

THE BELL PLAN

For a Safer St. Louis

Diversion & Community Partnerships

Identifying the Issues

The detrimental impact the opioid crisis continues to have on St. Louis County is extensive. Criminalizing addiction and mental health instead of treating them has only resulted in increased crime, violence and fatalities.

- In 2017, one out of every 65 deaths in Missouri resulted from opioid overdose
- In the past two years in St. Louis County, opioid overdose has killed nearly three times as many people as homicide
- Research demonstrates a clear link between participation in mental health court and reduced recidivism
- Despite such staggering statistics, less than one percent (0.9%) of criminal cases in St. Louis County were admitted to treatment court in 2017
- Evidence/data-driven research demonstrates an increased focus on diversion, through treatment and other resources, reduces both non-violent and violent crime

The Bell Plan will expand the capacity St. Louis County's diversion programs and alternative courts, the purpose of which is to reduce criminal activity by addressing addiction and mental health care. Partnerships with local organizations and community support are essential to achieving this goal.

Community Partnerships

A number of organizations within the St. Louis County area have already agreed to partner with Wesley Bell's office to begin the necessary first steps on our path to a more secure future by transforming what is currently a broken system.

- Affinia Healthcare
- Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals
- Beyond Housing
- Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis
- Better Family Life
- Places for People
- Jewish Community Relations Council
- St. Louis Integrated Health Network
- Father Support Center
- Soul Fischer Ministries
- National Council for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
- St. Louis County Department of Public Health

Future Goals

The highest priority of the Bell Plan for a Safer St. Louis is to make St. Louis County a safer, and thereby a more prosperous place to live. To that end, and with the assistance of its community partners, The Bell Plan will offer:

- Increased access to a variety of substance abuse treatment programs
- Increased access to resources to address mental health issues and service
- Increased access to resources to address the socioeconomic issues which perpetuate substance abuse disorder and untreated mental diseases/defects