Pretrial Beginnings: RIVERSIDE COUNTY
Who is Riverside County?

- Riverside County covers 7,208 square miles
- Fourth most populous county in CA: 2.2 million in 2010
- Five jails throughout county, max capacity = 3,842

2012 Felony Bookings and Releases

- 27,972 felony bookings
- 1,132 (4%) OR releases
- 12,446 (44%) bail releases
- 6,990 (24%) Federal Release Order releases
Planning Riverside County Pretrial

- Research history and practices
  - Met with court administration and pretrial staff
    - Learned processes, discussed challenges, gathered data
  - Met with Sheriff’s Department
    - Tour facilities, discussed procedures, gathered data

- Research pretrial philosophy and best practices
  - Online research (CJI, PJI, NAPSA, etc.)
  - Communicate with other counties and agencies

- Why change anything???
Challenges to Our Planning Process

- **Time limitation**
  - Four months from initial notification to implementation

- **Size and scope of the county**
  - Multiple facilities, multiple courts, multiple bench officers
Plans for Pretrial Change

- Develop new pretrial database and court reports
- Increase efficiency
  - Increase defendant interviews and OR releases
  - Streamline jail and court processes
- Choose and implement an assessment tool
- Establish stakeholder leadership group
- Develop pretrial supervision program
- Utilize technology
- Apply for technical assistance (PACC)
Pretrial Plan Assets

- Dedicated managers and supervisors tasked with building a quality program
- Executive team support
- Cooperation and investment from partner agencies
- Ability to send supervisors to site visits and training
- Existing pretrial structure in place
- Experienced and trained staff
Challenges to Pretrial Plan

- Coordinating with collaborative agencies
  - Goals, involvement, and buy-in
  - Adopting legal and evidence based practices
- Limited resources
  - Staff, technology, facility processes and work space
- Information Technology
  - Database for statistics
  - Integration with collaborative agencies
- Departmental priorities
Pretrial Plan Implementation: Successes and Challenges

- Pretrial program staffed with Probation Officers
  - Challenge: Logistics of interviews; Pretrial vs. Probation mindset

- Improved Data system
  - Challenges: Time required to complete ongoing projects, assess functionality

- Supervision Program
  - Challenges: Judicial authority, size and scope of county
Pretrial Plan Implementation: Successes and Challenges

- Strengthened collaborative relationships
  - Challenge: Cooperation has room for growth
    - Ideologically (Risk based decision making, best practices)
    - Logistically (Jail facilities, court documents, information flow)

- Receiving PACC technical assistance
  - Challenge: Long-term process

- Assessment tool selected (VPRAI)
  - Challenge: Training and implementation; Validating and adjusting tool
Riverside County Pretrial Goals

- Increased efficiency
- Collaborative investment
- Improved Pretrial supervision
- Utilize advanced technology