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Above, counties discussing how their own county jail can benefit from health care reform and how they can move forward.

Below, Dr. Kenneth Martz, Director of the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs' Bureau of Treatment, Prevention and Intervention speaks about the need to provide the right level of treatment to addicted individuals to achieve positive results.



### Counties Come Together to Discuss How Jails Can Benefit from Health Care Reform – County Jails Can Begin Preparing Now

*-Co-written by Maureen Barden, Project Fellow with Pennsylvania Health Law Project and Kim Mackey, PCCD CJAB Specialist for Southeast Region*

County and State criminal justice stakeholders are working together to address the challenges of providing access and continuum of health care to Pennsylvania's inmates and returning citizens, in light of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Governor Corbett's proposed Healthy PA plan to expand Medicaid.

As part of this effort, Secretary of the Department of Corrections John Wetzel convened a group of stakeholders from 15 counties to join him, Secretary of the Department of Drug & Alcohol Programs (DDAP) Gary Tennis, representatives of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP), and the Pennsylvania Health Law Project (PHLP) in Elizabethtown on March 10, 2014. The 15 counties included: Adams, Allegheny, Berks, Bucks, Chester, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Greene, Lackawanna, Montgomery, Northampton, Tioga, Westmoreland, and York .

The day began with a picture of the health care needs of incarcerated individuals, who often have serious behavioral and emergency, chronic, and/or infectious physical health care needs. Attendees then heard background information about the ACA and Healthy PA from PHLP's Executive Director Laval Miller-Wilson and Dennis Marion, Deputy Secretary, Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, after which there were two accompanying presentations about existing Pennsylvania programs that may be models for other counties (outlined on page 2).

### New Offender Identification Dashboard added to CJAB Criminal Justice Dashboard

The new Offender Identification Dashboard is designed to increase awareness of the progress made and the work still to be done to properly identify criminal offenders and ensure their complete criminal history records.

The dashboard shows statewide fingerprint compliance information, including all state and local law enforcement agencies. A map displays the overall fingerprint rate for a county while providing information on types of crimes not fingerprinted.

The new dashboard can be viewed at: [www.pacjabdash.com](http://www.pacjabdash.com) under the Law Enforcement tab. This is a non-secured site on the public Internet.

For assistance, please contact Robert Ardner at 717-697-8456 or [rdardner@pa.gov](mailto:rdardner@pa.gov). Look for more information on the Offender Identification dashboard in the next edition of the CJABer.

Over lunch, Michael Rashid of AmeriHealth Caritas spoke about managed care in the new health insurance landscape and emphasized providers' willingness to work with State and county governments to provide good health care to the previously incarcerated population. Dr. Kenneth J. Martz of the Bureau of Treatment, Prevention and Intervention then spoke to the group about clinical integrity – the need to provide the right level of treatment to addicted individuals to achieve positive results.

After all the presentations, counties broke into groups to discuss how to move forward. They were urged to identify the outcomes they wished to see in their counties, as well as barriers and means of overcoming them. Each county designated an individual to take the lead in the planning process and be part of a small working group to share information with representatives of other counties.

*Pennsylvania Health Law Project (PHLP) is currently working with a number of counties, including some of those that attended the meeting, to link re-entering individuals to health care insurance before they leave custody and then to proper care in the community. For further information, contact Maureen Barden at [mbarden@phlp.org](mailto:mbarden@phlp.org).*



***George Vogel, Executive Director of the Berks County Council on Chemical Abuse, talks about Berks County's pilot program where inmates go directly from Berks County Prison into residential treatment. Also talking about similar pilot programs in their counties, sitting at the table from left to right were Kami Anderson of Armstrong-Indiana-Clarion Drug and Alcohol Commission, Barbara Gorrell of Columbia, Montour, Snyder Union Mental Health, Intellectual Disability, Drug and Alcohol Programs, and Mavis Nimoh of Dauphin County Drug and Alcohol Services.***

### **Existing Programs That May Be Used As Models for Other Counties:**

1. In Montgomery County, "Health Choices Health Connections" affords individuals with behavioral health diagnoses access to two-person Wellness Recovery Teams who work with them to develop goals and concrete plans for achieving them. Its costs are reimbursed by Medical Assistance. The program could be adapted to serve only the re-entering population.
2. In other counties, under the guidance of Secretary Tennis of DDAP, they have started programs to enroll people in Medical Assistance prior to being released from county jail, enabling them to go directly into residential drug treatment.

# PCCD's Office of Criminal Justice System Improvements Showcases Offender Re-entry Planning Grants

Since its creation in August 2011, the Community Revitalization through Re-entry Unit under PCCD's Office of Criminal Justice System Improvements (OCJSI) has awarded ten Offender Re-entry Planning Grants that provide assistance to counties as they establish offender re-entry strategies identified as priorities from their CJABs. These strategies assist county and state offenders transition back to their communities while maintaining public safety.

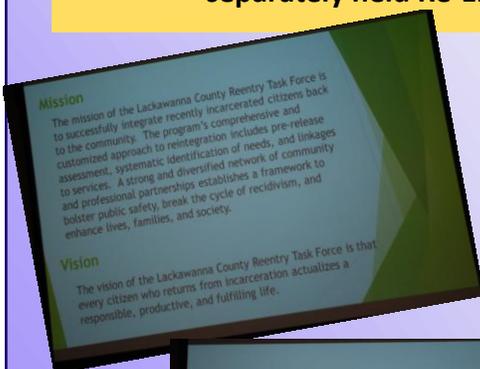
These grants help counties create an offender re-entry plan to be included in their overall criminal justice strategic plan. County-based offender re-entry plans include an assessment of offender re-entry service providers; identify gaps in offender re-entry services; and have strategies that address housing, drug and alcohol and mental health treatment, education, and employment issues for returning offenders.

In addition to the Offender Re-Entry Planning Grants, OCJSI has awarded funds to counties to create Day Reporting Centers and Problem Solving Courts such as DUI, Mental Health, Veterans and Drug Courts in our efforts to help reduce both county and state prison populations while addressing offenders' criminogenic needs along with maintaining community ties.

## Counties that Have Received Offender Re-Entry Planning Grants

- Centre
- Chester
- Dauphin
- Lackawanna
- Lancaster
- McKean
- Mifflin
- Northampton
- Philadelphia
- Westmoreland

**Recently, through their Offender Re-Entry Planning Grants, both Northampton and Lackawanna Counties separately held Re-Entry Summits where they unveiled their re-entry strategic plans.**



**PA Secretary of Corrections John Wetzel was the keynote speaker at both summits, talking about what the State is learning and doing to support re-entry.**



**Northampton County created five work teams who identified barriers to re-entry success and developed strategies to be implemented at various points in time across the criminal justice system.**

**Lackawanna County, with assistance from a Consultant, created a Re-Entry Task Force that conducted a year-long planning process and created a five-year strategic plan to successfully integrate recently incarcerated citizens back into their county.**



## Judge John A. Zottola Named Louis J. Presentza Distinguished Service Award Winner for 2013

The Honorable John A. Zottola, Common Pleas Judge for the 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District of Pennsylvania, was honored with the prestigious 2013 Louis J. Presentza Distinguished Service Award at the annual PA Drug Court Professionals conference. The award recognizes those who show extraordinary leadership and support in the problem solving court field in Pennsylvania. Judge Zottola was elected to the Court of Common

*Left to right: Judge John A. Zottola, PCCD Executive Director Linda Rosenberg, and Honorable Steven T. O'Neill, Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas Drug Court Administrative Judge and current PADCP President.*

Pleas in 1994, where he has served in varying roles, including oversight of Allegheny County's nationally recognized Mental Health Court. During his eight year oversight, the Court became the subject of a series of studies, articles, and media interviews, including those conducted by Frontline, U.S. News and World Report, and the RAND Corporation, all outlining the innovative adaptation, remarkable success and cost savings of the Allegheny County Mental Health Court. As news circulated of their success, Judge Zottola and the Treatment Court Team hosted a number of agencies for observation and technical assistance toward their own efforts in starting a Problem Solving Court.

Alongside his judicial duties, he has served on the boards of The Center for Victims of Violent Crime, Pittsburgh Action against Rape, and is a member of the Veterans in Pennsylvania Criminal Justice Task Force. He has been a member of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) since 2007. In 2009, he was selected to Chair PCCD's Mental Health and Justice Advisory Committee (MHJAC), a collaboration between PCCD and the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare (DPW). In 2011, as a result of Judge Zottola's efforts, MHJAC received the National Criminal Justice Association Outstanding Criminal Justice Program Award, recognizing innovative and successful criminal justice programs that showcase promising practices to address critical crime-related issues in communities.

Judge Zottola has long been a proponent for sustaining and expanding upon efforts to divert appropriate individuals from incarceration. In 2009, he convened a task force to address the formation of Allegheny County's Veterans Court, which he now oversees alongside his duties in the Orphans Court Division. In 2010, he testified in front of the United States Senate's Subcommittee on Crime and Drugs as to the importance and effectiveness of Problem Solving Courts, the Sequential Intercept Model and the critical role that mentors now play in recovery. In more recent months, Judge Zottola met with the Pennsylvania House Judiciary Committee to discuss Mental Health Problem Solving Courts, the Mental Health Procedures Act, Specialized Police Response, and other ways in which underlying substance abuse, mental health, and other concerns often lead to an individual's interaction with the criminal justice system.

Judge Zottola continues to share his knowledge and experiences on a local, statewide and national scale through conferences and other events, including the following recent webinars: Fostering Criminal Justice and Mental Health Collaboration and the Housing Alliance of PA: Housing Needs for the Justice Involved. He also serves as an adjunct professor for Pittsburgh's School of Law, providing instruction on the laws and issues that affect individuals with mental illness.

Over the past three decades the Honorable John A. Zottola has served as a voice for those individuals whose own voice is often lost in the criminal justice system. His immeasurable efforts continue to frame a transformation in Pennsylvania's Criminal Justice System, garnering attention for similar changes across the Nation.

## Homelessness and the Criminal Justice System – Plan Now to Attend PA Housing Alliance’s Annual Homes Within Reach Conference, “Home Sweet Home”

As the criminal justice system looks at and adopts new and innovative approaches to offender management, stakeholders are realizing the importance of collaborating with community partners to enhance public safety by effectively managing offenders in the community. Many returning citizens are not able to return to their families, are denied by landlords, or are precluded from public housing. As a result, there is growing concern about how to assist offenders with finding appropriate and safe housing.

To address the complex housing needs of some offenders, a number of CJABs have shaped great working relationships with their local housing authorities – inviting them to become members, creating ground-breaking programs exclusively for offenders re-entering back into the local community, and working together to create a long-term plan to address the housing needs of the criminal-justice involved population.

PCCD along with the Department of Welfare’s Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) is once again sponsoring 100 attendees to participate in the justice-involved track portion of the conference. Event organizers are planning to showcase CJABs that have successfully collaborated with their local housing authorities along with other innovative programs. Plan now to attend and hear how they did it.

The goal of the conference is to build the capacity of the industry by providing cutting-edge training, peer learning and partnerships to expand housing opportunity to those with low and moderate incomes. The best workshops tap into current, pressing issues. They inspire and inform by delving into new information and new approaches or providing the best of the tried and true through an interactive format.

### Highlights from the *October 2013 CJAB Conference – “One System, Many Pieces”*



Cyndi Zuidema, Reentry Coordinator, Department of Justice Contractor, United States Attorney's Office and El Sawyer, Producer of the movie, “Pull of Gravity” present before attendees screened the document of three men in different stages of their re-entry.



Keynote speaker Mark Carey presented on the fundamentals and benefits of Evidenced-Based Practices (EBP’s).

Union County Housing Authority staff led a discussion on their unique housing program that is helping their local CJAB find permanent housing for individuals involved with the criminal justice system.



# Crisis Intervention Team

## Second Annual Statewide Meeting

The Centre County Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) hosted a statewide CIT meeting on Thursday, March 13th and Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center in State College.

The two-day meeting brought together existing CIT members, newly formed teams, along with a few counties who are still in the planning process. According to organizers, last year's meeting was attended by seven counties while this year, 18 counties were represented. The meeting allowed teams to share program highlights and outcomes and learn about promising practices across the Commonwealth.

This year, the Pennsylvania Mental Health and Justice Center of Excellence (COE) along with Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association (PCPA) discussed newly funded CIT and Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) projects. PCCD in partnership with Department of Public Welfare, Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and Staunton Farm Foundation recently awarded nine grants to expand the availability of specialized behavioral health training for law enforcement and justice practitioners across the Commonwealth.

Those nine newly funded project sites were invited to attend the meeting to listen to what experienced CIT's are doing and receive technical assistance from the COE and PCPA in getting their own projects up and running. The new projects include creating or expanding CIT's and delivering MHFA training.

According to CIT International, the CIT program is a community partnership of law enforcement, mental health professionals, mental health consumers and their families. The goal of the program is to help persons with mental disorders access medical treatment rather than place them in the criminal justice system due to illness-related behaviors.



Sergeant Rob Glenny of Ferguson Township Police Department and Centre County CIT explained to attendees what it's like to personally be a CIT police officer.

Jim Fouts representing Carbon, Monroe, Pike and Northampton Counties CIT talked about how they conduct individualized training for each county based on local resources and procedures.



Donna McNelis, PhD and Brenda Weaver, MA, CPRP, both of PA Mental Health and Justice COE, Drexel University location, updated attendees on their development of a 4-hour CIT/MHFA training enhancement focused on Veterans.



Attendees viewed "Encountering People with Autism: A First Responders' Training", a brief training video for Law Enforcement produced by Allegheny County. Click [here](#) to view the video.



## Calendar of Events

To submit your event to PCCD's Calendar of Events, complete and submit this [form](#).

### PA 4<sup>th</sup> annual Veterans Conference 2014

May 14 – 15, 2014 at Hilton Harrisburg

For more information, visit [Veterans Conference](#)

### PCCD's Office of Victims' Services (OVS) – Pathways Conference

June 4-6, 2014 in State College – for more information, visit [Pathways 2014](#)

### 2014 Pennsylvania Association of Drug Court Professionals Annual Conference

October 8, 9, & 10, 2014 at Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel in State College

### PA Housing Alliance Annual Conference - "Home Sweet Home"

November 17-19, 2014 at the Harrisburg Hilton

## Inside PCCD

This [toolkit](#) was created to support the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy in Pennsylvania.

### Anyone Can Be a Victim –

If you have been affected by crime or you know someone who has, this [website](#) can help!

Find out about Governor Corbett's *Healthy Pennsylvania Prescription Drug Take-Back program* initiative!

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To receive notices about PCCD grant opportunities as they become available, sign up at [https://www.pccdegmis.state.pa.us/pccd\\_egmis/Public/Subscribe.aspx](https://www.pccdegmis.state.pa.us/pccd_egmis/Public/Subscribe.aspx)

Click here for [Current PCCD Open Funding Opportunities](#)

### Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency

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Jennifer McConnell at [c-jemconn@pa.gov](mailto:c-jemconn@pa.gov)