Comprehensive Behavioral Health Task Force

A guide for counties seeking alternatives to incarcerating mentally ill and substance abusing offenders

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The Problem

- Difficulty maintaining services
- Lack of funding resources for jail staff
- Reduced capacity for forensic services within state hospitals
- The current opioid and prescription drug crisis limits services in jails
Financial Impacts

- Counties spend $100 billion / year for inmate health services
- The average cost of incarceration: $40,000 / year
- Untreated mental illness and/or substance abuse leads to cycles of recidivism
- As of 2014, Pennsylvania had the highest rate of incarceration in the northeastern U.S.
Call to Action

- CCAP membership adopted a priority calling for the development of a plan for comprehensive behavioral health reform in November 2015.
- By 2016 the Human Services and County Courts and Corrections Committees had formed a taskforce to develop comprehensive strategies and best practices going forward.
Task Force Structure

- Co-Chairs
- Commissioners
- County Staff
- CCAP Staff
- Veterans’ Affairs Committee
- Advisors
- State and County Officials
Areas of Consideration

In the monthly meetings from March – June 2016, the following topic areas were addressed:

- Availability of medication upon inmates’ release
- Medicaid and health insurance eligibility
- Diversion programs
- Risk Management
- Crisis intervention
- Improved staff training
- Addressing veterans’ issues and needs
Goal One

Goal 1. Encourage counties to employ successful strategies to reduce the need for incarceration.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Objective Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Develop Effective Diversion Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apply Sequential Intercept Mapping</td>
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<td>Utilize Medication Assisted treatment as a diversionary measure</td>
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Goal One

Overview of Key Strategies for Goal One

Strategies:

- Support pilot programs like evidence-based pre-trial programs, L.E.A.D., and community supervision
- Counties and other agencies should engage in comprehensive Sequential Intercept Mapping exercise
- Determine the need and readiness for implementing Medication Assisted treatment protocols
**Goal 2. Expand training, education and awareness efforts to improve public perception and understanding**

| Objective | | |
| --- | --- | |
| | • Counties will improve risk management practices related to inmates with behavioral health issues | |
| | • Improve staff training in jails and juvenile facilities, and police departments | |
| | • Improve Education and Awareness for public, stakeholders, families, providers, commissioners, policy-makers | |
Goal Two

Overview of Key Strategies for Goal Two

Strategies:

- Evaluate all policies and procedures regarding formularies and drug distribution to inmates for best outcomes
- Support cross-jurisdictional training programs on evidence-informed practices but also provide implementation guidelines
- Develop local media materials and talking points to be shared with counties for their use with local media.
Goal Three

Goal 3. Provide effective supports and services to reduce entry into the criminal justice system and to improve outcomes for re-entry.

- Objective
  - Assure available, affordable housing with supports for re-entering inmates and those identified for diversion

- Objective
  - Warm handoffs at emergency departments

- Objective
  - Implement Suspension vs. termination, and rapid enrollment at the time of release, and expand Medicaid eligibility
Goal Three

Overview of Key Strategies for Goal Three

Strategies:

• Work with the DOC to create innovative housing programs.
• Continue develop and implement warm hand-off projects for overdose survivors.
• Continue working toward a rapid restoration process, and expanding eligibility.
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<th>Objective</th>
<th>• Successful diversion from jail and reduced recidivism for veterans</th>
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<td>• Meeting the needs of juvenile populations</td>
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<td>Objective</td>
<td>• Encourage counties to see the value of gender-specific response</td>
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<tr>
<td>Objective</td>
<td>• Promote techniques for developmentally disabled population</td>
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Goal Four

Overview of Key Strategies for Goal Four

Strategies:

• Work with local law enforcement on strategies for veterans’ diversion and crisis intervention techniques.

• Build collaborative agreements between human service, educational, and supportive service programs for juvenile inmates.

• Expand pilot programs for a gender specific approach, and provide training for its implementation.

• Provide training in identifying at risk individuals, and develop diversionary protocols for individuals with developmental disabilities.
Goal 5. Address the Needs of Returning Veterans

Objective

- Develop a community approach to assisting returning veterans and create supports and linkages.
Goal Five

Overview of Key Strategies for Goal Five

Strategies:

- Encourage businesses to consider hiring veterans, and work to develop strong public private partnerships.
- Create collaborative opportunities to expand understanding and coordination between the support systems available.
- Raise the awareness of families of veterans to the services that are available at the county level, prior to the return of the veteran from service.
Goal Six

Goal 6. Research larger policy issues and develop longer range policy strategies to assist county efforts

**Objective**

- Improve the availability of data in the criminal justice realm, and establish linkages between the human services system data and jail admission/inmate treatment data

**Objective**

- Explore the linkages between indigent defendants access to effective public defense and potential for release on bail, length of time incarcerated pre-trial, and the length of sentence and probation.

**Objective**

- Explore recent CMS clarification on inmate eligibility for Medicaid to assure that PA permits every possible option for covering inmates
Goal Six

Goal Six. Research Larger Policy Issues and Develop Longer Range Policy Strategies to Assist County Efforts

Objective

- HIPAA and privacy rules must not be a barrier to providing assistance

Objective

- Explore the relationship between funding for education and involvement with the criminal justice system for potential future policy position development by CCAP.

Objective

- Fully explore the benefits of prevention and the extent to which funding challenges force counties to focus on immediate needs rather than invest in prevention
Goal Six

Overview of Key Strategies for Goal Six

Strategies:

• Explore opportunities available through the Whitehouse Office of Technology Data Driven Justice Initiative that address behavioral health and the potential benefits of partnering together.

• Review recent state level activities where, until recently, public defense was funded by counties to determine whether similar legislative or policy efforts could be employed in PA.

• Consider the use of evidence based and promising prevention practices, such as Justice Reinvestment II, to create new opportunities to find dollars for prevention and treatment.

• Research how to streamline the information sharing, and understand state and federal requirements for obtaining consent to share information.
Next Steps

• Media Event
• Task Force Continues
• Local Implementation
If you would like to view the Comprehensive Behavioral Health Task Force Reform Report and Executive Summary visit:

www.pacounties.org

Members Only – Member Resources
Task Force Members

- Co-Chair, Kevin Barnhardt, Commissioner, Berks County
- Co-Chair, George Hartwick, Commissioner, Dauphin County
- Val Arkoosh, MD, MPH, Commissioner, Montgomery County
- Edward Bustin, Commissioner, Bradford County
- Susan Byrnes, Commissioner, York County
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- Patrick Fabian, Commissioner, Armstrong County
- Jeff Eggleston, Commissioner, Warren County
- Jeff Haste, Commissioner, Dauphin County
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Acknowledgments

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Acknowledgments

CCAP Military and Veterans Affairs Committee Members

- Chairman Rod Ruddock, Commissioner, Indiana County
- Basil Huffman, Commissioner and County Veterans Affairs Director, Forest County
- Wayne Nothstein, Commissioner, Carbon County
State Level

- Lynn Patrone, Director, Department of Corrections Office of Mental Health Programs
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Acknowledgments

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• Barb Zemlock, Esq., Counsel, CCAP Insurance Programs
• Jay Leamy, Deputy Chief Probation Officer, Juvenile Probation Department, Chester County and Chair – Behavioral Health Committee for the Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers
• Jennifer Lopez Cerrato, Deputy Chief, Chester County Adult Probation
• Christopher Murphy, Chief, Chester County Adult Probation
Acknowledgments

County Level

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- George Vogel, Executive Director, Berks, Berks County Council on Chemical Abuse
- Mary Hennigh, Deputy Director, Berks County MH/DD
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