

LOUISVILLE-JEFFERSON COUNTY METRO GOVERNMENT, KY.

Supporting People with Mental Illnesses in the Community



POPULATION:
741,096

In collaboration with the **Stepping Up initiative**, the **Data-Driven Justice initiative** and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's **Safety and Justice Challenge**, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) convened a Best Practices Implementation Academy to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses and Substance Use Disorders in Jails (BPIA) in April 2018 in Alexandria, Va. At the BPIA, delegations from 24 jurisdictions involved in one or more of the three initiatives met to showcase best practice strategies and advance implementation efforts to prevent or reduce the jail involvement of individuals with mental illnesses and substance use disorders.

This case study is part of a series highlighting the six counties that constituted the "Best Practices" teams representing the **Data-Driven Justice initiative** and the **Stepping Up initiative** at the BPIA.



Louisville/Jefferson County Metro Government (Louisville Metro) is home to the longest-running criminal justice commission in the United States. The Louisville Metro Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) was established in December 1967 to bring together elected leaders and department heads to devise and coordinate systemic solutions to criminal justice problems. Having the CJC in place has set the stage for Louisville Metro to break the cycle of incarceration for individuals with the highest needs.

Dual Diagnosis Cross Functional Team (DDCFT)

The Louisville Mayor convened the Dual Diagnosis Cross-Functional Team (DDCFT) in 2013 to improve system responses to individuals with co-occurring mental health, alcohol use and substance use disorders who frequently cycle in and out of community treatment, hospitals and jail. The DDCFT comprises government agencies such as law enforcement and the courts, as well as health and behavioral health professionals and advocacy groups. The DDCFT went through an extensive planning process, including reviewing data and participating in a Sequential Intercept Mapping workshop, to identify opportunities for diverting the target population from the justice system. From these processes, the DDCFT initiated a new community-wide and cross-agency network for providing coordinated services to frequent system users.

The Living Room

As part of its pre-arrest diversion efforts, Louisville Metro, in partnership with its community mental health center and with the funding allocated by the Louisville Metro Council, created the Living Room. The Living Room is a peer-run program that provides an alternative to jail or emergency departments for individuals struggling with mental illnesses or substance use disorders.

Currently, the Living Room only accepts individuals who are brought in by law enforcement. Clinicians went on "ride-alongs" with law enforcement to train officers on identifying individuals who would benefit from diversion to the Living Room. The typical booking time for these individuals in the jail is six minutes while transporting people to the Living Room takes just four minutes, making it easy for officers to choose diversion. Upon being dropped off at the Living Room, a peer staff person greets an individual as a "guest," offers a snack and then conducts a preliminary evaluation with the law enforcement officer. The services provided at the Living Room are completely voluntary, and guests are presented with a variety of services, including connections to treatment and housing resources, medical care and more. They are allowed stay for up to 23 hours.

Between December 2017 and March 2018, 181 guests voluntarily checked into the Living Room. Data indicate that 24 percent of individuals were diverted from the hospital and 37 percent from the jail.

Familiar Faces Action & Community Transaction (F²ACT)

Louisville Metro started the Familiar Faces Action and Community Transaction (F²ACT) initiative in 2015 to assist some of the most vulnerable individuals with comprehensive discharge plans prior to their release from jail. Upon release, a social worker provides individuals in the program with a backpack filled with essentials such as clothing, hygiene products, a 30-day supply of prescribed medication and a shelter/housing handbook. The social worker will also assist individuals with enrolling in health insurance, Social Security Insurance and/or Social Security Disability Insurance and with obtaining state identification cards. The social worker collaborates closely with community-based providers, which were selected for their willingness and capacity to support these high-need individuals. In many cases, a corrections officer will transport people discharged from the jail to transitional housing, ensuring a warm hand-off to services rather than leaving the person to find services on his or her own.

Between July 2015 and March 2018, 1,022 people have participated in F²ACT, most of whom are women. After a two-year evaluation of the program, 41 percent of program participants had no new arrests since release from jail.

Pathway Advocacy and Alliances for Community Treatment (PA²CT)

In recognition of the opioid epidemic that has severely impacted Kentucky, the Louisville Metro Department of Corrections (LMDC) partnered with its medical provider to establish the Pathway Advocacy and Alliances for Community Treatment (PA²CT). Started in 2016, PA²CT provides medication-assisted treatment (MAT) and detox services to individuals with substance use disorders in the jail, including those with opioid use disorders. LMDC partners with courts and prosecutors to refer individuals who are interested in Vivitrol® treatment and will likely be released from jail within a month to PA²CT.

The program is voluntary, and participants must consent to blood work and drug screens prior to the administration of the drug. Of the 199 individuals who participated in the program from March 2016 to December 2017, 47 percent had no new arrests following their participation.

In addition to maintaining the momentum created by the success of these programs, the next step for the DDCFT is to launch the Community Care Management Network Pilot Project using the Homeless Management Information System as the portal for the top 50 “Familiar Faces” to better connect people to coordinated care and services.

SAMHSA contracted with Policy Research Associates (PRA), which operates SAMHSA’s GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation, to facilitate the BPIA. Additional partners included the lead organizations of the **Stepping Up initiative** (the National Association of Counties, the American Psychiatric Association Foundation and The Council of State Governments Justice Center), the **Data-Driven Justice initiative** (the National Association of Counties and the Laura and John Arnold Foundation) and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation’s **Safety and Justice Challenge**.

For more information on this county’s efforts, please contact:

Jamie Allen
Public Protection Coordinator
Louisville Metro Criminal
Justice Commission

Jamie.Allen@louisvilleky.gov

National Association of Counties

660 North Capitol Street Northwest • Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20001 • 202.393.6226 • www.NACo.org

fb.com/NACoDC • [@NACoTweets](https://twitter.com/NACoTweets) • youtube.com/NACoVideo • NACo.org/linkedin

