



Center for Effective Public Policy

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SF Pretrial is a Leader in the Pretrial Justice Field

The Advancing Pretrial Policy and Research (APPR) project is a collaborative, multi-year initiative managed by the Center for Effective Public Policy. APPR promotes and facilitates advancements in pretrial justice, seeking to achieve fair, just, equitable pretrial practices that positively impact people, systems, and communities. Our mission is to support and engage pretrial professionals and community members in the meaningful delivery of data-informed pretrial justice.

While APPR does not take a position on what agency or organization should provide pretrial services in San Francisco, we write to highlight the strong track record that San Francisco Pretrial Diversion Project (SF Pretrial) has established over the past 50 years.

The effective provision of pretrial services is crucial to any jurisdiction's ability to protect constitutional rights, minimize unnecessary incarceration, and improve court appearance and public safety. SF Pretrial achieves consistently high outcome measures, reaching a 96 percent court appearance rate and a 100 percent public safety rate in recent years. Moreover, SF Pretrial serves a large and high-needs population, with 1,800 people under supportive supervision on any given day, approximately one-third of whom are unhoused.

SF Pretrial's approaches honor the presumption of innocence that is critical during the pretrial phase of a criminal case. They help clients meet their legal obligations *and* improve their lives. Research has shown that when system-involved people are treated with respect and patience, they are more likely to cooperate with judicial conditions, take an active role in their own cases, and less likely to reoffend in future. This, in turn, improves the communities in which they live.

SF Pretrial incorporates a holistic, humanistic approach to help people meet their basic needs and challenges such as stable housing, substance use, and mental health. This evidence-based strategy helps to reduce future criminal behavior by addressing the common underlying issues that drive crime. Many of SF Pretrial's staff have lived system



experience, enabling them to better understand the needs of their clients and guide them more effectively.

APPR has written about how SF Pretrial's status as a non-governmental service provider helps them achieve success in [The People Business](#). SF Pretrial staff are not law enforcement; they don't carry weapons or call themselves officers. They position themselves as intermediaries whose role is to help people meet their court-ordered obligations and get their lives back on track. This builds clients' trust in SF Pretrial, contributing to the agency's ability to deliver positive results.

David Mauroff, CEO of SF Pretrial, is known as a leader in the pretrial justice field and within the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies (NAPSA), the professional organization that promotes standards, accreditation, and ongoing education to the field. David and his team have been repeatedly recognized by NAPSA for their unwavering commitment to pretrial justice at the highest levels. APPR wrote about one of these awards in our story, [Meeting People Where They Are](#).

SF Pretrial has also distinguished itself through a strong commitment to data collection, reporting, and transparency. By doing so, the organization and the city better understand how policies impact both public safety and equity. By regularly publishing data and engaging stakeholders in discussions about system performance, SF Pretrial has worked to ensure that its pretrial practices are informed by evidence rather than assumptions. This emphasis on transparency has helped build accountability, support continuous improvement, and foster greater public trust in SF Pretrial's services.

APPR looks to SF Pretrial as a model for the field. The organization serves its clients while also serving as a trusted partner to the court and all stakeholders within the criminal legal system. Please feel free to contact us if additional information is helpful.

Sincerely,

Alison Shames
Director, CEPP
Co-Director, APPR

Matt Alsdorf
Co-Director, APPR