

Washoe County

Sequential Intercept Model Initiative

Moving from Silos to Systems

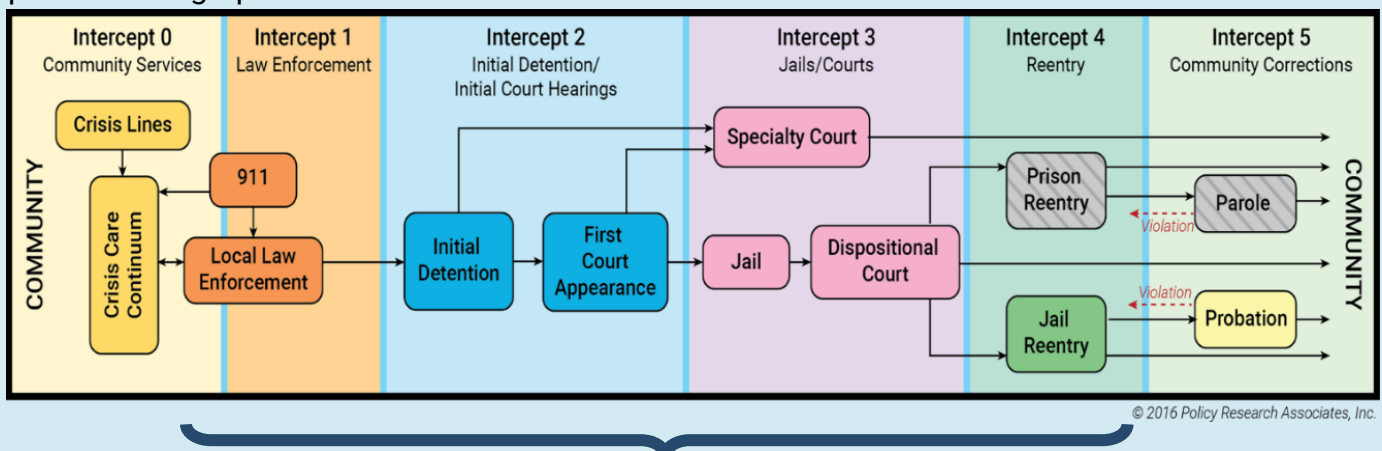


Background

The Washoe County Board of County Commissioners has identified addressing behavioral health as a strategic priority. Leaders from across the community have agreed that deflecting and diverting individuals with behavioral health concerns from the justice system into a system of care will result in better health outcomes for individuals and improved public safety for the community. Washoe County, the Cities of Reno and Sparks, and for profit and nonprofit partners in the region have a history of innovative programs designed to this end. Launched in 2024, **the Washoe County Sequential Intercept Model Initiative** seeks to build a systemic, community-wide approach to improving outcomes for individuals with behavioral health challenges with greater impact from our collective efforts.

What Is the SIM?

The Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) framework 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, which is depicted in the graphic below.



For Washoe County's initial implementation of the SIM, efforts are focused on Intercepts 1–4.

Washoe SIM Implementation Strategic Framework

Key partners across Washoe County convened in 2024 and early 2025 to provide clear direction and unify efforts related to the SIM. In February 2025, a Strategic Framework was adopted that guides all planning and implementation efforts.

Washoe SIM Initiative Mission

Improve public safety and prevent and minimize justice system involvement by proactively addressing the needs of individuals with behavioral health challenges.

Washoe SIM Initiative Goals

Improve early identification and assessment of individuals who have behavioral health needs with or at-risk of justice involvement.	Deflect and divert appropriate individuals with behavioral health needs from justice system involvement to a behavioral health system of care.	Enhance the behavioral health system of care, improve navigation of services, and promote support and recovery for individuals with or at-risk of justice involvement.	Increase access to integrated services in the community that address criminogenic risks and meet needs.
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Washoe SIM Initiatives

The Framework outlines several initiatives to be implemented between 2025-2030. These are depicted at a high level in the graphic below.

Intercept 1 – Law Enforcement	Intercept 2 – Initial Detention/Initial Court Hearings	Intercept 3 – Jails/Courts	Intercept 4 – Reentry
Dispatcher Training Specialized Law Enforcement Training (Crisis Intervention Training) Specialized Law Enforcement Responses (Mobile Outreach Safety Teams)	Pretrial and Diversion Services Pretrial Release	Jail-Based Programming and Health Care Services (Thrive, Medication Assisted Treatment and other services) Second Judicial District Court Competency Court Court Collaboration, Information, and Data Sharing	Transition Planning (Bridge, Medicaid Re-Entry Waiver, and other re-entry efforts)
Initiatives that Cross Multiple Intercepts Screening for Behavioral Health Challenges Measuring Outcomes Frequent Utilizers/Familiar Voices Access to Behavioral Health Services Information and Data Sharing			

Key Accomplishments

The tables below highlight key accomplishments achieved in Washoe County to advance SIM implementation.

Year	Key Accomplishments
	Summit on Improving the Criminal Justice Response to Individuals with Behavioral Health Challenges January 9-10, 2024: This Summit brought together organizations and individuals to identify how to collaboratively deflect and divert people with behavioral health challenges away from the justice system. It included local speakers and experts who shared best practices, models, and recommendations on improving community response for people with behavioral health concerns. Participants identified and ranked potential recommendations to be used to inform future planning.
	Washoe SIM Implementation Strategic Framework February 2025: As a result of the 2024 Summit, partners convened throughout 2024 to develop the Strategic Framework. The Framework was finalized and published in February 2025 and has since served as a guiding resource for partner efforts.

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Year

Key Accomplishments

System Map: Intercepts 0-4 | February 2025: Using Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) guidance, resource mapping focused on deflection and diversion across Intercepts 0-4 was conducted and documented. After completing the mapping, an inventory of assets and potential opportunities was identified. The findings from this mapping process informed the Strategic Framework.

Sequential Intercept Model Summit | April 2025: This Summit convened a diverse group of community partners to provide updates on the progress made towards SIM implementation and to highlight upcoming efforts.

Familiar Voices Brief | November 2025: Information from staff and public sources was compiled to profile key components of several programs operating locally and nationally. It was synthesized to identify successful practices. The document concludes with a recommendation, validated by the Washoe region Familiar Voices MDT, for developing a program to support familiar voices.

Current and Upcoming Efforts



Year

Upcoming Efforts

System Map: Resources in Behavioral Health and Housing with Supports | January 2026: Existing behavioral health programs and services and housing programs in Washoe County that serve people with justice involvement and behavioral health challenges were mapped via interviews with service providers. This effort aimed to provide a snapshot of currently available assets as well as understand barriers and needs. This information is a resource for Washoe SIM partners to identify system and service gaps and consider how they may be addressed.

FY 24-25 Measuring Outcomes Data Brief | TBD: Significant efforts were made throughout 2025 to convene partners and summarize the output and outcome data for the Specialty Courts operating in Washoe County in FY 24-25 as well as the behavioral health providers at the Washoe County Detention Facility. This data speaks to how programs are serving and may be improving outcomes for individuals with behavioral health concerns. It is expected that that document will be completed in early 2026.

Inventory of Screenings for Behavioral Health Challenges | TBD: Assessments used to screen for behavioral health challenges in Intercepts 1-4 were identified and inventoried to inform conversations between partners about how to deploy evidence-based tools to ensure community-based resources are allocated to clients. This document is currently in development.

To learn more about the SIM Initiative, please contact: juratti@washoecounty.gov