

THE PRETRIAL POST

APRIL 2020



Status of CPAT-R?

Update from Dr. Victoria Terranova regarding the status of CPAT-R revalidation:

"We are in the midst of conducting our phase 3 analysis. This involves collecting the data, merging all of the data sources together, recoding etc. We are fortunate with the timing of the project in that the COVID response has not interfered with the project's progress, so far. The phase 3 analysis includes assessing the predictive performance of the CPAT/CPAT-R, difference in predictive performance across protected groups (ie. race/ethnicity, gender) and the reliability of the tool's self-report information. Once our project deliverables are complete, we will disseminate to the PEN and our state funders. Our anticipated completion of these final tasks for the project is May/June. "

To all CAPS Members:

On behalf of the CAPS Executive Board, we want to start by saying we hope you are staying healthy, safe, and well! While there are so many communities being impacted by the Coronavirus Pandemic, we want to assure you there is light beyond the difficult times we all may be facing.

First, we want to recognize how unique pretrial services programs are to the justice system. As many counties have been forced to rapidly adapt to the new forms of teleworking, other pretrial professionals are still working in the midst of some of the most exposed areas (i.e. jails). We thank you for continuing to show up to work to preserve the integrity of the hard work that has been done for so many pretrial reform efforts. Without each of you coming to work and doing what you do best, jails would be in an even worse position with limited alternatives when releasing defendants on PR Bonds. We also thank those of you who supervise defendants. As court dates are being pushed back, caseloads are increasing, and you may be feeling the fatigue of teleworking; from the bottom of our hearts and from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, we hope you continue to strive in this difficult time, and know we are all so appreciative of the work you continue to do.

The CAPS Executive Board originally had a Spring Training planned for you; however, it has since been postponed. Don't worry though! We will continue to diligently monitor orders related to COVID-19, and if we aren't able to have an in-person group training within the next few months, then we will put together an online

training for you all. As we know more, we will keep all of you updated.

In the meantime, should you have any questions or concerns for the CAPS Board, know we are here for you! Please don't hesitate to email us at

caps_colorado@yahoo.com .

Stay well,

CAPS Executive Board



Working from home?
Here are some articles we recommend.

[New York Times](#)

[Ars Technica](#)

[Fortune](#)

[Boulder County's Mental Health Blog](#)

Looking for some training hours? Here are some we recommend.

[NIC Pretrial Justice](#)

[APPA Connect](#)

CAPS CPAT Training Webinar-
The cost of the webinar will be waived during this time. If interested, email the CAPS' email address.



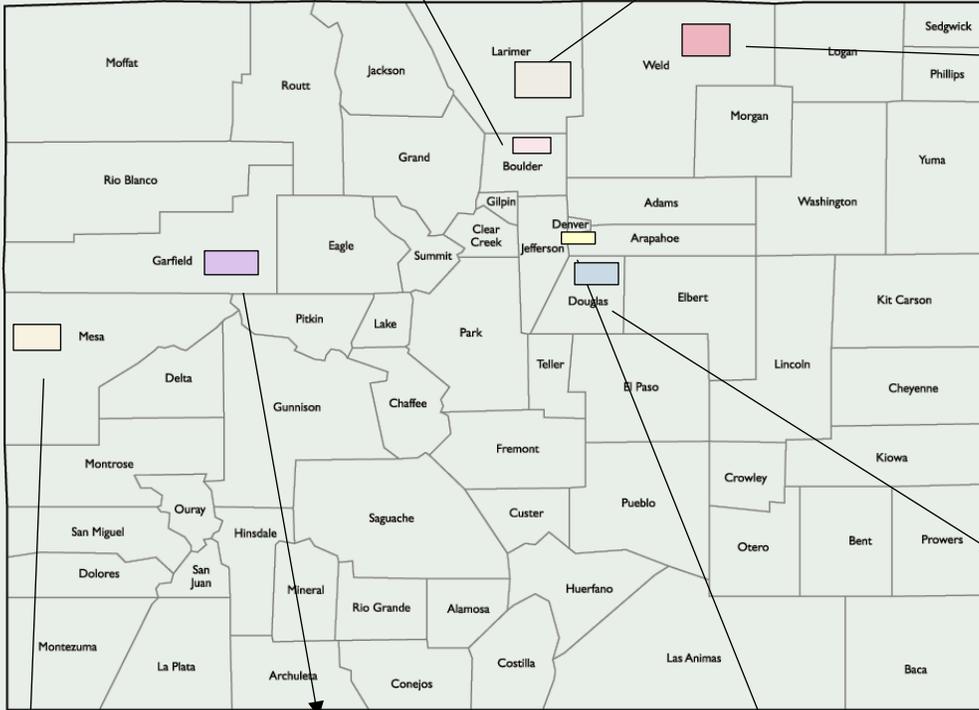
How are Pretrial Services Programs Managing Services During COVID-19?

Boulder County: Boulder County Pretrial has been working remotely since 3/17/20. We have an amazing IT team that set us all up on laptops so we could seamlessly connect with all our case management systems. It took a bit to get cell phones ordered for us all, but we managed to “see” all our clients with the few phones we had during the first week. Our Bond Commissioner Unit is also working mostly remotely and their productivity has not decreased at all. They are going above and beyond to support other units by scanning court documents, getting ROIs signed and working with jail and court staff to develop creative release plans. Court hearings are being held through video conferencing when appropriate to minimize the number of people coming into the courtrooms. It has been a very collaborative effort in Boulder County to support clients and community safety while maintaining social distancing.

Larimer County: Larimer County developed our own Records Management System in 2015, LOIS, that allowed us to make some exciting changes during this COVID-19 Crisis. Beginning March 22, PTS staff and the IT development team worked hard to expand our client Mobile App to allow clients to E-sign contracts with video conferencing. The idea was developed in less than two weeks with a fast launch on April 3. The mobile app was previously available to notify clients of court dates, case management information and to allow them to complete check-ins online. Through the High-Five video conferencing application attached to the PTS Mobile App, clients are now able to video chat with a case manager, have contracts sent to them electronically, and they are able to complete those with a fully legal E-Signature. This has allowed Larimer County to lower foot traffic into the facility and, going forward, will better assist clients with barriers to signing contracts in person. Case managers have also been using the video chat feature for Enhanced and Intensive meetings with clients. Substance monitoring for clients was lowered and clients are being encouraged to work with their attorneys to have the Court modify bond conditions to suspend testing during these times. With simple luck in timing, the PTS Intake Unit offices in the jail recently moved from booking to an alternate location within the jail. Clients are now able to be interviewed in booking over the phone to complete CPAT scores to further distance staff from clients. Also, prior to Advisement court, intake staff have been able to enter housing to obtain signatures on releases to better assist the Advisement court process.

Weld County: Per our Chief Judge, pretrial services staff are not authorized to enter the jail through 5/1/20. Therefore, our pretrial release screening work has suspended. Staff are teleworking, managing caseloads through phone, email and digitally; contacting release defendants for supervision intakes and completing paperwork through “Adobe Sign” (our new best friend). We are seeing an increase in electronic monitoring conditions and more PR bonds. Our team is working efficiently and effectively, and we couldn’t be prouder of them during this tough transition!

Douglas County: Douglas County began using a rotating schedule on 3/23/20 which reduced our in-office staff by 50%. Staff are wearing masks when in the office, and we are only having contact with defendants who are on electronic monitoring. Our IT department worked hard to get all our staff set up to be able to work remotely, and staff have been conducting intakes over the phone. We have been collaborating with the jail to have defendants call our office to complete intakes while they are being booked out of the jail to increase compliance rates. Staff have continued to address non-compliance with defendants; however, we are limiting the amount of applications to revoke being filed. Staff are now attending advisement hearings by phone, and PR bonds have increased while the jail population has decreased.



Garfield County: Garfield County has had excellent collaboration during the COVID-19 crisis. Our Jail, DA's, PD's, Judges, Court, police departments and local stakeholders have communicated on a weekly basis since March. The group worked together to create an effective plan to help with social distancing within the criminal justice system. A lot of court processes and pretrial work is being done remotely via video conferencing, phone and email. Our individual departments will continue to change our procedures as the governors ban is lifted and covid cases are eliminated from our area. From our County to yours, be well.

Mesa County: Criminal Justice Services has had a pandemic response plan for many years, most of which revolves around staffing levels. Though we have not had any issues with staffing levels, the peculiarity of COVID-19 has caused us to be approximately 2 levels ahead of where we would normally be in our plan. Pretrial Services, being one program under Community Based Services, all housed under Criminal Justice Services which includes Community Corrections has seen several modifications to its normal operations. Arrest standards at the jail have been temporarily changed to only allowing statutorily mandated arrests to be taken into custody which has caused the number of PTS interviews to drop dramatically. The Jail has reduced its count by approximately 45% in a variety of ways which has increased many Community Based programs population including Pretrial Supervision, Deferred Judgement and Sentencing, electronic monitoring (we furloughed approximately 20% of Community Corrections clients who are all on some sort of electronic monitoring), etc. In an effort to reduce client contact, we have reduced substance testing, complete intakes, client meetings, and check-in by phone or email when possible. We have taken a few of our “at risk” staff and created a behind the scenes group who work off site or at home with no face to face client contact. This group handles most of our electronic monitoring, as well as phone and email contact with clients.

Denver County:

- Majority of pretrial staff participating in telework to slow the spread of COVID-19
- Limited staff are in office 24/7 to cover equipment issues and alerts, walk in clients, and releases from the jail
- Some court hearings, including those in custody, are being done virtually; other hearings and all trials have been rescheduled for later this year
- Contact with clients is limited to electronic monitoring servicing only (using PPE), meetings and intakes are otherwise done over the phone
- Pretrial staff continues to file compliance reports with the courts and track violations
- Denver’s jail population is at an all time low
- PR bonding rates have significantly increased