County Jail Diversion-Avoiding Jailing Those with Mental Illness

April 3, 2018
Outline

- Stepping Up Initiatives
- CCAP Comprehensive Behavioral Health Task Force
- Berks County Cross-Systems Mapping
- Crisis Services
- Forensic Diversion Program
- Forensic Blended Case Management
- Provider Coalition
- Law Enforcement
- Data Driven Justice Initiative
- Summary
Stepping Up Initiative
Advance the six program objectives:

- Secure committed team leadership.
- Ensure implementation of timely screening and assessments.
- Obtain baseline data.
- Complete a comprehensive process analysis and inventory of services.
- Prioritize policy, practice and funding improvements.
- Identify strategies to track and evaluate progress.
CCAP Comprehensive Behavioral Health Task Force

- Employ Successful Strategies to reduce the need for incarceration.
- Expand training, education & awareness efforts to improve public perception & understanding.
- Provide effective supports and services to reduce entry into the criminal justice system & to improve outcomes for re-entry.
- Understanding special populations & unique circumstances.
- Address the needs of returning veterans.
- Research larger policy issues and develop longer range policy strategies to assist county efforts.
CCAP Comprehensive Behavioral Health Task Force

- Employ Successful Strategies to reduce the need for incarceration
  - Improve/Expand Effective Diversion Program – developed due to increased calls to MH/DD regarding MH clients in the forensic system.
  - Apply Sequential Intercept Mapping at any intercept.
  - Develop Effective Forensic Program(case management, forensic peer support, provider network) to support MH/DD/D&A individuals.
CCAP Comprehensive Behavioral Health Task Force

- Expand training, education & awareness efforts to improve public perception & understanding
  - Improve Education and Awareness for public, stakeholders, families, providers, EMS, first responders & educators – Mental Health First Aid to increase awareness.
  - Improve training for mental health staff (case management, outpatient, peer supports, etc.).
CCAP Comprehensive Behavioral Health Task Force

- Expand training, education & awareness efforts to improve public perception & understanding
  - Improve and expand Law Enforcement training
    - Mental Health, Trauma, Veterans, PTSD
    - Hostage Negotiation, De-Escalation, Listening Skills, Diagnostic Awareness, Differences in Juveniles, Delivery of Death Notices
    - Autism and Developmental Disabilities
    - Tactical Responses for police by police
    - Operation Sidewinder for Corrections Staff
CCAP Comprehensive Behavioral Health Task Force

- Provide effective supports and services to reduce entry into the criminal justice system & improve outcomes for re-entry
  - Increase awareness of the Diversion and Forensic Programs thru outreach to the Courts, Offices of the District Attorney, Public Defender, Probation, Law Enforcement, etc.
  - Divert the individual to treatment alternatives vs. incarceration with the support of all the entities mentioned above.
  - Improve interaction through education of the Judicial System, open lines of communication between departments – MH/DD and the DA, PD, Courts, District Justices, etc.
  - Improve access to affordable housing with supports for re-entering inmates and those identified for diversion.
Understanding special populations & unique circumstances

- Successful diversion from jail and reduced recidivism for veterans, individuals with mental health symptoms, Autism.

- Develop alternatives for the developmentally disabled population by working with providers and Law Enforcement.

- Appropriate use of the Mental Health, DUI, Veterans and D & A Courts.

- Educate responders to see the value of gender/age specific responses.

- Meet the needs of the juvenile population.
CCAP Comprehensive Behavioral Health Task Force

- Address the needs of returning veterans
  - Develop effective diversion to Veterans Court.
  - Develop a community approach to assisting returning veterans and create supports and linkages.
  - Partner with County Dept. of Veterans Affairs and the Berks Community Foundation as well as the Lebanon VA.
CCAP Comprehensive Behavioral Health Task Force

- Research larger policy issues and develop longer range policy strategies to assist county efforts
  - Utilize Cross Systems Mapping to guide the growth and development of the Forensic and Diversion Programs – plan to add Forensic Peer Specialists.
  - Seek Stakeholder Feedback at Provider Meetings and Police Trainings – requests for additional police training specific to Autism, De-Escalation, CIT.
  - Track recidivism through local statistics to identify reasons and possible alternative approaches.
Berks County Cross-Systems Mapping

- Forensic services can assist at any Intercept:
  - Intercept 1 – Law Enforcement and Emergency Services
  - Intercept 2 – Initial Detention / Initial Court Hearing
  - Intercept 3 – Jails / Courts
  - Intercept 4 – Re-Entry
  - Intercept 5 – Community Corrections / Community Support
Crisis Services

- A contracted service funded by the Berks County MH/DD Program.

- Crisis services are available to anyone in Berks County 24 hours per day, 7 days a week.

- The Department is staffed with 18 Crisis Interventionists who will answer the phone live 24/7/365. 3 Supervisors on staff and 24 hour supervisory back up coverage.

- Staff are located at the 6th Street location, central to most areas in the county.

- Provide mobile, telephone, walk-in and texting services with a Goal to leave within 10 minutes.
All Crisis Staff have 2 roles in the department:
- Crisis Interventionist
- Crisis MH Delegate
  - Bachelor level

Texting is an added access point into services and not meant to replace any current service
- Allows users another way to access crisis services
- Our continuing goal is to have face-to-face or phone conversation with those we interact with via text
- Crisis texting began in September 2016

Program is accredited by CARF and AAS
Crisis Services

- Director/ Associate Director do outreach to Law Enforcement and the Community often accompanied by the MH Diversion Specialist:
  - Outreach to local Law Enforcement, through roll call visits, printed information.
  - Outreach to District Justices Offices.
- Presentations to First Responders.
- Presentations at Law Enforcement Trainings.
- Respond to calls in conjunction with Police, EMS, Area Agency on Aging, Diversion Specialist, etc.
- Assist in facilitating diversions.
Forensic Diversion Program

Need for Diversion

- Berks County has a population of MH/DD clients who are involved in the criminal justice system.

- National Research indicates treatment and Forensics Mental Health Diversion is more successful than incarceration.

- Individuals with Mental Illness stay in jail much longer, without viable supports.
Established January 2012 through a collaboration between Berks Connections/Pretrial Services (BCPS) and Berks County MH/DD Program to:

- Decrease the incarceration rate of our non-violent mentally ill population by diverting them from jail and linking them to appropriate treatment services, monitoring and supervision through BCPS when applicable.

- Maintain community safety – only non-violent individuals are chosen.

- Save taxpayer money by reducing incarceration and justice system costs.
Forensic Diversion Program

- Program Goals
  - To decrease incarceration rate of the non-violent mentally ill population and maintain community safety.
  - Diverting the individual to treatment alternatives vs. incarceration.
  - To decrease the amount of resources expended on the above population.
Program Statistics January 2012 to January 2018

Total Number of Referrals to the Program: 791
Unsecured Bail Diversions: 144
Number of Diversions using Treatment Resources: 245
Number of Follow up Contacts Provided: 4394
Total Diversions for the 6 Year period: 389

Total Number Re-arrested: 26 (6.7%)
Total Re-arrested post diversion program: 12
Total Re-arrested during diversion program: 14
Forensic Transitional Housing Program

- Established December 2012 with capacity to house 4 individuals in supervised setting for 2 groups of consumers:
  - Persons who would be unnecessarily incarcerated due to the absence of available housing.
  - Incarcerated individuals who could be released on parole if housing was available.

- PA Commission on Crime & Delinquency Grant
Forensic Transitional Housing Program

Total number accepted into this program to date – 69

- Individuals with dual diagnosis (MH & D&A) – 50
- Individuals with a Serious Mental Illness (SMI) – 28
- Individuals with a Felony Charge – 11
- Individuals with a Summary Charge – 64
- Individuals who have completed the program – 36
- Evictions from the Program – 15
- Elopements – 5
- Voluntarily Withdrew – 9
- Death – 1
- Current number participating in the program - 3
Forensic Blended Case Management (BCM)

- **Mission**
  - Link individuals to services.
  - Ongoing collaboration.
  - Diversion to higher levels of care as needed.
  - Foster independence.
  - Development of individualized service plans.
Forensic Blended Case Management (BCM)

- 4 Forensic BCMs and 1 Forensic BCM Supervisor

Eligibility

- Medium–high risk offenders
- Documented Mental Health diagnosis
- Supervision with County or State Probation/Parole
- Incarcerated within the Berks County Jail System or a State Correctional Institution who will be released within 30 days
- Services are voluntary
Forensic Peer Specialists

- Trained professionals with lived experience who are referred to work side-by-side with an individual.

- Peers work with individuals 1:1 or in a group setting to promote recovery and encourage compliance.


- Services are voluntary.
Provider Coalition

- Comprised of various law enforcement officials and representatives from community agencies and the County.

- Designed to incorporate professionals from:
  - Medical services
  - Psychiatric services
  - Law enforcement
  - Housing providers
  - Educational services
  - Drug & alcohol services
  - Workforce development professionals
Goals of the coalition

- Improve collaboration among community partners
- Work together to establish strengths within our current system.
- Collaborate to discuss areas of need for improvement.
- Work to establish new resources and programming for the forensic population with MH diagnoses
- Ensure that all parties are communicating to incorporate all necessary services to promote individuals’ recovery.
Law Enforcement

- Benefits of Stakeholder Involvement
- History of Working with the Mental Health System
- Police Trainings
- Berks County Emergency Response Team
Plan to secure a contract with the Open Lattice System to collect data

Requesting the use of Retained Revenues for financial support of the Initiative

Will consult with several EMS Providers to pull their data for start up
Forensic Services Summary

- We will continue to build the forensic programs using the Stepping Up Initiative in conjunction with the Comprehensive Behavioral Health Task Force, Cross Systems Mapping and the Data Driven Justice information.
- Forensic Diversion Specialist, Blended Case Managers and Peer Supports will coordinate efforts to improve overall outcomes of diversion, recovery and decreased recidivism.
- The Forensic Provider Network is both collaborative and comprehensive and will continue to grow with new programming and providers.
- Work with Law Enforcement and EMS to keep communication open and utilize treatment rather than incarceration when appropriate.
- The common goal is to divert individuals when feasible, assist them during their re-entry into the community and support their journey towards recovery.
Questions?
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