

Discussion

Objective 2 appears to require ORJ simply publish data provided by various justice system agencies, but this also implies a need for the resources necessary to collect, maintain, and shape the information received so it can be published electronically. Indeed, Workplan Objective 1 contemplates a substantial amount of preparatory and ongoing work be performed before any data could be published. This includes the creation of a reporting template, development of signed MOU's with each agency, and providing both recommendations and necessary training materials. Given the number of law enforcement agencies in the County, the administrative resources required to develop and maintain the MOU's alone would likely be beyond ORJ's currently available bandwidth. If the challenges presented by Objective 1 were overcome, the ORJ likely has the capacity for the collection and electronic publishing of race-specific justice data no more than semi-annually with the assumption that no major data manipulation, integration or multi-variate analyses are required.

Objective 3 is more vague than Objective 2 and more information would certainly be needed before ORJ could determine its ability to support what is intended here. Specifically, given that ORJ only has a single staff member with expertise in data collection and evaluation the level of "support" and "analysis" the ORJ would be able to provide would be limited and would vary not only with the number of recommendations implemented but with the expectations surrounding the depth of the intervention analysis. Would a process evaluation and fidelity assessment be necessary to fully examine the intervention impact? These types of detailed program evaluations can be a full-time job for 1 or more individuals. The ORJ would also add that the time and resources needed to understand the impact of an intervention will vary. For instance, impacts to process may be visible after several months, while those related to a meaningful reduction in racial disparities could require multiple years to become apparent. Further, it is worth noting that we are not currently report on the effectiveness of specific programs and interventions overall, let alone by race/ethnicity. Questions surrounding how success and effectiveness are defined are critical to programmatic evaluation measurement and will need to be addressed. While it is likely that the ORJ could support and serve as a consultant for the evaluation of a number of interventions, it is not likely that ORJ could serve as the primary researcher on more than one narrowly defined project. Given this, no commitments to any level of support can be made by ORJ until more detailed information is provided concerning the particular interventions to be implemented and evaluated.

