focuses on the count of total experiences. Table 5 provides descriptive statistics concerning respondents' ratings of familiarity and positive and negative feelings about the courts prior to the engagement.

**Table 3: Types of Prior Experiences with the Courts**

Prior Experience	Frequency
Served on a jury	42.9% (n = 3)
Defendant	14.3% (n = 1)
Witness	14.3% (n = 1)
Plaintiff	28.6% (n = 2)
Juvenile justice	28.6% (n = 2)
Probationer	14.3% (n = 1)
Pub engagement	57.1 (n = 4)
Other	0% (n = 0)
Total N reporting	7
Range of count	0-5
Mean (SD)	2.00 (1.63)

*Notes.* Statistics do not include reports of the court actor. Range of count and Mean (SD) represent number of types of experience reported.

**Figure 2: Types of Prior Experiences with the Courts**



**Table 4: Average Number of Total Self-reported Prior Experiences (Regardless of Type) with the Courts in the Last Five Years**

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Approximate count of number of experiences with the court in the last 5 years	7	.00	15.00	5.28	5.71

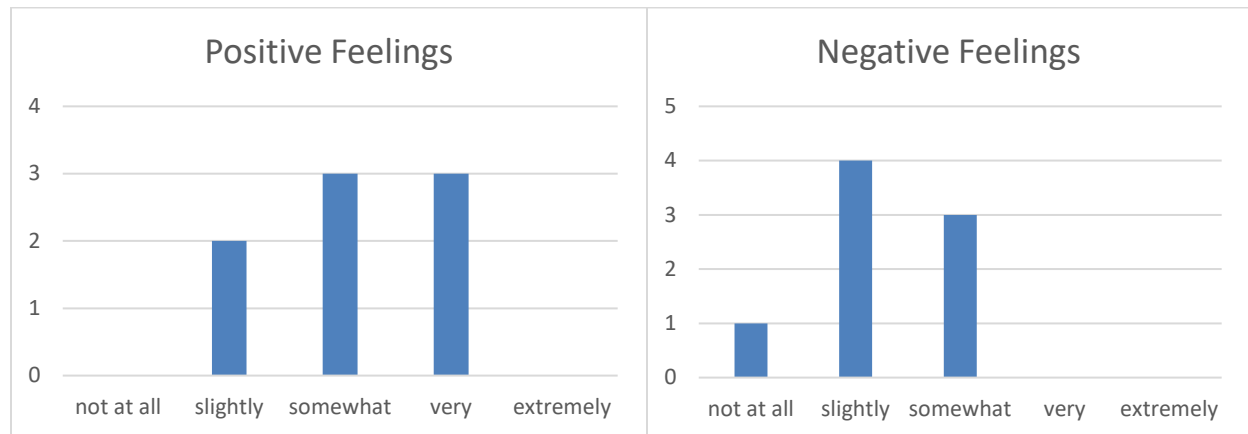
*Notes.* Across all PEPP reports, the maximum allowed report for estimated numbers was 500. In cases where participants gave verbal replies instead of actual numbers, estimates were used (e.g., “daily” was given an estimate of the maximum, 500). Dashes indicate no cases or statistical calculation could not be performed.

**Table 5: Familiarity with and Feelings about the Courts prior to Engagements**

Question	How familiar are you with the [PEPP] Court(s)?			How positive do you feel about the [PEPP] Court(s)?			How negative do you feel about the [PEPP] Court(s)?		
	M	SD	n	M	SD	n	M	SD	n
Statistics	3.88	.99	8	3.13	.84	8	2.25	.71	8
	<b>1-2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4-5</b>	<b>1-2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4-5</b>	<b>1-2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4-5</b>
Frequencies	0	4	4	2	3	3	5	3	0

*Notes.* [PEPP] was replaced with the name of the court or courts. Dashes indicate no cases or statistical calculation could not be performed. Response scale for all items ranged from 1 = not at all, to 2 = slightly, 3 = somewhat, 4 = very, 5 = extremely.

**Figure 3: Frequencies of Positive and Negative Feelings toward the Courts**



### Perceptions of the Qualities of the Engagement Processes

Several questions were asked on the post-event survey to gauge participant perceptions of the quality of the engagement processes.

**People or groups missing from the engagement.** To assess whether participants in the engagement felt that relevant groups and individuals were missing from the discussion, post-survey respondents were asked two questions: “Were any groups of people or viewpoints

missing from today’s engagement?” and “What specific persons or groups should be invited to future engagements who are not here today?” Results from these questions are presented in Table 6.

As shown, although only two people indicated people were missing; open-ended responses indicated most respondents had ideas for other who could be invited in the future.

**Table 6: Percentage of Respondents Indicating “Yes” People were Missing from the Engagement, and Exemplar Open-Ended Responses**

Percent (n) “yes”	Total N	Open-ended Responses: Who was missing?
40% (2)	5	Community Police officers Private and public Public Defender/Prosecutor

Notes. Full list of open-ended responses is presented verbatim.

**Importance of topics of engagement.** Post-survey respondents were also asked to rate “How important to you were the topics addressed during the engagement activities?” Ratings were made using a 5-point scale in which 1 = not at all, 2 = slightly, 3 = somewhat, 4 = very, and 5 = extremely, important. Results from this question are reported in Table 7.

**Helpfulness of engagement activities for problem-solving progress.** Post-survey respondents were also asked to rate “How helpful were the engagement activities in making progress toward solving one or more problems?” Ratings were made using a 5-point scale in which 1 = not at all, 2 = slightly, 3 = somewhat, 4 = very, and 5 = extremely, helpful. Results from this question are reported in Table 7.

As shown, all the respondents indicated answers at or above the mid-point on the scales, indicating that the topics were important, and the engagement activities were helpful.

**Table 7: Importance of Engagement Topics and Helpfulness of Engagement Activities for Problem-solving**

Question	How important to you were the topics addressed during the engagement activities?			How helpful were the engagement activities in making progress toward solving one or more problems?		
	M	SD	n	M	SD	n
Statistics	4.67	.52	6	4.50	.55	6
	<b>1-3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1-3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
Frequencies	0	2	4	0	3	3

Notes. Response scale for all items ranged from 1 = not at all, to 2 = slightly, 3 = somewhat, 4 = very, 5 = extremely (important or helpful).

**Figure 4: Ratings of Community Engagement Event**



**Use of discussion during engagement.** Several questions on the post-survey aimed to evaluate the use of discussion during the engagement activities. One question assessed participants’ perceptions that there was time for discussion. Another question asked whether the discussion helped them to see new viewpoints and whether all viewpoints were shared with the larger group.

**Discussion took place.** To assess perceptions of the presence of discussion, respondents were asked “Was there time for discussion during the engagement activities?” (yes/no).

**Discussion helped people see new viewpoints.** If participants felt there was time for discussion, they were asked to rate “How much did the discussion help you see new viewpoints?” on a 5-point scale in which 1 = not at all, 2 = a little, 3 = some, 4 = quite a bit, and 5 = a great deal.

**Viewpoints expressed in front of the whole group.** Those perceiving discussion as taking place were also asked to rate “How many different viewpoints were expressed in front of the whole group?” on a 5-point scale in which 1 = none or only one view/perspective, 2 = a few views/perspectives, 3 = some of the existing views/perspectives, 4 = many of the existing views/perspectives, and 5 = all some relevant views/perspectives.

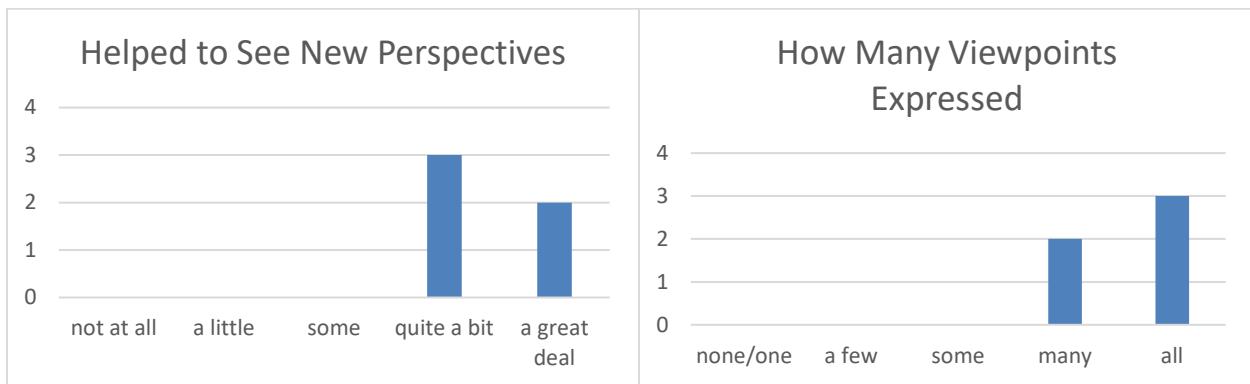
Results from these questions are presented in Table 8. All respondents agreed that there was time for discussion, and all respondents gave ratings above the scale mid-point for both questions indicating relatively high agreement that the discussions helped them to see new viewpoints and allowed different viewpoints to be expressed.

**Table 8: Average Responses to Questions about Discussion during the Engagement Activities**

Question	Was there time for discussion during the engagement activities? 1 = yes, 0 = no			How much did the discussion help you see new viewpoints?			How many different viewpoints were expressed in front of the whole group?		
	M	SD	n	M	SD	n	M	SD	n
Statistics	1.0	0	4	4.40	.25	5	4.60	.25	5
	<b>0 (no)</b>	<b>1 (yes)</b>		<b>1-3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1-3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
Frequencies	0	4		0	3	2	0	2	3

Notes. Response scale for second item was 1 = not at all, 2 = a little, 3 = some, 4 = quite a bit, and 5 = a great deal. Response scale for third (last) item was 1 = none or only one view/perspective, 2 = a few views/perspectives, 3 = some of the existing views/perspectives, 4 = many of the existing views/perspectives, and 5 = all relevant views/perspectives.

**Figure 5: Frequencies of Ratings of Discussion Qualities**



**Effective listening by parties involved in the engagement.** Post-survey respondents were also asked to rate the extent to which people (members of the public who were present, judges and court staff who were present, and the facilitators of the discussion today) listened during the engagement in a manner that promoted understanding. Specifically, they were asked to rate, “In your opinion, how well did the following people really listen to and understand others’ views during the engagement activities? Note: If any of the types of people listed above were not present, choose not relevant.” Response options ranged from 1 = not at all, 2 = slightly, 3 = somewhat, 4 = very, 5 = extremely.

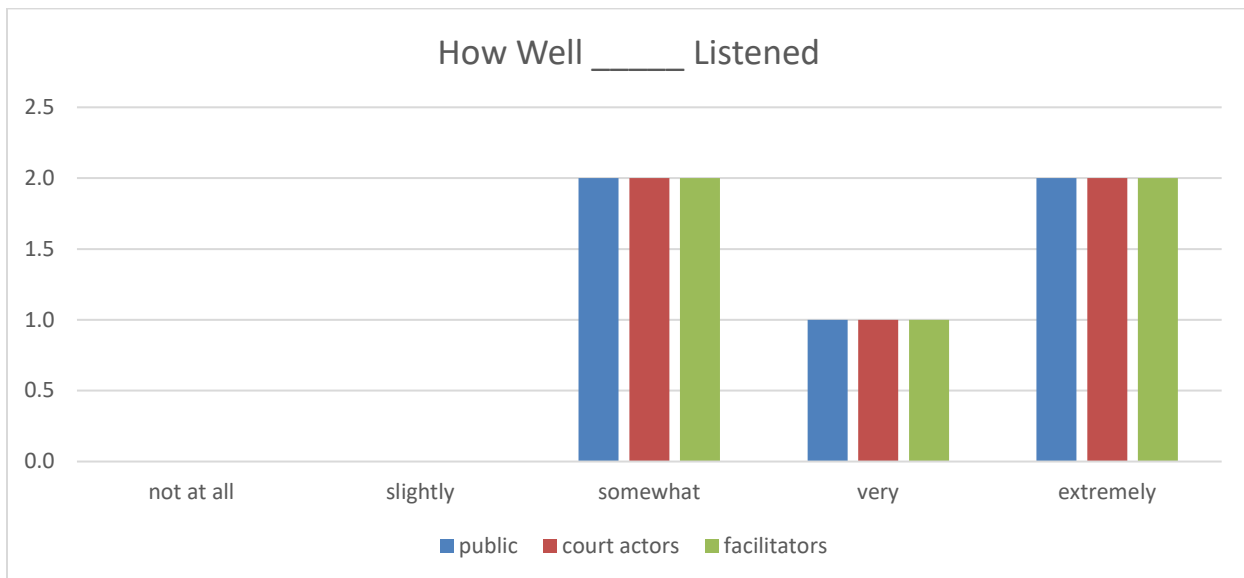
Results from this question are shown in Table 9 and suggest that those who responded felt people listened at least somewhat, very, or extremely well.

**Table 9: Average Ratings of How Well Various Groups Listened and Understood Views of Others**

Question	<i>In your opinion, how well did the following people really listen to and understand others' views during the engagement activities?</i>								
	<i>Members of the public</i>			<i>Judges and court staff</i>			<i>The facilitators of the discussion</i>		
	M	SD	n	M	SD	n	M	SD	n
Statistics	4.00	.45	5	4.00	.45	5	4.00	.45	5
	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
Frequencies	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	2

Notes. Response scale was 1 = not at all, 2 = slightly, 3 = somewhat, 4 = very, 5 = extremely.

**Figure 6: Distributions of Ratings for How Well Various Groups Listened**



### Changes in Perceptions of the Courts

Another key metric for the success of the PEPP engagements is that they are conducted in a manner that increases rather than decreases positive attitudes toward the specified courts. Attitudes assessed before (pre) and after (post) the engagement included ratings of perceived trustworthiness, trust, and perceived positive and negative effects of the courts.

**Trustworthiness.** To assess perceived trustworthiness, participants were asked (at pre and post) to rate the extent to which they perceive the courts as being fair, being caring, having integrity, being part of their community, and treating all people respectfully and courteously. The specific items are as follows:

- **Fair:** How fair or unfair do [courts in your area] treat people of different races, genders, ages, wealth, or other characteristics? (1 = very unfair, somewhat unfair, slightly unfair, neutral: neither fair nor unfair, slightly fair, somewhat fair 7 = very fair).
- **Caring:** How much do you feel the [courts in your area] care about the problems faced by people like you? 1 = not at all, 2 = a little, 3 = some, 4 = quite a bit, and 5 = a great deal.
- **Integrity:** How much do the [courts in your area] act with honesty and integrity? 1 = not at all honest, no integrity, 2 = slightly honest, slight integrity, 3 = somewhat honest, some integrity, 4 = very honest, quite a bit of integrity, 5 = extremely honest, a great deal of integrity.
- **Community:** To what extent do you see the [courts in your area] as being part of your community? 1 = not at all, 2 = a little, 3 = some, 4 = quite a bit, and 5 = a great deal.
- **Respect:** How much are court personnel respectful and courteous to all members of the public? 1 = not at all, 2 = slightly, 3 = somewhat, 4 = very, 5 = extremely courteous/respectful. Respect (J): Judges, Respect (S): Other court staff

Results from these questions are presented in Table 10. As shown, whenever there was a change in mean trust from pre to post, the change was in the positive direction. The largest change was regarding the perceived integrity of the courts.

**Table 10: Pre-Post Mean Changes on Trustworthiness Items**

	Pre N	Post N	Frequencies						Means		Change In Mean
			Pre			Post			Pre	Post	
			Low	Mid	High	Low	Mid	High			
Fair*	7	6	1	2	4	1	2	3	4.57	4.67	+ .20
Caring	7	5	2	1	4	1	2	2	3.43	3.40	0
Integrity	8	5	2	3	3	0	1	4	3.13	4.00	+1.00
Community	8	5	1	2	5	1	1	3	3.63	3.60	+ .20
Respect (J)	8	6	2	2	4	1	1	4	3.13	3.33	0
Respect (S)	6	5	3	3	0	2	2	1	2.33	2.60	0

Notes. \*Fair used a 7-point scale while the other items used a 5-point scale. Mid refers to number of persons choosing the mid-point of the scale, low is below the mid-point and high is above the mid-point. Pre and post means are based on all available data but change in mean is based only on the 4-6 participants who had answered the question at both pre and post, therefore the difference in means may not equal the change in mean. Green shades reflect a desired change.

**Trust and Vulnerability.** To assess trust in the courts, participants were asked (at pre and post) to rate how much they trusted the courts, how comfortable they would be letting the courts decide a case that was important to them, and their perceptions of the positive and negative effects of the courts on their community. The specific items used were as follows:

- **Trust:** How much do you trust or distrust the [courts in your area]? Rated on a 7-point scale upon which 1 = distrust a lot, 4 = neutral, 7 = trust a lot.
- **Comfort:** How comfortable would you feel letting the [courts in your area] decide a case that was important to you? Rated on a 7-point scale upon which 1 = very uncomfortable, 4 = neutral, 7 = very comfortable.
- **Pos-likely:** In your opinion, how likely is it that the [courts in your area] will have positive effects on your community? Rated on a 5-point scale upon which 1 = not at all likely, 5 = extremely likely.
- **Pos-extent:** If positive effects happened, how positive would they be? Rated on a 5-point scale upon which 1 = there are no positive effects, 5 = extremely positive.
- **Neg-likely:** In your opinion, how likely is it that the [courts in your area] will have negative effects on your community? Rated on a 5-point scale upon which 1 = not at all likely, 5 = extremely likely.
- **Neg-extent:** If negative effects happened, how negative would they be? Rated on a 5-point scale upon which 1 = there are no negative effects, 5 = extremely negative.

The results from these questions are presented in Table 11. As shown, most of the changes for these questions were in the positive direction or very close to zero. The largest changes on these questions pertained to participants’ perceptions of how negative and how likely potential negative effects of the courts are. These negative perceptions decreased.

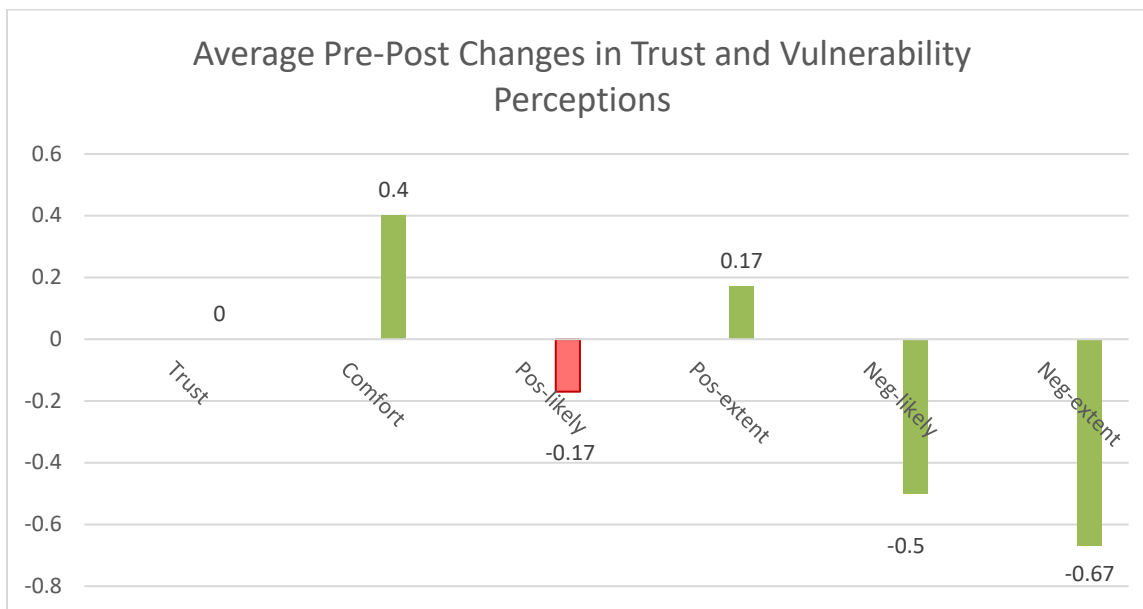
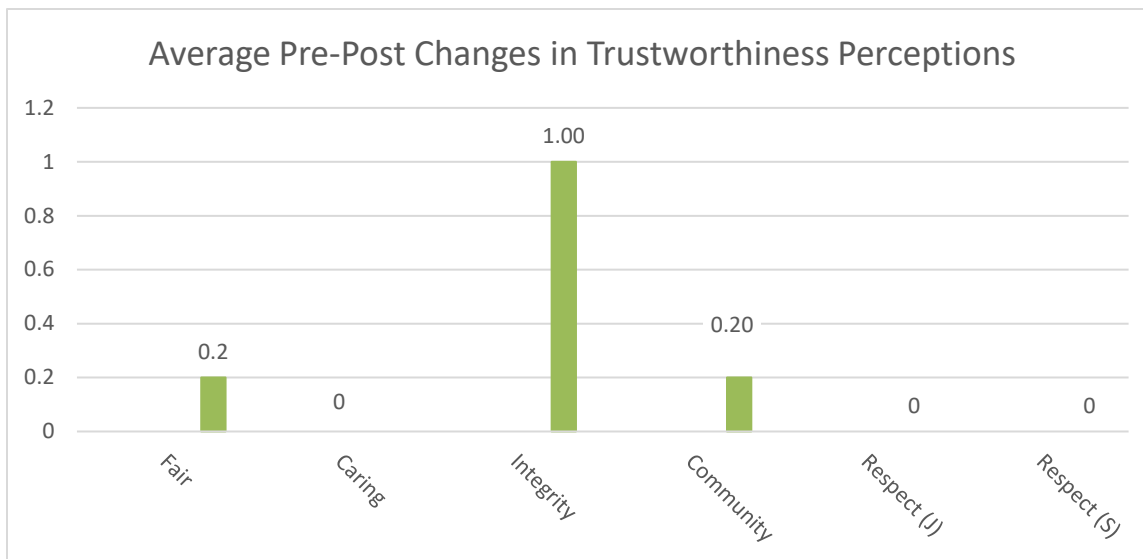
**Table 11: Pre-Post Changes in Ratings Pertaining to Trust and Vulnerability**

	Pre		Frequencies						Means		Change In Mean
	N	N	Pre			Post			Pre	Post	
			Low	Mid	High	Low	Mid	High			
Trust*	8	6	0	2	6	0	1	5	5.13	5.17	0
Comfort*	7	6	1	4	1	0	2	4	4.43	5.17	+ .40
Pos-likely	8	6	1	4	3	1	3	2	3.25	3.17	- .17
Pos-extent	8	6	1	1	6	0	2	4	4.00	4.17	+ .17
Neg-likely	8	6	1	4	3	1	3	2	3.50	3.17	- .50
Neg-extent	7	6	0	0	7	0	3	3	4.57	3.83	- .67

Notes. \*Trust and comfort items used 7-point scales while the other items used a 5-point scale. Mid refers to number of persons choosing the mid-point of the scale, low is below the mid-point and high is above the mid-point. Pre and post means are based on all available data but change in mean is based only on the 5-6 participants who had answered the question at both pre and post, therefore the difference in means may not equal the change in mean. Green shades reflect a desired change. Red shades reflect an undesirable change.



**Figure 7: Changes in Trustworthiness, Trust, and Vulnerability Perceptions**



**Open-ended descriptions of courts’ positive and negative impacts.** In addition to rating the severity and likelihood of the potential positive and negative impacts of the courts, survey respondents were asked to describe those impacts at both pre and post. Specifically, the items read:

- Some people believe courts can have positive effects on the community. Please list any positive effects that you care about.
- Some people believe courts can have negative effects on the community. Please list the negative effects that you care most about.

Additional questions on the post-survey asked respondents about participant overall satisfaction with the engagement activities, whether and how much they felt they gained knowledge from the activities, and whether they would be willing to be contacted in the future. The answers offered in response to the open-ended questions are listed in Table 12 and Table 13.

**Table 12: Potential Positive Impacts of the Courts<sup>4</sup>**

Positive Impacts (pre)
1. Fair sentencing and appropriate representation for defendants in court room
2. Get to know the people
3. Judges come and conversate with community on a monthly basis
4. Keeping citizens out of the court system
5. Maintain order in community
6. Not sure I know of any
7. Yes
Positive Impacts (post)
8. Information
9. Program to show and foster change
10. Too early to see

**Table 13: Potential Negative Impacts of the Courts<sup>4</sup>**

Negative Impacts (pre)
1. Excessive bend. Excessive fines. Too many channels to get help
2. Not knowing the people
3. Number of blacks and poor people in court room without {unintelligible}
4. Sentencing
5. Unfair in understanding the mind frame of who they service
Negative Impacts (post)
6. Communication and diversity
7. Not knowing how to access

### Other Post-only Survey Items

Additional questions on the post-survey asked respondents about their overall satisfaction with the engagement activities, whether and how much they felt they gained knowledge from the activities, and whether they would be willing to be contacted in the future.

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<sup>4</sup> “Don’t know” and “Unsure” responses were removed from the list.

**Overall satisfaction.** Overall satisfaction was assessed by asking respondents to rate “How satisfied or unsatisfied were you with the engagement activities?” on a 5-point scale for which 1 = very dissatisfied, 2 = dissatisfied, 3 = neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, 4 = satisfied, 5 = very satisfied.

**Changes in subjective knowledge.** To assess changes in subjective knowledge, participants were asked, “During the engagement activities, to what degree, if any, did your knowledge of the [courts in your area] increase?” The 5-point response scale was as follows: 1 = not at all, it stayed the same, 2 = slightly increased, 3 = somewhat increased, 4 = increased quite a bit, 5 = increased a great deal.

**Willingness to be contacted in the future.** Two yes/no questions were asked regarding willingness to be contacted in the future by the evaluation team:

- Would you be willing to invite people you know to do a very short survey?
- May the evaluation team contact you again later about your opinions?

Results shown in Table 14 and Table 15 suggest relatively high satisfaction with the engagement activities, and some moderate increases in knowledge, with all participants willing to be recontacted in the future.

**Table 14: Satisfaction and Knowledge Questions**

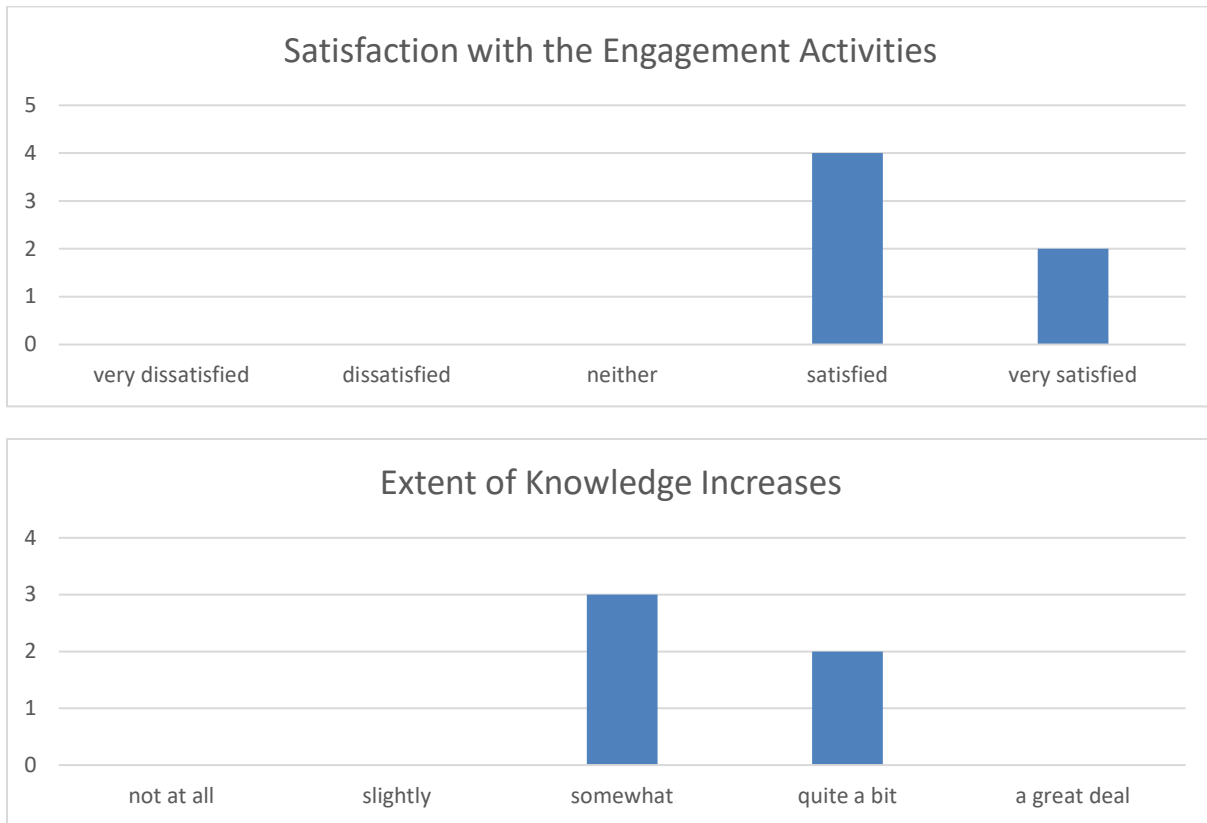
	<i>How satisfied or unsatisfied were you with the engagement activities?</i>			<i>During the engagement activities, to what degree, if any, did your knowledge of the [courts in your area] increase?</i>		
	M	SD	n	M	SD	n
Statistics	4.33	.21	6	3.40	.25	5
	<b>1-3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1-2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
Frequencies	0	4	2	0	3	2

*Notes.* Response scale for the satisfaction item was 1 = very dissatisfied, 2 = dissatisfied, 3 = neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, 4 = satisfied, 5 = very satisfied, and for the knowledge question was 1 = not at all, it stayed the same, 2 = slightly increased, 3 = somewhat increased, 4 = increased quite a bit, 5 = increased a great deal.

**Table 15: Willingness to be Involved in the Future**

	<i>Would you be willing to invite people you know to do a very short survey?</i> Percent indicating yes			<i>May the evaluation team contact you again later about your opinions?</i> Percent indicating yes		
	n yes	% yes	N	n yes	% yes	N
Statistics	6	100%	6	6	100%	6

**Figure 8: Distribution of Responses to the Satisfaction and Knowledge Questions**



**Other Comments**

At the end of both the pre- and post-survey there was space for participants to write any other comments they wished. These comments are shown in Table 16.

**Table 16: Other Comments by Respondents**

Other Comments (pre)
1. I believe there should be more outreach and engagement to inform community, concerning case concerns
2. I don't like the survey because our input is rarely addressed. They can be manipulated to suit any agenda the total-er wants. No feedback and report back with resolve or resolution. Thank you.
Other Comments (post)
3. Thank you for coming out.

**State-Specific Results**

Both the pre-engagement racial equity workshop with judges and the stakeholder engagement provided significant insight for the FCMC Specialized Docket judges and

administrative staff. In sitting down and sharing lunch with African American faith and community leaders, the following themes were identified:

- There was a general consensus that participants were not aware of the specialized docket programs offered by the FCMC.
- The primary referral source for the specialized docket programs are defense attorneys - and in most cases the local Public Defender's Office. Some participants misunderstood the process to be skewed for privileged individuals who could afford private counsel. The judges did an excellent job educating participants about the high quality and devoted staff in the Public Defender's Office and their involvement in the treatment team aspect of the specialized docket processes. This insight was well received.
- A brief description of the current practices of the Probation Department was provided, including its transition to an evidence-based organization using risk-based supervision. This offered an opportunity for community members to discuss some of their negative experiences in the past, and for the FCMC to share with participants their vision of probation as a proactive, balanced, and engaged organization.
- One of the most telling discussion points arose from a community member who had personal experience with FCMC arraignment processes. This participant described the rushed, and to some extent traumatizing, ways in which defendants are managed through dockets that arraign individuals arrested the previous day and are unable to post bond or are ineligible for bond without a hearing. The individual's moment in court can occur very quickly, with only a brief interaction with a public defender who they have only just met, leaving all parties confused. Judges listened to this intently and took this discussion to heart—later sharing the insight with the rest of the FCMC bench at an open judges' meeting.
- Much discussion arose regarding the inherent dread that many people feel when entering a courthouse - which is amplified for people of color. One individual described crippling anxiety when entering to handle a minor matter, having no personal criminal history, but carrying with her an engrained fear of jail and discrimination. Another participant shared that they participate in court monitoring and shared his observations of how difficult it is for the general public to find their way through the FCMC complex and address their needs. This was an opportunity to further discuss the Self Help Center, and also provided invaluable input for the judges to carry back with them as plans are drafted for a new FCMC courthouse in the future.
- Another discussion topic focused on assistance for individuals to review their criminal history to determine their eligibility for a sealing or expungement of prior convictions. The laws have changed in recent years, opening this potential resource to a larger group

of citizens. The Self Help Center offers clinics in the community and is open during regular business hours at the courthouse to assist individuals in considering this option. This was of interest to most participants, but specifically to representatives of the job/career field. Contacts were made during the engagement event that will ideally result in continued community partnership and engagement.

## Results from Common Discussion Questions

### **Most important things learned from the engagements according to participants.**

A principal finding from the discussion was that the FCMC is generally very opaque to the public. This was demonstrated by discussions around rushed arraignment processes that leave defendants confused and uncertain about their status, as well as feedback around the general difficulty for visitors to find their way around the complex. Overall, there was a clear lack of awareness that the FCMC's specialized dockets were an option for justice-involved individuals who met the program criteria.

**Next steps according to participants.** Results from the common discussion question concerning the next steps participants wanted to see after the engagement included:

- Integrate what has been learned through the experience into future FCMC-sponsored public engagements, such as license clinics and "Courthouse in the Community" events.
- Expand discussions beyond just the specialized dockets to the full bench, as participants expressed interest in learning more.
- Press for user friendly/less intimidating design of the future new courthouse.
- Review arraignment docket management.
- Prior discussions around pretrial/bail reform have elicited recommendations that would allow for more meaningful, less rushed interactions in court. Apply the layers of this experience to that ongoing discussion.

## Discussion/Reflections

The following are the FCMC PEPP team's unedited reflections on the results from the engagements and the pre-post surveys.

### **General/Overarching Reflections**

- *What stands out to you the most about the survey results for your engagements? What are the most positive results? What results may indicate areas for improvement?*

- There was not a lot of understanding about the services available at the courthouse, and there was a general feeling that you would show up to court and just be shuffled around. The court can do better to “advertise” their different programs to the community and needs to do so in order to address this misconception.

## Recruitment

- *How well did you manage to involve your target populations? Looking at the proportions of persons who attended, do you feel like you had the right amount of court actors, leaders, general public; the right mix of demographics (race/ethnicity, age, education, gender); and of viewpoints (e.g., ideology, persons who both are positive/negative about the courts at the time of the pre-survey)?*
  - By involving faith leaders invited by someone trusted in the community, I think we got a pretty representative group of people interested in getting information out to the rest of the community. Some of these individuals had good experiences with finding help at the courthouse and others had very different feelings. Bringing people with these varying points of view together sparked some really productive conversations. From the court side, having judges participate showed a willingness to listen and make changes as well as provided the judges with an opportunity to learn directly from the community.
- *Relating to recruitment, what would you be sure to do again in future engagements, and what would you like to try to do differently?*
  - Having Pastor LaMarr invite participants gave the event a certain level of trust to start off with. It also helped to bring people to the table who may never have even thought of attending a meeting with judges or anyone else from the court.

## The Engagement Process

- *What processes seemed to go well or need improvement based on the pre-post survey data and post-survey engagement evaluation?*
  - It seems that the event was well received and was understood to be intended as the beginning of additional efforts and dialogues in the future. Some survey comments seemed to indicate a skepticism of continued momentum, but we are hopeful to maintain dialogue and engagement once the current public health crisis begins to improve.

- *What processes seemed to go well or need improvement based on your observations of the events?*
  - The invited guests were a good representation of our targeted communities, and their relation to Pastor LaMarr who vouched for the judges started the meeting with a level of trust and willingness to engage. Improvements: The judges would have liked to have held a second session or to have had more time in this session had we had more time in the grant period.
- *Relating to the engagement process, what would you be sure to do again in future engagements, and what would you like to try to do differently?*
  - Involving community leaders in the planning of the event and having them host the event was extremely helpful. I would try to have another engagement with a larger group that brought more voices into the group.

## **Outcomes**

- *How well did you manage to achieve what you hoped to achieve during the engagements (individually and across the engagements)?*
  - As described above, the personnel changes, coupled with the coronavirus pandemic, severely impacted our timeline and ability to hold more engagement events. However, we were able to overcome these challenges and pull together a great group of community leaders and activists to begin our dialogue.
- *What is the evidence/measures relevant to some problem facing the courts that you can track going forward to see if you continue to make progress?*
  - The two parallel projects that examined issues of access, inequity, and racial bias in the Specialized Dockets highlighted our need to improve data collection and tracking of outcomes across the spectrum of participants. Continued engagement events, particularly with drivers of referrals would be worthwhile to arrange and track progress over time.

## **Conclusion and Next Steps**

- *What do you feel were the most important things learned from the engagements?*
  - The courts seek to serve their community and are interested in improving awareness, access, and understanding across the spectrum of services. Court actors left the engagement with a better understanding of how daunting and frightening court experiences can be—especially for people of color. Community



members appeared to gain a sense that the judges are passionate about their work in the specialized dockets and are eager to assist participants in reaching their goals and being successful. Old probation practices were discussed, and participants were updated on the modernized vision and mission of probation and pretrial services.

- *What will your teams' next steps be? Will you continue or sustain your engagement efforts beyond the end of your involvement in PEPP?*
  - The Franklin County Municipal Court is a member of the Franklin County Criminal Justice and Community Corrections Planning Board, which fully embraces the work embodied by this project. Franklin County and the City of Columbus declared racism as a public health crisis in 2020, focusing the energies and attentions of local leaders to address the issues of racial disparity going forward (<https://jpp.franklincountyohio.gov/planning-board>). While immediate plans are on hold due to the current public health crisis, it is clear that community engagement efforts were well received, and have proven to be a valuable tool to improve the court's service to the community.
  
- *Did your involvement in the PEPP projects impact your use of engagement in any way, and/or impact your institution and its attitudes toward public engagement? If so, how?*
  - Upon sharing this experience with the other judges on the Franklin County Municipal Court bench, there was a clear interest in expanding the community engagement efforts to the larger court. The court has participated in "Courthouse to the Community" events in the past, and will likely resume these efforts once public health conditions allow public gatherings. In considering those events, the court will likely consider this experience, and reconnect with the partners of this project to incorporate dialogue into these programs.

# APPENDICES

## Appendix of Procedure Relevant Materials or Work Products

### Engagement events

#### Agenda

[FCMC LIFT agenda]

Listening Instills Future Trust  
Community Engagement Event  
February 29, 2020  
Hosted by Faith Missionary Baptist Church

#### Agenda

- Welcome:
  - Distribute lunch
  - Discuss pre and post surveys in packets, and complete pre surveys
- Description of Franklin County and Franklin County Municipal Court's complementary projects examining and addressing underrepresentation of minorities in Specialized Dockets (Melinda Brooks)
  - Safe place for candid discussion- notes to be taken around questions and concerns raised
- Overview of Kirwan Institute's role with the projects overall and as facilitator for this event (Kyle Strickland)
- Introductions
  - Round table format
  - Judges- describe each Specialized Docket
  - Robert Southers- describe services available and events hosted by FCMC Self Help Center
  - Melinda Brooks- EBP transition in Dept. of Pretrial and Probation Services
  - Pastor Frederick LaMarr- discuss involvement and invitations extended
  - Guest introductions
- Open floor for discussion around community experiences with and questions about the Courts, and Specialized Dockets
- Conclusion- guests asked to complete post survey prior to departure



[https://www.ncsc.org/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0025/63259/Engagement-Agenda.pdf](https://www.ncsc.org/data/assets/pdf_file/0025/63259/Engagement-Agenda.pdf)

## Material handouts

[FCMC CATCH brochure]



### Does It Work?

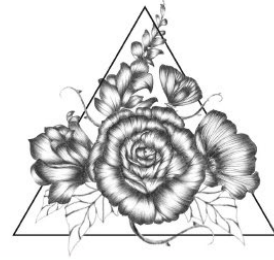
With a traditional justice approach, recidivism rates for women caught in prostitution nationally is around 80%<sup>1</sup>



With a restorative justice approach (CATCH), two-year recidivism rates dropped to just 29% for anyone who had participated in the program.



<sup>1</sup> <https://t/first-offender-prostitution-program>



**C.A.T.C.H. Court**  
Changing Actions to Change Habits  
Est. 2009

### Our Purpose

CATCH Court exists to break the cycle of abuse for victims of human trafficking, prostitution, and sexual exploitation by providing resources, community, and accountability.

### Contact

CATCH Court  
375 S High St. 6th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215  
(614) 645-7098  
MooreC@fcmclerk.com

### Why Not?

There may be a lot of reasons why someone isn't quite ready for the CATCH program, but here are some of the most common reasons we hear:

1. She's not ready<sup>2</sup>
2. She is emotionally bonded/loyal to her trafficker<sup>3</sup>
3. Shame<sup>4</sup>

<sup>2</sup> See Stages of Change research

<sup>3</sup> A lot could be said about this, but think of it as a coping skill or survival strategy to help someone deal with prolonged abuse. Research suggests that it is both a biological and psychological process.

<sup>4</sup> Brené Brown defines shame as "the intensely painful feeling or experience of believing that we are flawed and therefore unworthy of love and belonging."



FAQ section. Reserved for common questions for Judge's listening session on Saturday.



SPECIALIZED DOCKET  
DIVISION

## Contact Us

Franklin County Municipal Court

Coordinators Mallorie Davis and Kyle Keckley  
375 South High Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Phone/ Fax:

614-645-8314 (Mallorie)

614-645-1590 (Kyle)

Email:

[davism@fcmcclerk.com](mailto:davism@fcmcclerk.com)

[keckleyk@fcmcclerk.com](mailto:keckleyk@fcmcclerk.com)



Franklin County Municipal Court

Presiding Judge  
Honorable Cindi Morehart

Program Coordinators  
Mallorie Davis, LSW  
Kyle Keckley, IMFT, LPCC

Probation Officer  
Amy Witchey

[FCMC LINC brochure]

FAQ section. Reserved for common questions for Judge's listening session on Saturday.



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LEARNING TO IDENTIFY  
AND NAVIGATE CHANGE

Franklin County Municipal Court

Presiding Judge  
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Kyle Keckley, IMFT, LPCC

Probation Officer  
Amy Witchey

Our Mission:

To restore honor, facilitate treatment and support recovery for our participants.

Goals of MAVS Court:

- Reduce recidivism
- Stabilize mental health and increase compliance with treatment.
- Facilitate participant sobriety
- Achieve stable housing .
- Improve family and relationships & social connections.
- Return contributing citizens to the community.



Franklin County Municipal Court

Vet Court Coordinators: Karla Jones  
375 S. High St  
Courtroom 12B  
Columbus, OH 43215

Phone: 614-645-8292/614-645-8961  
Fax: 614-645-7185  
E-mail: [vichaz@fcmclerk.com](mailto:vichaz@fcmclerk.com) or  
[jonesk@fcmclerk.com](mailto:jonesk@fcmclerk.com)

## Military and Veterans Services: Specialized Docket Program



Presiding Judge  
Honorable Ted Barrows  
MAVS Program Coordinators  
Karla Jones, LISW, LICDC  
MAVS Probation Officer  
Lisa Carlson



Franklin County Municipal Court (FCMC)  
Self Help Resource Center



# FREE HELP FOR CIVIL CASES

The FCMC Self Help Resource Center is a free, walk-in service to help you represent yourself in court without a lawyer.

**We cannot offer legal advice, but can point you to helpful resources.**

**The Self Help Center Can Help You:**

- Learn how to represent yourself
- Get help with court rules, procedures, and forms
- Know what to expect before you go to court
- Be more informed of your legal options

**Civil Legal Issues We Can Help You With:**

- Sealing of records
- Landlord/tenant issues—including evictions and rent escrow
- General division claims
- Small claims
- Creditor/debtor issues

**What You Can Access at the Self Help Center:**

- Court forms
- Tools and guides to help with court forms and legal research
- Pro Se (self-representation) aid and guidance
- Answers to general questions about Municipal Court processes or procedures
- Targeted services and aid are available to those who pass a financial screening process\*

**READY TO GET STARTED?**

**SEE BACK PAGE**





FCMC CATCH

brochure\_2.29.20.pdf



FCMC HART

brochure\_2.29.20.pdf



FCMC LINC

brochure\_2.29.20.pdf



FCMC MAVS

brochure\_2.29.20.pdf



FCMC Self help

center flyer\_2.29.20.p

[https://www.ncsc.org/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0017/63260/CATCH-Flyer.pdf](https://www.ncsc.org/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/63260/CATCH-Flyer.pdf)

[https://www.ncsc.org/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0018/63261/HART-Brochure.pdf](https://www.ncsc.org/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/63261/HART-Brochure.pdf)

[https://www.ncsc.org/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0019/63262/LINC-Flyer.pdf](https://www.ncsc.org/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/63262/LINC-Flyer.pdf)

[https://www.ncsc.org/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/63263/MAVS-Brochure.pdf](https://www.ncsc.org/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/63263/MAVS-Brochure.pdf)

[https://www.ncsc.org/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0021/63264/Self-Help-Center-Flyer.pdf](https://www.ncsc.org/_data/assets/pdf_file/0021/63264/Self-Help-Center-Flyer.pdf)

## Engagement presentation

[FCMC LIFT presentation]







FCMC Community  
Engagement LIFT - Sp

[https://www.ncsc.org/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0017/63332/FCMC-LIFT-Presentation.pdf](https://www.ncsc.org/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/63332/FCMC-LIFT-Presentation.pdf)

## Appendix of Measures

### Engagement Form

The engagement form was used to track consistent data about individual engagements held by the PEPP teams in order to be able to look for potential patterns across engagements.



Engagement level  
data form - concise.

[https://www.ncsc.org/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0018/63333/Engagement-level-data-form.pdf](https://www.ncsc.org/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/63333/Engagement-level-data-form.pdf)

### Cross-site Consent and Surveys

#### Consent Form

The consent form was consistent across all the PEPP teams and was used to provide information to the attendees of the community engagements.



consent letter PEPP  
v02-Approved.pdf

[https://www.ncsc.org/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/62516/Consent-letter-PEPP-v02-approved.pdf](https://www.ncsc.org/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/62516/Consent-letter-PEPP-v02-approved.pdf)

#### Pre-Post Surveys

The surveys vary slightly by PEPP team because the name of the specific courts were embedded into the survey. Longer and shorter surveys were available. The Nebraska team used only the short form of the surveys.

#### *Pre-survey*



PRE  
survey\_FCOH\_two\_p

[https://www.ncsc.org/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/63335/pre-event-survey.pdf](https://www.ncsc.org/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/63335/pre-event-survey.pdf)

## **Post-survey**



POST  
survey\_FCOH\_two\_p

[https://www.ncsc.org/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0021/63336/post-event-survey.pdf](https://www.ncsc.org/_data/assets/pdf_file/0021/63336/post-event-survey.pdf)

## **Common Discussion Questions**

The common discussion questions that we requested all teams use as part of their project outcomes are attached here.



Common  
discussion question

[https://www.ncsc.org/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0022/63337/common-discussion-questions.pdf](https://www.ncsc.org/_data/assets/pdf_file/0022/63337/common-discussion-questions.pdf)