

## **9/7/16: Franklin County Presentation on Utilizing a Task force for DDJ**

### **Presenters:**

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**Attachment:** Task Force PPT

***Key Takeaway:** Establishing a task force comprised of key community stakeholders was instrumental to the successful implementation and sustainability of diversion programs in Franklin County, PA.*

Counties in Pennsylvania have had significant issues with mentally ill and drug addicted individuals revolving through the criminal justice system. The White House's Data-Driven Initiative has been instrumental in educating our counties about treatment alternatives to reduce recidivism. Stakeholders in the county invested a lot of time and effort into generating a report for DDJ. This is a living report that will be constantly updated and utilized to improve our diversion programs. But we need to engage community stakeholders to utilize this report.

The compellation and cooperation of all the local agencies involved was critical to bring this report to fruition. This is a great example of our community coming together to do something productive to reduce recidivism by supporting the task force that produced this report. As a team, we collected all the raw data and compiled it to produce a snapshot of the identified issues. We are focused on making sure that we have all the infrastructure in place so that we could develop and maintain collaborations and partnerships to reduce recidivism by promoting diversion programs. Our main objectives are as follows:

- Encouraging counties to produce strategies
- Promoting diversion programs
- Utilizing Medicaid for diversion
- Training and education
- Providing support to prevent jail and post reintegration programs
- Addressing returning Veterans tiptoeing into the criminal justice system such as outreach and treating PTSD
- Researching policy issues to find some ways to bridge gaps

Our task force was also concerned with female incarceration and the trickle-down effect that tends to harm the entire family with the incarceration of the mother. We are also looking into juveniles with mental illness and developing ways to get them the treatment they need rather than incarceration through the juvenile justice system.

### Q&A

Q. How does your task force ensure that the roadmap is being followed?

A. The task force will continue through the fall and we will continuously check on our counties to see if objectives are being met. Also, since a number of counties have recently secured grants, we have the necessary financial support to accomplish the objectives.

Q. Are Healthcare systems involved in these diversion initiatives?

A. The task force has a couple of counties that are engaging with the health care sector, but that is not state-wide. Pennsylvania is still trying to figure out how to enroll individuals into the healthcare system.