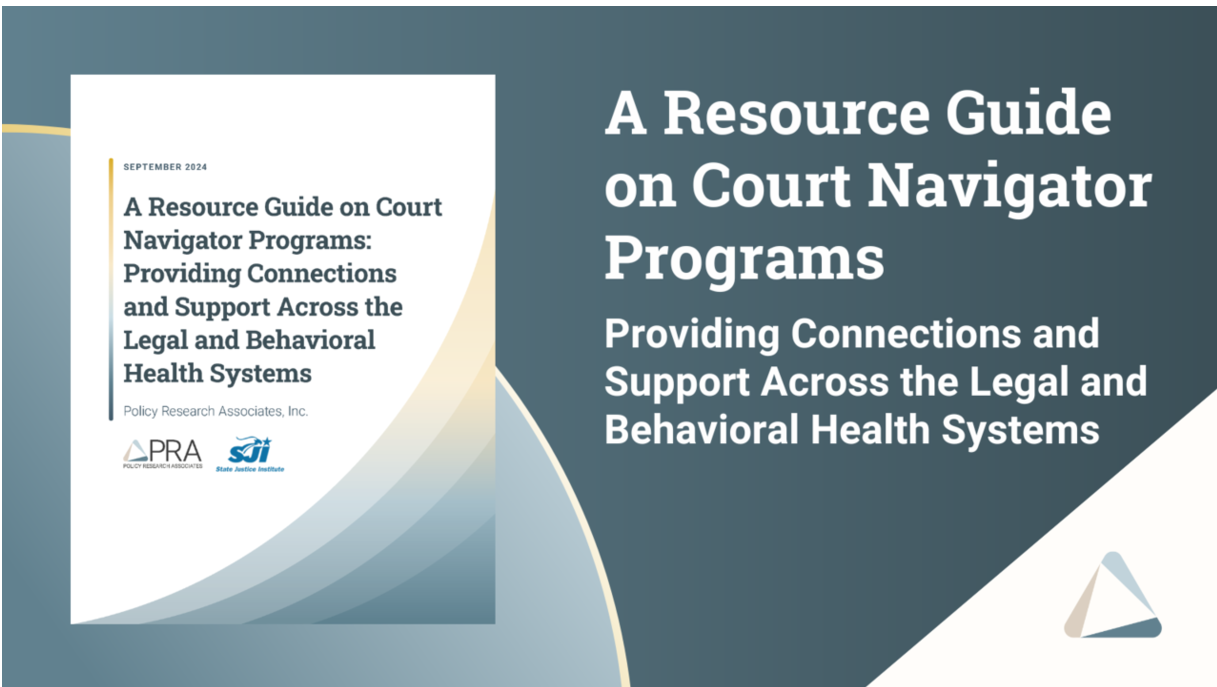




New Release! Court Navigator Resource Guide



Policy Research has released *A Resource Guide on Court Navigator Programs: Providing Connections and Support Across the Legal and Behavioral Health Systems*, a follow-up to the 2023 publication [A National Compendium of Court Navigation and Support Services](#).

Why It Matters: The new *Court Navigator Resource Guide* provides actionable takeaways for jurisdictions considering implementing court navigator programs.

Background:

- Court navigators serve individuals in contact with the courts, providing non-legal support through their court involvement and connecting them to community resources.
- From 2022 to 2023, researchers conducted a national scan and identified 18 court navigator programs in 21 states. Their findings are compiled in *A National Compendium of Court Navigation and Support Services*.
- Following the national scan, researchers conducted site visits and interviews with five programs to better understand the structure and operations of court navigator programs. They compiled insights from navigators, their collaborators, and service recipients in the *Court Navigator Resource Guide*.

Key Benefits of Court Navigators:

- Court navigators typically **prioritize behavioral health needs and connections to community resources** but are also prepared to address other needs.
- Court navigators help **reduce people's anxiety** about their court involvement.
- Court navigators **reduce the workload** of and provide support to court and jail actors.
- Court navigators **provide information** about the court process and connections to services within the courthouse.

Supplementary Article Summarizing Findings: The research team synthesized their findings in the National Center for State Court's publication *Trends in State Courts*. Their article, "[Court Navigation Programs: Providing Connections and Support Across the Legal and Behavioral Health Systems](#)," reviews the findings from the environmental scan and highlights how court navigation programs provide linkages to community-based services.

Sarah Desmarais Elected to Fellow Status by the American Psychological Association



Policy Research President and CEO Sarah Desmarais, PhD, has been elected to [fellow status](#) by the American Psychological Association (APA). The APA awards fellow status to members who have demonstrated outstanding contributions to the field of psychology.

Why It Matters: Dr. Desmarais's research has shaped the fields of risk assessment, alternatives to incarceration, and the intersection of mental health and the criminal legal system. She has authored over 140 peer-reviewed journal publications, and her work has advanced policies and practices both nationally and internationally. Her work has been cited in policy documents from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Australian Department of Health, and the Scottish Government, among others.

What's Next: Dr. Desmarais's fellow status will be effective January 2025. Congratulations, Dr. Desmarais!

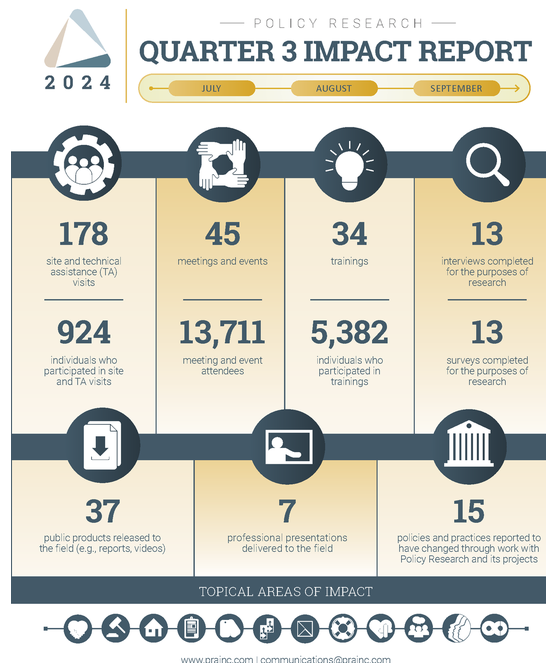
Quarterly Impact Report: July to September 2024

Check out Policy Research's latest achievements from July to September 2024:

- **178 site and technical assistance visits** served 924 participants.
- **45 meetings and events** engaged 13,711 attendees.
- **15 policies and practices were reported to have changed** through work with Policy Research and its projects.

Highlights

- Honoring Indigenous Communities: Policy Research Releases Land Acknowledgment
- Advancing Suicide Prevention for Native Service Members, Veterans, and their Families
- Meta-Analysis Findings on Pretrial Tools Discussed at the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies Annual Meeting



[Download the Full Report](#)

Upcoming Webinars

SMVF: Economic Stability Considerations for Service Members, Veterans, and their Families

January 21, 2025, 2:00–3:30 p.m. ET

This session will explore critical areas such as employment opportunities; financial resources; SSI/SSDI, Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) for Veterans; and housing solutions, providing valuable information and resources to support maintaining or achieving economic stability among the SMVF community.

GAINS: Treating People Who Use Meth or Other Stimulants:

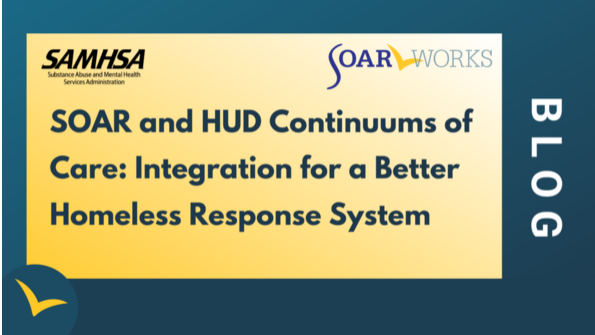
Leveraging Contingency Management in Criminal Justice

Settings

January 29, 2025, 2:00–3:30 p.m. ET

The webinar will address the scientific foundation of contingency management, common challenges associated with its implementation in criminal justice settings, and strategies for overcoming these barriers.

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