

# Leveraging Health Care Reform to Benefit the Criminal Justice System

2015 CJAB Conference

March 26, 2015

# If these are familiar issues --

- “Detainees in jail on minor offenses ... sometimes wait for months as their cases wind their way through the court system.”
- “One man spent 114 days in jail [awaiting trial] ... allegedly for stealing packs of Snickers bars.”
- The jail is “the largest mental health facility in the county.”

News article, March 9, 2015

# The new health care landscape can help --

- Medicaid coverage for almost all low-income adults
  - No disability required; low-income adults 18-64 who were previously ineligible are now eligible
- Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplace insurance for higher-income adults (cost subsidized on sliding scale up to \$46,680)

# Health care coverage is positively linked to declines in recidivism --

- In Washington state, arrest rates dropped as much as 33 % for people enrolled in Medicaid and receiving substance abuse treatment. (Mancuso 2010)
- In Florida, recidivism was reduced 16% among people on Medicaid when released from custody, compared with people without Medicaid coverage. (Morrissey 2006)
- In Rhode Island and Michigan, reduced recidivism is significantly correlated with access to good health care among newly released prisoners. (AHRQ Innovations Exchange 2012)

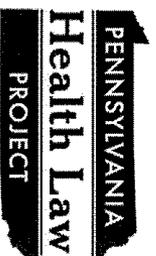
# Share the good news --

- Spread the word that everyone can now get health insurance via:
  - Medicaid (for low-income individuals); or
  - Marketplace insurance (for higher wage earners).
- Distribute PHLP information sheet.

# Medicaid income limits --

- Annual income at or under:
  - \$16,243 for one person (\$1,354/month)
  - \$21,983 for family of 2 (\$1,832/month)
  - \$27,724 for family of 3 (\$2,310/month)
  - \$33,465 for family of 4 (\$2,789/month)
- This is 138 percent of federal poverty level (FPL).
- <http://familiesusa.org/product/federal-poverty-guidelines>

## Do You Need Health Insurance?



Starting January 2015, Medical Assistance (MA) will cover almost all low-income adults.

### Do I qualify for free or low-cost coverage?

Here are the yearly MA income limits for adults. And the yearly income limits for free or low-cost coverage for children. Some adults, such as pregnant women and people with disabilities, have higher income limits.

	1 person	2 people	3 people
<b>Adults</b> 138% poverty	\$16,104	\$21,707	\$27,310

	1 person	2 people	3 people
<b>Children</b> 319% poverty	\$37,227	\$50,179	\$63,130

### How do I apply?

If you think you qualify for MA or CHIP, apply anytime:

- **Online:** [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us)
- **Over the phone:** (866) 550-4355

If you are over the income limit for MA, apply for insurance through HealthCare.gov. Many people get help paying for coverage. Apply between Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> and Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>.

- **Online:** [www.HealthCare.gov](http://www.HealthCare.gov)
- **Over the phone:** (800) 318-2596

### How do I find in-person help?

Go to [www.localhelp.healthcare.gov](http://www.localhelp.healthcare.gov), or call (800) 318-2596.

*If you are turned down, you have the right to appeal.  
For help, call the Pennsylvania Health Law Project at (800) 274-3238.*

*October 2014 -- [www.php.org](http://www.php.org)*

# County justice systems can work with PA Department of Human Services --

Jail / Probation Office

County Assistance  
Office (CAO)

# Community partner information --

“Organizations ... that help Pennsylvania residents apply for health and human services can apply to be a COMPASS Community Partner. The COMPASS Community Partner Dashboard allows organizations to initiate and actively track applications they submit.”

*Department of Human Services website*

<https://www.compass.state.pa.us/compass.web/CPACM.aspx>

# Contact these counties for more information --

- Montgomery County Correctional Facility – Gary Chesney, Director of Inmate Services  
[GChesney@montcopa.org](mailto:GChesney@montcopa.org); 610-635-7239
- Luzerne County Correctional Facility – Grace Franks, Treatment Coordinator,  
[Grace.Franks@luzernecounty.org](mailto:Grace.Franks@luzernecounty.org), 570-829-7741 ext 44
- Lancaster County – Melanie Snyder,  
[melaniegsnyder@gmail.com](mailto:melaniegsnyder@gmail.com), 717 723 1075

# There may be resources to help with enrollment --

Jail / Probation Office

County Assistance  
Office (CAO)  
Community health  
centers/ACA navigators

# Community health centers --

Outreach & enrollment centers:

[http://www.pachc.com/health find.html](http://www.pachc.com/health_find.html)

This list of community health centers is organized by county and gives addresses, telephone numbers, and websites for centers.

# ACA Navigators --

<http://extension.psu.edu/health/insurance/whats-happening-in-pa/patient-navigators-by-county>

These federally-funded organizations can provide assistance with purchasing health insurance through the marketplace. Mental Health Consumers Assn personnel will work with jails and justice-involved individuals.

# Other criminal justice components can benefit, for example --

Jail / Probation Office  
Problem-solving courts  
Pretrial services

County Assistance  
Office (CAO)  
Community health  
centers/ACA navigators

# Pretrial services --

- Existing programs include: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Berks, Bradford, Bucks, Centre, Chester, Delaware, Dauphin, Erie, Indiana, Lancaster, Lehigh, Luzerne, Lycoming, Northampton, Philadelphia, Venango, York.
- Pennsylvania Pretrial Services Association  
<http://www.papretrial.org/>

# Bucks County pretrial pilot--

- Began July, 2014 as alternative to costly expansion of community corrections center.
- Prison population has remained steady or declined.
- By implementing pretrial and expanding house arrest for low risk offenders, the county has averted the need to expand its institutional corrections system.

# Contact Bucks County for more information --

- Probation Chief Sean R. Ryan,  
[srryan@co.bucks.pa.us](mailto:srryan@co.bucks.pa.us), 215 348 6658
- Deputy Probation Chief Warren R. Grant,  
[wrgrant@co.bucks.pa.us](mailto:wrgrant@co.bucks.pa.us), 215 348 6634
- Supervising Probation Officer Christine Shenk, [cashenk@co.bucks.pa.us](mailto:cashenk@co.bucks.pa.us),  
215 348 6652

# Include other offices/agencies/organizations, for example --

- + Jail / Probation Office
- + Problem-solving courts
- + Pretrial services
- + President Judge
- + District Attorney
- + Public Defender
- + County Commissioners

- + County Assistance Office (CAO)
- + Community health centers/ACA navigators
- + SCA
- + Mental health agency
- + Providers
- + Community organizations

Use existing networks & information,  
for example --

- CJAB
- Prison Board
- Reentry organization(s)
- Cross-systems mapping workshop report

# Contact --

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