

MA County Jail Pilot Implementation Guidance



Statement of Need

- Approximately 70% of offenders have an untreated substance abuse problem.
- Across Pennsylvania, as offenders are in prison they become ineligible for Medical Assistance (MA).
- Upon release they are immediately at high risk for relapse, which leads to recidivism.

Statement of Need

- Newly released offenders rarely have the motivation to seek treatment.
- Newly released offenders without support can lack skills to properly complete an application for benefits.
- Application processing times vary dramatically, often averaging 30 days.
 - During this time the individual may not have the treatment they need, leading to relapse, a missed chance to engage in treatment, and recidivism.
 - Or, services are paid for out of limited Single County Authority (SCA) funds.

The 4 Original MA Pilot Sites

- Armstrong/Indiana/Clarion
- Lycoming/Clinton
- Berks
- Dauphin



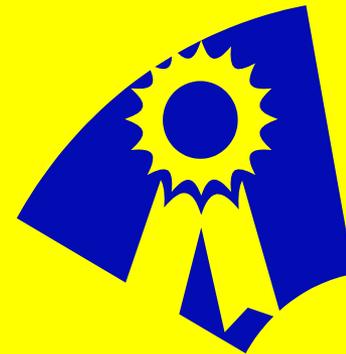
During SFY 2013-2014:

- 250 offenders received residential treatment services,
- 65 offenders went to long-term inpatient rehab,
- 93 offenders went to short-term inpatient rehab,
- 77 offenders went to short-term inpatient Dual (Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder),
- 2 offenders went to long-term inpatient Dual (Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder).
- 13 offenders went to halfway house,
- The average length of stay was 32.7 days.

➤ Award Winning Program

**Armstrong/Indiana/
Clarion SCA
recognized for
leadership in
implementing this
program.**

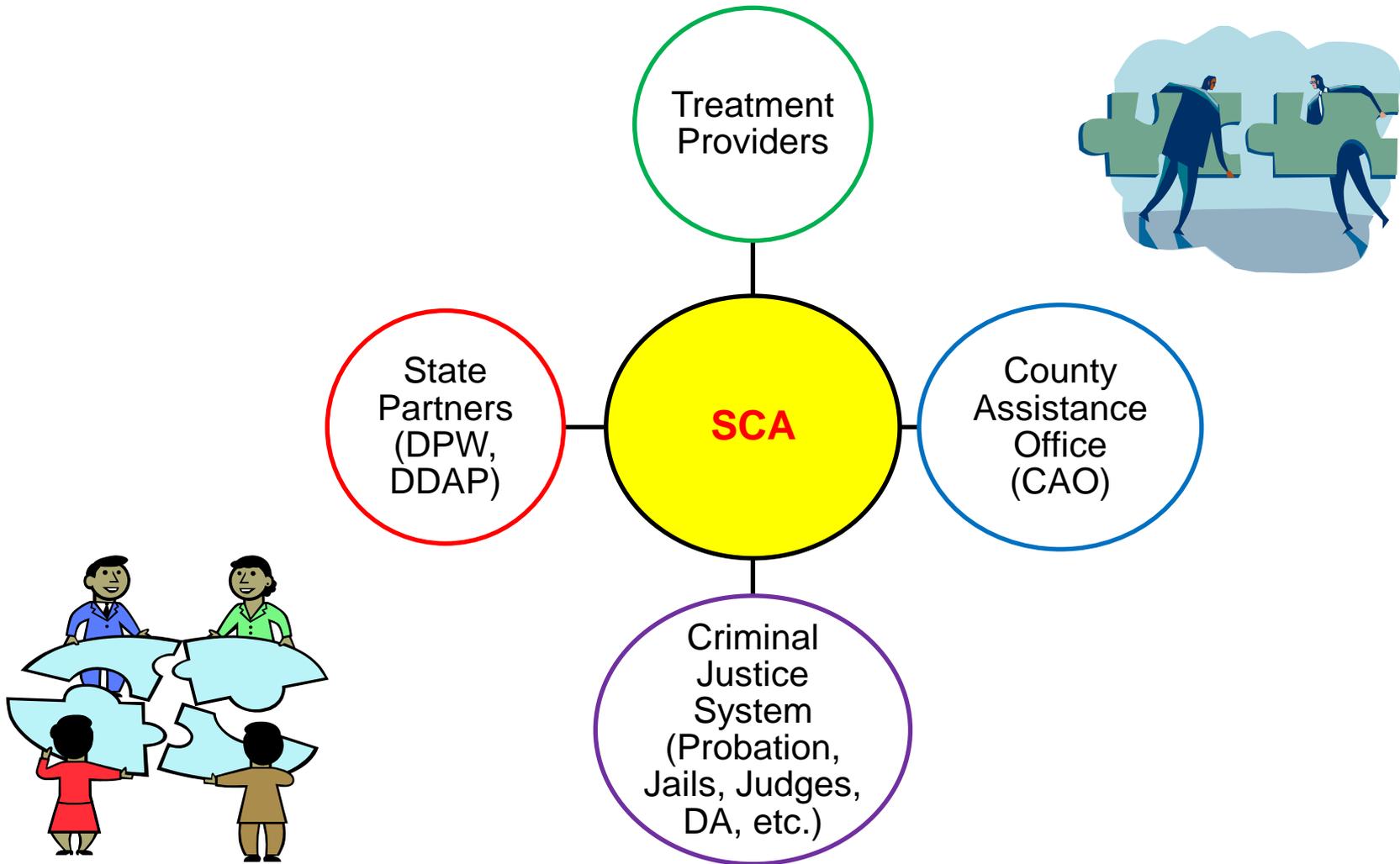
- **2013 COMCARE
HealthChoices
Award for County
Collaboration.**



Stakeholders (Relationships and Communication are KEY)

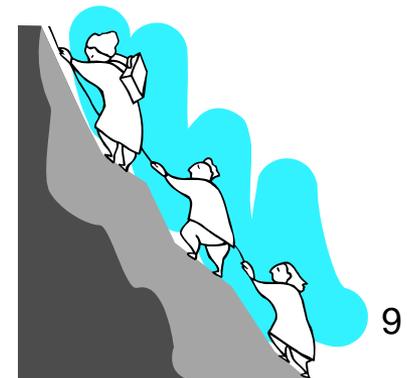
1. Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP)
2. Department of Public Welfare (DPW)
3. Single County Authority (SCA)
4. County Assistance Office (CAO) Executive Directors
5. Managed Care Organizations (MCO)
6. County Jails
7. County Commissioners
8. County Judges
9. District Attorney
10. County Probation
11. Treatment Providers





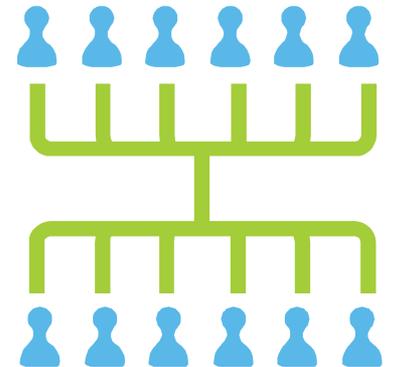
Goals

- Assist inmates in accessing clinically necessary residential drug and alcohol treatment.
- Submit **complete** MA applications via COMPASS that can be approved upon receipt at the CAO.
- CAO expedites MA approval process.
- Reduced impact on SCAs' limited treatment budgets.
- Statewide rollout.



▶ Added Benefits

- Engaged counties have reported:
 - strong endorsement and appreciation of the project.
 - positive improvement in **communication and collaboration** between program partners.
 - more individuals in recovery from addiction.



Training

- The **SCA** should provide a training to Probation Officers on identifying clients that are potentially eligible for the program.
- The local **CAO** should provide training to SCA staff on assisting the inmate with completing the COMPASS application and MA eligibility.

Workflow

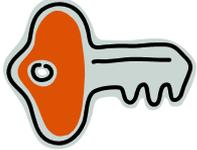
1. Inmate is identified for referral to the Program.
2. Level of Care (LOC) assessment is scheduled.
3. Drug and Alcohol Case Manager performs LOC assessment.
4. If client is appropriate for residential treatment, Drug and Alcohol Case Manager contacts Probation for release date.
 1. Release date is coordinated to time the COMPASS applications within 1 week of release.
5. Assist inmate with completion of MA application. (Cover security camera issue)
6. Drug and Alcohol Case Manager notifies the CAO when application will be sent through COMPASS.





Workflow continued

7. CAO processes application.
8. CAO notifies Drug and Alcohol Case Manager of eligibility.
9. Drug and Alcohol Case Manager acquires bed date for date of inmate's release.
10. Offender goes to treatment immediately upon release from prison.
11. This process requires **close cooperation** and **frequent communication** between all parties involved.
12. The Drug and Alcohol Case Manager serves as the main liaison between the county jail, the inmate, and the CAO.



Work with the local CAO to identify one or two staff members, who would process the applications, and who are willing to talk to SCA and Treatment Provider staff.



- A **PA 1663** must be submitted for any individual with a permanent disability.
 - **Federal Funds can be used IF the inmate has medical needs.**
- A PA 1672 must be submitted for ALL inmates who are being released to a Residential Drug and Alcohol Treatment Facility.

SCA

1st Step

Meet with inmate to fill out paperwork, collect necessary documentation (including a [PA 1672](#) for **all** individuals and a [PA 1663](#) for all **disabled** individuals).

2nd Step

Submit the application through COMPASS as a **community partner**.

3rd Step

Scan and attach all necessary documentation.

The SCA is the **community partner**.

5th Step

Indicate estimated release date and contact CAO if any change to release date is expected or occurs.

4th Step

Place note in comment section: ***“For expedited determination of MA eligibility for inmate being released to a Residential Drug and Alcohol Treatment Facility”.***



5

The Income Maintenance Case Worker (IMCW) will evaluate client for ongoing eligibility

CAO

4

When the individual's treatment is completed, **the SCA is responsible for notifying the CAO (ongoing eligibility).**



Review application and determine eligibility in the appropriate category.

1

**NCE
Non-Continuous
Eligibility**

3

Send **approval/denial** notices to the individual, SCA, Treatment Facility and the county prison.

If eligible, authorize **ongoing (not NCE)** MA no sooner than seven days prior to release date **using the estimated release date as the begin date**. Alert should be set to review the case five days prior to release from prison.

2

2014 National Drug Control Strategy

- Notes significant increases in heroin and prescription drug abuse as key challenges.
- **Directive:**
 - **Implement criminal justice reforms** designed to break the cycle of **drug use**, crime, and incarceration while protecting public safety.

2014 National Drug Control Strategy

- Builds on the Administration’s record of drug policy reform by outlining a series of actions that will continue to expand health interventions and “**smart on crime**” alternatives.

Acting Director Botticelli. *“We cannot incarcerate addiction out of people...There are millions of Americans – including myself – who are in successful long-term recovery from a substance use disorder. This policy supports each and every one of us and demonstrates a real commitment to a **smarter, more humane approach to drug policy in the 21st century.**”*

“smart on crime” alternatives

The Department of Justice recommends the use of specialty courts and programs to deal with unique populations of offenders as recognition that incarceration is not the answer in every criminal case.

- ❖ Diversion programs provide alternatives to incarceration for candidates with minimal criminal history or **substance abuse issues.**



Q & A

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