

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** January 28, 2022

**TO:** Honorable Members of the Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health (CCJBH)

**FROM:** Brenda Grealish, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** CCJBH Best Practices Awards

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In December 2015, CCJBH (formerly COMIO) convened a workgroup to discuss the purpose of the Best Practices Awards to determine if the process of honoring programs was aligned with that purpose. The workgroup determined that, in selecting model programs to receive a Best Practices Award, programs must exemplify recommendations CCJBH has made, and that the presentation of an award presents an opportunity to raise awareness about the kinds of programs that should be replicated, especially if awards can be issued in a venue that can engage key stakeholders and decision-makers.

Although these awards have been on hold for years, there is currently an opportunity to reinstate the Best Practices awards and obtain approval of the selection process outlined below. In 2022, as part of the CCJBH Work Plan, and based on the 2015 workgroup determination, CCJBH would select honorees with model programs that:

- Demonstrate the types of best practices CCJBH has identified in Annual Legislative reports from 2015 through 2021 (and years thereafter);
- Provide opportunities for learning and exchanging knowledge; and
- Are consistent with existing criteria for a CCJBH Best Practice Award, which include being:
  - Relevant to CCJBH's purpose.
  - Collaborative in nature.
  - Able to demonstrate measurable success.
  - Make a difference.
  - Use a health equity lens.

Depending upon the honoree(s) and capacity, CCJBH will award one Best Practices Award in one of the following categories:

- Diversion
- Reentry
- Juvenile justice
- Data-driven decision-making
- Lived experience
- Social determinants of health (housing, social services, access to medical care, vocational/ employment)
- Engagement

Awards will be provided in a way that seeks to offer an educational opportunity for stakeholders and decision-makers, increasing understanding of the impact of such programs.



*Building bridges to prevent incarceration*

**Recommendation: Develop processes to reinstate “Best Practices Awards” to highlight agencies/programs that are using evidence-based best practices to improve the systems that serve the BH/JI population.**