

2015 Criminal Justice Advisory Board Conference
“Bridging Systems: Connecting Criminal Justice, Behavioral Health & Treatment”
March 25 – 26, 2015
Days Inn, Penn State

Session Descriptions

Thursday, March 26, 2015

8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Morning Keynote Speakers

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Lunch

10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Courts and Veterans Diversion Efforts

Facilitator: Ms. Karen Blackburn

This panel session is comprised of representatives from various counties in an interactive discussion of Veterans Courts and diversion programs. Panelists include the Honorable Michael Barrassé, Lackawanna County Court of Common Pleas; the Honorable John Adams, Berks County District Attorney; Angela Fox-Holtzapfel, Esq., York County Public Defender’s Office; Stephan Todd, Veteran’s Mentor Coordinator, Butler County Veterans Court; Ms. Kim Sapolis Lacey, Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist, Wilkes-Barre Veterans Administration Medical Center; Mr. Robert O’Brien, Allegheny County Adult Probation; and Ms. Stephanie Landes, Treatment Court Coordinator, Montgomery County Adult Probation Department.

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 pm.

How Treatment Works; How Treatment Fails

Presenters: Secretary Gary Tennis and Ken Martz, Psy.D., C.A.S.

This session will cover a range of information on the current risks of alcohol and drugs in the Commonwealth, and its relationship with crime and recidivism. In addition, this session will examine relevant issues in treatment best practices for this population, different approaches (diversion, pretrial, etc.) and actions for next steps in a coordinated approach to address this concern.

1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Jail Project

Presenters: Mr. Steven Seitchik and Ms. Nicole Salvo

Since 2012, the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, Department of Human Services and Single County Authorities have been collaborating to provide expedited Medical Assistance benefits and transportation directly to treatment facilities for inmates who are in need, and are released upon condition of residential substance abuse treatment. “The Jail Project” began as a pilot in Armstrong and Clarion Counties and has since been rolled out to Indiana, Lycoming, Clinton, Berks, and Dauphin Counties. In 2013, it received a COMCARE HealthChoices Award for County Collaboration. This session provides information about the pilot project, including the processes developed and how it may be implemented in other counties.

Thursday, March 26, 2015 Session Descriptions - Continued

2:10 p.m. - 2:40 p.m.

Leveraging Health Care Reform to Benefit the Criminal Justice System

Presenter: Maureen Barden, Esq.

Health care reform, especially the Medicaid expansion which went into effect on January 1, 2015, has great potential to benefit county and state criminal justice systems. Counties can reduce their jail populations by using Medicaid funds to divert pretrial detainees into treatment; sentenced individuals can be linked to care upon release, improving their chances of a successful reentry. Criminal justice stakeholders can lead the way in taking advantage of the new health care landscape to improve outcomes and reduce costs.

2:40 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Reentry – It’s Everybody’s Business

Facilitator: Ms. Charla Plaines

Presenters: Melanie Snyder, OWDS, GCDF and Ms. Colleen Phillips

This Plenary session will explore how Reentry Coalitions move from creating a plan, to service delivery, to identifying and collaboratively addressing systemic issues. During the session, you will hear from experts on reentry planning; implementing reentry focused projects; and how to make policy changes to help reduce barriers and improve outcomes for returning citizens. This session will include the following topics and panels:

- **NeuroResource Facilitation for Ex-Offenders with Brain Injury: Project Findings and Outcomes Data**

Panelists: Ms. Monica Vaccaro, and Drew Nagele, Psy.D.

The Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania, through Byrne Justice Assistance Grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, is conducting a demonstration project at SCI-Graterford to identify individuals with cognitive impairment due to brain injury who are nearing release, and connect them with specialized supports in the community to maximize a successful reentry. This session will summarize results of screening and neurocognitive testing performed with individuals in the project, provide an in-depth description of the model of NeuroResource Facilitation pre- and post-release, and present outcome data for those project participants living in the community. Case examples to illustrate the components of this innovative reentry initiative will be provided.

- **Chester County Reentry**

Panelist: Mr. William D. Burrell and Mr. Christopher Murphy

Effective reentry initiatives require strong and effective collaboration across agencies and organizations. No one agency owns reentry and no one agency can implement it. It is critical to build an effective collaboration of key stakeholders and constituents to develop consensus on, and then design and implement the many elements of effective reentry. The recently completed *Strategic Plan for Reentry in Chester County* provides an excellent example of the development and operation of a collaborative partnership for reentry.

- **Employment Opportunity & Training Center of Northeastern Pennsylvania (EOTC)**

Panelist: Sharon McCrone, Ph.D.

EOTC Executive Director Sharon McCrone will discuss the agency’s long time collaborative history with the Lackawanna County CJAB and one of EOTC’s most recent projects, the Women in Transition Program. Through its current strategic plan, Lackawanna County CJAB identified significant gaps in reentry services, particularly for women. Subsequently, two PCCD funded Women in Transition projects beginning in 2012, have directly addressed those gaps through assessment, education/skill enhancement, case management and other support services.
