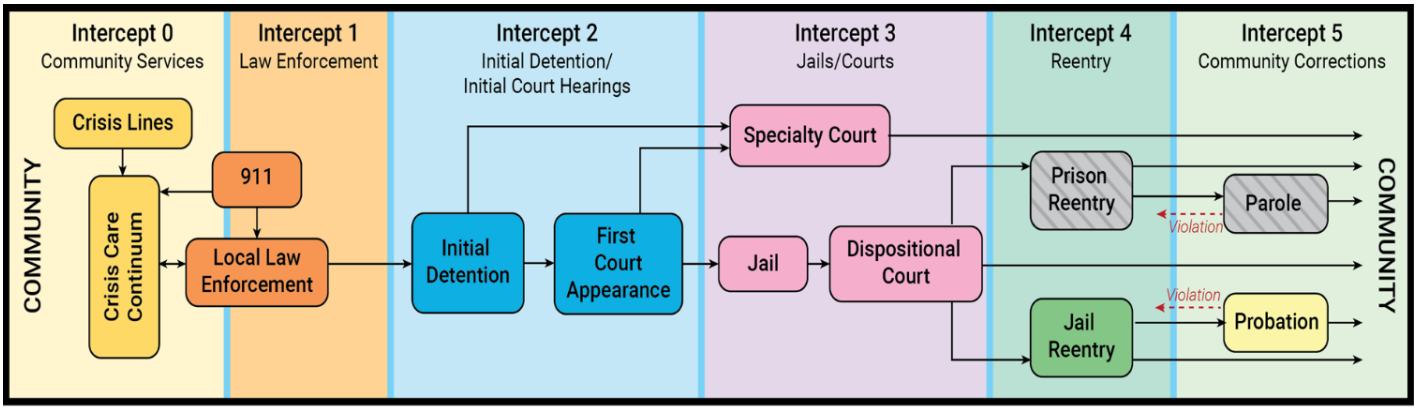
Washoe County
Sequential Intercept Model

Inventory of Tools to Screen for Behavioral Health Challenges

September 2026

Background and Introduction

The Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) Initiative in the Washoe County region was created to better connect people who intersect with the justice system and have behavioral health challenges to appropriate care. The SIM is designed to reduce the criminalization of mental illness by improving collaboration between behavioral health and justice systems and identifying key points where intervention can redirect individuals away from deeper system involvement. The following graphic illustrates the six SIM intercepts.[1]



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For Washoe County's initial SIM implementation, efforts focus on Intercepts 1-4 and are further guided by the *Washoe SIM Strategic Framework*, developed in February 2025.[2]

Within the *Strategic Framework*, there are several mutually reinforcing initiatives that are designed to support the deflection and diversion of individuals with behavioral health challenges into a more effective system of care. Among them, **screening for behavioral health challenges** was identified as a priority. In the *Strategic Framework*, this initiative is described as follows:

> *Use validated screening and assessment tools consistently across key intercept points, especially where they can have the greatest impact. These tools help ensure that individuals are connected to community-based services that are most likely to benefit them.*

To support the consistent use of validated screening and assessment tools, it is important to first understand which tools are in use currently.

This document provides an overview of the screening tools used in Intercepts 2-4 in Washoe County to identify individuals with behavioral health needs who may be suitable for deflection or diversion from the justice system into appropriate services. It is intended to support Washoe County SIM partners in identifying potential opportunities for consistent use of screening tools.

[1] For more information about the SIM, please visit: https://www.samhsa.gov/communities/criminal-juvenile-justice/sequential-intercept-model

[2] For more information about the Washoe County SIM Initiative or the SIM Strategic Framework, please reach out to: KMetz@washoecounty.gov

Context and Considerations

Because this overview is intended to serve as a starting point for discussion, validation, and ongoing refinement as part of Washoe County's SIM efforts, it is important to note several key considerations.

Some tools may not have been identified or documented during the information-gathering process. For example, no screening tools in Intercept 1 were identified. In addition, this inventory does not take into consideration child welfare tools that might be used in a justice setting. While substance use screenings for parents who may be involved in the justice system are deployed, these tools are not accounted for in this inventory as they are more specific to supporting child welfare. Furthermore, some of the tools included in this inventory may support broader behavioral health assessment and service linkage efforts rather than diversion or deflection specifically.

Organization of This Document

The tables on the following pages list each screening tool in use by intercept. For each tool, a brief description is provided along with key details, when available, including:

- Screening name
- Population screened
- A key contact for information about the screening tool
- The purpose and structure of the tool, including a summary of the information collected during the screening process, as well as the qualifications and professional credentials required for the individuals in positions responsible for conducting the assessment
- The authority under which the screening is conducted, which describes any legal mandates to screen

To review specific tools inventoried by intercept, click any of the links below:

- Intercept 2
- Intercept 3
- Intercept 4

Intercept 2: Initial Detention/Initial Court Hearings

Pretrial Services

Screening Name	Population Screened	Contact	Purpose and Format	Authority
Nevada Pretrial Risk Assessment (NPRA)	Administered to every new defendant who is in detention through District Court Pretrial Services. If the defendant is detained on a homicide charge, the NPRA is not completed as release is not possible; if they are detained because of a rearrest for a probation violation, a defendant would not receive the NPRA.	Angie Wencke, Pretrial Services Manager, Second Judicial District Court	Determines the likelihood of a defendant failing to appear and/or reoffending while on release. The assessment comprises 10 questions that provide a risk score. Some questions focus on mental health and substance use but are not intended to serve as evaluation questions for treatment. The assessment is administered by Pretrial Services Officers. Training for officers conducting the assessment is provided internally.	This validated risk assessment tool is utilized pursuant to an order from the Nevada Supreme Court and is currently undergoing revalidation by the Supreme Court. An updated version of the assessment is expected to be made available in the future.

Intercept 3: Jails/Courts

Booking at Washoe County Detention Facility

Screening Name	Population Screened	Contact	Purpose and Format	Authority
Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale: Screen Version	Administered to all individuals in custody at the Washoe County Detention Facility at time of booking.	NaphCare	Assesses for suicidality/suicide risk. There are up to seven questions that are answered in a yes/no format regarding suicidal ideation and attempts over the past month and one additional question regarding preparation for suicide within the last three months. The screening is conducted by licensed clinicians.	N/A

Booking at Washoe County Detention Facility, continued

Screening Name	Population Screened	Contact	Purpose and Format	Authority
Mental Health Screening Form	Administered to all individuals in custody at the Washoe County Detention Facility at the time of booking.	NaphCare	Evaluates individuals for mental health concerns and current state (including history and treatment), substance use and treatment, history of violent behaviors or sexual charges to evaluate for PREA risk,[3] and serious developmental or learning disabilities to support provision of appropriate treatment at the detention facility. Information is self-reported, unless additional context is provided from an emergency medical technician (EMT) or someone else who has recently treated the individual. The screening is conducted by licensed clinicians.	N/A

[3] PREA risk refers to an individual's likelihood of becoming either a victim or perpetrator of sexual abuse within a correctional facility. The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) requires risk assessment. Accessed July 2, 2026: https://www.prearesourcecenter.org/node/1695

Booking at Washoe County Detention Facility, continued

Screening Name	Population Screened	Contact	Purpose and Format	Authority
Mental Health Evaluation Form and Psychiatric Evaluation Forms	Administered to individuals in custody who screen positive for suicidality and other mental health risks based on the results of the Columbia Suicide Screen and the Mental Health Screening Form. Appointments for these follow-up evaluations are made during the booking process.	NaphCare	The Mental Health Evaluation is used to formulate a general diagnosis to support subsequent visits with a mental health provider/psychiatrist while an individual is incarcerated. The Psychiatric Evaluation is used to formulate an official/specific diagnosis and develop a plan for care while an individual is incarcerated. Questions on both forms are extensive. Mental Health Evaluations are completed by licensed mental health professionals and Psychiatric Evaluations are completed by psychiatrists, psychiatric nurse practitioners, or psychiatric physician assistants.	N/A

Post-Booking at Washoe County Detention Facility

Screening Name	Population Screened	Contact	Purpose and Format	Authority
Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale: Screen Version	Administered to individuals incarcerated in the detention facility in the following instances: • to evaluate immediate safety concerns; • during detox; • when suicidal ideation statements or actions occur; or • when clearing an inmate to go to administrative segregation.	NaphCare	Assesses for suicidality/suicide risk while in the detention facility. There are up to seven questions that are answered in a yes/no format regarding suicidal ideation and attempts over the past month and one additional question regarding preparation for suicide within the last three months. While in the facility, the screening is conducted by licensed clinicians.	N/A
Self-Sufficiency Behavioral Health Questionnaire	Administered to individuals in the detention facility; participation is voluntary.	Timothy Mills, The Bridge at Washoe County Sheriff's Office	Measures self-reported needs related to: • Housing • Financial stability • Access to healthcare • Anger and emotional regulation • Faith and spirituality • Early Head Start • Employment • Transportation • Substance use • Relationships and social support • Adult Basic Education This questionnaire is self-administered to participants every 180 days. It comprises 35 structured questions delivered on Smart Communications tablets.	N/A

Second Judicial District Court Specialty Courts[4]

Screening Name	Population Screened	Contact	Purpose and Format	Authority
Nevada Risk Assessment (NRAS)	Administered to all Second Judicial Specialty Court clients by Parole and Probation	Brooke Howard, Specialty Courts Manager, Second Judicial District Court	Assesses risk factors associated with recidivism to inform supervision levels and case planning. The NRAS is conducted by Parole and Probation officers and Presentence Investigation (PSI) specialists and is also used in Intercept 4 for Parole and Probation clients not participating in a Specialty Court (see page 14 for additional information about the NRAS related to Parole and Probation).	N/A
Risk and Needs Triage (RANT)	Administered to individuals during the referral process for the Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) and at the first orientation for Felony DUI Court (FDUIC) and Adult Drug Court (ADC)	Brooke Howard, Specialty Courts Manager, Second Judicial District Court	Assesses risk level and identifies criminogenic needs, helping match participants with appropriate interventions and supervision strategies. It is primarily used to inform dispositional outcomes that support recovery and promote law-abiding behavior. This assessment is completed during the referral process for VTC and at the first orientation for FDUI Court and ADC. The RANT is administered by Master of Social Work (MSW) interns within the Specialty Courts Department or, between intern cohorts, by Specialty Court Coordinators.	N/A

[4] Felony DUI Court (FDUIC), Adult Drug Court (ADC), Veterans Treatment Court (VTC), and Prison Re-reentry Court (PRC)

Second Judicial District Court Specialty Courts, continued

Screening Name	Population Screened	Contact	Purpose and Format	Authority
Clinical Assessment	Administered to defendants in Nevada who are suspected to have a mental illness or intellectual disability, have plead guilty or are found guilty of charges that are probation-eligible, and their offense is not a Category A felony or a Category B sexual offense.	Brooke Howard, Specialty Courts Manager, Second Judicial District Court	Diagnoses mental illness or intellectual disability, which is a requirement for participation in the Mental Health Court. The clinical assessment must be conducted in person by a licensed or certified counselor qualified to make such a diagnosis or a licensed physician qualified by the Board of Medical Examiners.	NRS 176A.260
Clinical Assessment	Administered to veterans or active members of the military who are suspected of having one of the following diagnoses: • Mental illness • Alcohol or other substance use disorder • Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) • Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) • Military Sexual Trauma (MST) The individuals must be determined to benefit from the program, the offense cannot be a Category A felony or Category B sexual offense, and the individuals cannot be dishonorably discharged except in extraordinary circumstances.	Brooke Howard, Specialty Courts Manager, Second Judicial District Court	Diagnoses the defendant as having a substance use disorder and/or mental health disorder identified in Nevada state law. This is a substance use evaluation and/or mental health evaluation that must be conducted in person by a counselor who is licensed or certified to make such a diagnosis or a physician who is certified by the Board of Medical Examiners to make such a diagnosis. A mental health, substance use, or co-occurring diagnosis is a requirement for participation in Veterans Treatment Court.	NRS 176A.280

Reno Municipal Court (RMC) Specialty Courts

Screening Name	Population Screened	Contact	Purpose and Format	Authority
Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS)	Administered to individuals who are referred to an RMC Specialty Court by a judge or defense council (Specialty Courts include the Fresh Start DUI Program, Co-Occurring Disorders (COD) Court, Young Adult Offender (YAR) Court, Veterans' Treatment Court (CAMO-RNO)). The referring department schedules the individual for assessment in a central calendar managed by RMC staff.	Andrew Sherbondy, Court Program Manager, Reno Municipal Courts Carissa O'Grady, Specialty Court Coordinator, Reno Municipal Courts	Assesses individuals to help identify factors that could drive a person toward negative or criminal behaviors. It can also help determine risk of re-offense. The ORAS is conducted by case managers who have been certified in administration of the tool through the University of Cincinnati Correctional Institution. The certification does not require a clinical background. The ORAS is a criminogenic risk and need assessment as well as mental health, substance use, and biopsychosocial needs evaluations (as described in the rows below) to determine client eligibility for specialty court participation.	Informed by national best practices for Adult Treatment Courts. More information can be found here: https://allrise.org/publications/standards/
Adverse Childhood Experience (ACES) Questionnaire	See RMC Specialty Court population information above.	See RMC Court contacts above	Measures an individual's exposure to childhood trauma which informs their risk of experiencing health and wellness challenges. ACES is a brief standardized 10-question questionnaire conducted by case managers with no additional special training required.	N/A

Reno Municipal Court (RMC) Specialty Courts, continued

Screening Name	Population Screened	Contact	Purpose and Format	Authority
Modified Mini-Screener (MMS)	See RMC Specialty Court population information above.	See RMC Court contacts above	Screens for psychiatric conditions, specifically mood, anxiety, and psychotic spectrum disorders. The MMS is a brief standardized 22-question clinical tool (with one additional question pertaining to gambling behavior) conducted by case managers with no additional special training required.	N/A
Clinical Assessment	See RMC Specialty Court population information above.	See RMC Court contacts above	Evaluates the defendant for a substance use and/or mental health diagnosis and treatment recommendations. This assessment is an in-person evaluation conducted by a contracted, licensed behavioral health provider.	N/A
Biopsychosocial Assessment	See RMC Specialty Court population information above.	See RMC Court contacts above	Provides a comprehensive overview of biological, psychological, and social factors that influence the individual's health status, needs, and overall well-being. This assessment is an in-person evaluation conducted by a contracted, licensed behavioral health provider.	N/A

Reno Justice Court

Screening Name	Population Screened	Contact	Purpose and Format	Authority
DUI Review/Response/ Assessment/ Navigation Team (RANT) [5]	Administered to individuals involved in DUI-related incidents who may benefit from coordinated, multidisciplinary review due to elevated risk, complexity, or need for intervention.	Angie Wencke, Pretrial Services Manager, Second Judicial District Court	Evaluates the level of risk associated with individuals, cases, or situations related to DUI. The tool comprises a structured set of guiding questions, scoring criteria, and rubric within the RANT (Review/Response/Assessment/ Navigation Team) framework. Pretrial Services Officers administer the DUI-RANT to DUI defendants at the time of booking. The DUI-RANT is also administered by Specialty Court Officers, but the majority of the time Pretrial Services Officers administer DUI-RANT at intake. All Reno Justice Court and Pretrial Services staff have completed training on the assessment provided by the tool's parent company, the Public Health Management Corporation.	N/A

[5] Currently administered by the Reno Justice Court (RJC). The Pre Trial Department may administer it in the future.

Competency Court

Screening Name	Population Screened	Contact	Purpose and Format	Authority
Competency Evaluations	Administered to criminal defendants once competency is brought into question and evaluation is ordered by the Court.	Karlye Hutchinson, Case Compliance Specialist, Competency Court	Assesses a criminal defendant for competence to proceed to trial. To stand trial a defendant 1) must understand the nature of the charges against them and 2) must be able to assist counsel in their defense. For misdemeanor charges, one evaluation is completed by a certified psychologist. If the defendant is found incompetent, the charges will be dismissed. For gross misdemeanors and felonies, there are two evaluations completed: 1) by a certified psychologist; and 2) by a certified psychiatrist. If they disagree, a third evaluation can be ordered. The finding will be one of the following: a) Incompetent with restoration likely or b) Incompetent, restoration unlikely (e.g., if the defendant has a traumatic brain injury or Alzheimer's). If restoration is unlikely, this will likely lead to dismissal. If found incompetent, restoration is a State responsibility. Two additional clinical evaluations are required to determine whether competency has been restored.	NRS 178.3981-178.4715

Intercept 4: Reentry

Parole and Probation

Screening Name	Population Screened	Contact	Purpose and Format	Authority
Nevada Risk Assessment (NRAS)	Administered to clients who are on Parole and Probation who are not participating in a Specialty Court.	Brooke Howard, Specialty Courts Manager, Second Judicial District Court	Assesses risk factors associated with recidivism and informs supervision levels and case planning. Parole and Probation currently conducts three types of the NRAS, including a community supervision tool (CST) for those on probation, and two versions of the re-entry tool (RT, SRT) for those on parole. All officers and Presentence Investigation (PSI) specialists within Parole and Probation are trained internally in the administration of this assessment by master instructors. The NRAS is also used in Intercept 3 for Specialty Court clients (see page 8).	N/A

Parole and Probation, continued

Screening Name	Population Screened	Contact	Purpose and Format	Authority
Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS)	Any individual under probation through the Washoe County Sheriff's Office's Alternative Sentencing Unit (ASU).	Lt. Jason Phillips and Sgt. Joshua Kautz, Washoe County Sheriff's Office	Assesses individuals to help identify factors that could drive a person toward negative or criminal behaviors. It can also help determine risk of re-offense. Case managers and assigned officers who have completed the ORAS training administer the ORAS to individuals who have been adjudicated and are assigned to the ASU through a court order. This assessment takes place after the individual is sentenced to ASU supervision and the conditions of supervision have been explained. ASU then uses the assessment to identify criminogenic risk and needs, which will aid in determining the appropriate level of supervision needed and guide case planning and referrals. In the future, case managers may use ORAS to support connecting individuals to necessary behavioral health care. ASU may also access additional information within the WCSO and from courts to support individuals assigned to the unit.	N/A
Texas Christian University Criminal Thinking Assessment	Administered to participants of Prison Reentry Court.	Brooke Howard, Specialty Courts Manager, Second Judicial District Court	Measures changes in criminal thinking. This is a 36-item tool conducted by a licensed clinician. The results are shared with the team midway through court process.	N/A