

NSAC

THE NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(NSAC) is comprised of national scholars and experts in the field of criminal justice, behavioral health, and implementation science research. Members provide IJRD with strategic guidance, advise on technical aspects of the science, monitor scientific integrity, facilitate research priority setting, and help IJRD to expand its reach, build capacity, and rapidly translate data-driven solutions into actionable policy and practice innovations.

MAY 2020

KEY POINTS DISCUSSED AT THE MAY 2020 MEETING

- **We discussed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on current research projects.**
 - The NSAC identified strategies to increase participant engagement in virtual environments and overcome common barriers including lack of telephone and internet service.
 - As all our work at IJRD aims to increase well-being among study participants, the NSAC helped us to think through the implications COVID-19 will have on participants' well-being and identify other ways to understand the successes our participants might be achieving.
 - Using NSAC feedback, we finalized the survey and interview questions we will ask all of study participants about their experiences during this pandemic, whether they remain incarcerated during this time or have been released and are living in the community.
 - We discussed new research opportunities to explore the impact of COVID-19 on criminal justice system operations.
- **The NSAC engaged in solution-finding to address challenges and barriers experienced in our current research projects beyond COVID-19**
- **We also discussed potential future research directions for IJRD, including:**
 - CONDUCTING a cross-comparison study of our well-being assessment tool developed to use with criminal justice system-involved individuals using a sample of individuals who have never experienced incarceration
 - LOOKING AHEAD to the next Phases of the 5-Key Model Research – effectiveness and scaling
 - IMPLEMENTING Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) measures
 - DOCUMENTING the impact of incarceration on individuals and families, especially as related to incarceration as a traumatic experience
 - SITUATING “recidivism” in the community context and exploring the systemic factors that contribute to whether a person experiences recidivism
- **We reviewed changes made to study and implementation protocol since the last meeting.**
- **We discussed the need for conceptualization of research ethics as related to technological applications implemented within criminal justice settings or with criminal justice system-involved individuals.**



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