

Mental Health and Justice Advisory Committee

Mission Statement

Support statewide strategies identified in this strategic plan to reduce the number of adult justice-involved individuals with mental illness or co-occurring substance use disorders (MI/COD) while enhancing public safety and the well-being of Pennsylvania’s communities.

Targeted Area: Pretrial and Assessment			
GOALS	MHJAC ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE	COE ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE/<i>PLANNED ACTIONS</i>	MHJAC NEXT STEPS
<p>Priority 1 - Assist counties in the implementation of diversion programs at preliminary arraignment that will link non-violent defendants to community treatment as an alternative to prolonged incarceration.</p>	<p>Through joint funding with DPW/OMHSAS, established a Mental Health and Justice Center of Excellence (COE).</p>	<p>Continue to follow-up after Cross-Systems Mapping workshops will help counties identify barriers to implementing diversion steps agreed upon in workshop.</p>	<p>Explore and evaluate best methods of using screening and risk assessments.</p>

Targeted Area: Training and Technical Assistance

GOALS	MHJAC ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE	COE ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE/<i>PLANNED ACTIONS</i>	MHJAC NEXT STEPS
<p>Priority 1 -Work with Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Commission (MPOETC), the Pennsylvania State Police and the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association (PCPA) to expand behavioral health components of training for all law enforcement officers in the Commonwealth.</p>	<p>MHJAC established a Specialized Police Response subcommittee to address these issues.</p> <p>Released funding opportunity for Specialized Behavioral Health Training for Law Enforcement and Justice Practitioners.</p>	<p>COE provided representation on this subcommittee along with consultation and other support as requested.</p> <p>In 2010, provided a one day pre-conference workshop for the annual forensic conference in Grantville entitled “Expanding Specialized Police Response and Collaboration with Behavioral Health Systems;” approximately 100 people attended.</p> <p>In 2012, provided a second pre-conference institute on Specialized Police Response. Approximately 150 people attended.</p> <p>Created a Specialized Police Response/Crisis Intervention Team survey and worked with PCCD and OMHSAS to distribute the survey to County Offices of Mental Health, Law Enforcement, and CJAB’s around the state. Synthesized and analyzed the results of the SPR/CIT Survey in a summary report.</p>	<p>Continue to support the Statewide CIT Meeting for continuing education of trained personnel and expansion of specialized behavioral health training.</p>

Targeted Area: Training and Technical Assistance

GOALS	MHJAC ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE	COE ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE/ <i>PLANNED ACTIONS</i>	MHJAC NEXT STEPS
<p>Priority 2 -Increase the use of PCCD funding for cross systems trainings of criminal justice and mental health practitioners working across the Sequential Intercept model to promote communication, collaboration, and understanding of respective responsibilities.</p>	<p>Mental Health Procedures Act Trainings.</p> <p>Statewide Forensic Peer Support Project Trainings.</p>	<p>Through the CoE, approximately 43 Cross Systems Mapping Workshops have been conducted.</p> <p><i>Develop video for training on Sequential Intercept Model, and post on website.</i></p>	
<p>Priority 3 - Clarify statewide policy on reinstatement of federal benefits when persons enrolled in Medicaid are incarcerated</p>	<p>DPW partners with DOC to ensure timely re-instatement of federal benefits. Based on DPW policy, benefits are turned off when a person becomes an inmate.</p> <p>DPW system does not have the capacity/capability to suspend benefits.</p>		

Targeted Area: Training and Technical Assistance

GOALS	MHJAC ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE	COE ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE/<i>PLANNED ACTIONS</i>	MHJAC NEXT STEPS
<p>Priority 4 - Improve the capacity of CJABs to plan and implement effective initiatives by requiring representation from behavioral health and housing providers.</p>	<p>PCCD made available up to \$2 million in JAG funding to support priority areas identified by CJABS that included the behavioral health treatment needs of offenders.</p> <p>CJABs currently invite a MH/ID representative to their meetings.</p> <p>MHJAC created Housing Subcommittee to provide guidance to PCCD/OMHSAS on housing issues.</p> <p>In conjunction with the Housing Alliance of PA, hosted a one day forensic housing symposium in 2011-2014</p> <p>In conjunction with the Housing Alliance of PA, hosted the first Regional Housing Forum in October 2015 in Columbia County.</p> <p>In 2012 and 2015 funded Mental Health and Justice Housing Initiatives</p>	<p>Cross Systems Mapping Workshops include a wide range of stakeholders thereby supporting CJABs in their inclusion of behavioral health and housing providers in their planning.</p>	

Targeted Area: Training and Technical Assistance

GOALS	MHJAC ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE	COE ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE/<i>PLANNED ACTIONS</i>	MHJAC NEXT STEPS
<p>Priority 5 - Modify contracts with service providers to create incentives to prevent individuals from inappropriately entering criminal justice systems and to respond quickly to involved individuals</p>			
<p>Priority 6 - Ensure all planning and program development is sensitive to the rights of victims of crimes committed by individuals with mental illness.</p>	<p>PCCD staff work with county applicants as they submit grant proposals to ensure victim consent/participation is included in local projects.</p>	<p>Incorporate representatives on victim rights while conducting Cross-Systems Mappings.</p> <p>Incorporate information into the website.</p>	<p>Continue to encourage adequate victim representation on CJABs.</p> <p>Incorporate victim rights issues into grants funded by MHJAC initiatives.</p>
<p>Priority 7 - Assist counties in the coordination of different types of specialty courts to avoid competition for scarce resources and better match defendants to court type.</p>	<p>PCCD/DPW OMHSAS funded the planning/implementation of 10 Mental Health Courts.</p>	<p>COE serves as a resource to counties interested in establishing problem solving courts.</p> <p>COE Cross- Systems Mapping workshop includes a brief presentation on currently established problem solving courts throughout the Commonwealth.</p>	

Targeted Area: Training and Technical Assistance

GOALS	MHJAC ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE	COE ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE/<i>PLANNED ACTIONS</i>	MHJAC NEXT STEPS
<p>Priority 8 - Clarify regulations around information sharing between health and criminal justice entities to improve the consistency of communication</p>	<p>PCCD/DPW OMHSAS funded the statewide training on the Mental Health Procedures Act</p>	<p>CoE provides information sharing resources to all counties participating in cross systems mapping and through the website</p>	
<p>Priority 9 - Assist counties in projecting the effect of proposed interventions on individuals with mental illnesses involved in the criminal justice system.</p>	<p>Established CoE to assist counties in this area.</p>	<p>Action Planning portion of the Cross-Systems Mapping workshop serves as a platform for consultation on possible effects of proposed interventions.</p> <p><i>Expand assistance as part of collecting limited workshop follow-up information.</i></p>	<p>Share data and outcomes from the grants being funded and the CoE; Publicize this information to support other counties.</p> <p>Incorporate Network of Care information into CoE website and activities.</p>
<p>Priority 10 -Develop a curriculum for providing criminal justice training to mental health practitioners</p>	<p>PCCD/DPW OMHSAS funded the statewide Mental Health Procedures Act training.</p>	<p>Additional training materials will be adapted for training in risk assessment, risk reduction, and interventions in justice-related populations.</p>	

Targeted Area: Training and Technical Assistance

GOALS	MHJAC ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE	COE ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE/ <i>PLANNED ACTIONS</i>	MHJAC NEXT STEPS
<p>Priority 11 - Institutionalize the timeline for release the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) has developed with DOC and PBPP and make it applicable to all state parolees.</p>	<p>In 2007, Governors’ Policy Office, DOC, OMHSAS and Parole began working on policy changes to assist in re-entry planning. As a result of the strategic plan and enhanced communications, policies in DOC changed to start planning 12 months before maximum sentence or before minimum sentence for planning for parole for individuals followed by Psychiatric review team and for individuals with substantial medical needs.</p> <p>The DPW Office of Income Maintenance has provided DOC with a Liaison for all Compass related issues.</p> <p>DPW will continue to support annual trainings related to re-entry on how to use Compass.</p>		<p>Facilitate access to benefits for people leaving state prison and local jails.</p>

Targeted Area: Data and Technology

GOALS	MHJAC ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE	COE ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE/<i>PLANNED ACTIONS</i>	MHJAC NEXT STEPS
<p>Priority 1-Implement statewide uniform jail screening tool for mental illnesses.</p>		<p>CoE provides Brief Jail Mental Health Screen (BJMHS; developed by Policy Research Associates, Inc.) to all counties completing Cross-Systems Mapping workshops and on the website.</p>	
<p>Priority 2 - Improve information sharing between criminal justice and mental health staff by taking advantage of JNET and DPW data sets to create automated data link</p>		<p>Review data sets and consult on information sharing.</p>	
<p>Priority 3 - Help counties to develop uniform data collection elements and uniform definitions in order to track and evaluate the effectiveness of planned interventions.</p>	<p>PCCD is working toward deployment of data dashboards systems to give counties real or near real-time capacity for decision-making purposes.</p>	<p>COE data specialists provide technical assistance to requesting counties.</p>	

Targeted Area: Data and Technology

GOALS	MHJAC ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE	COE ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE/<i>PLANNED ACTIONS</i>	MHJAC NEXT STEPS
<p>Priority 4 - Act as a clearinghouse for information and resources related to criminal justice, mental health, and substance abuse</p>	<p>PCCD/OMHSAS contracted with Drexel/PITT to develop a Center of Excellence</p> <p>Some achievements to date:</p> <p>Advance the development of local, innovative jail diversion and re-entry programs</p> <p>Provide technical assistance to PCCD grantees</p> <p>Provide technical assistance and training to facilitate implementation of evidence-based practices and promising practices</p> <p>Systems Mapping workshops</p> <p>Develop a central repository for data and information on mental health/justice initiatives</p>	<p>Maintain an up-to-date comprehensive website with information on current Pennsylvania county statistics, local initiatives, veterans' resources, web resources, relevant publications, information on upcoming conferences and presentations, funding opportunities, and information on CoE Service Provision.</p> <p>Keep website current with information developed in edited book on the Sequential Intercept Model</p>	<p>Ensure that the COE website is expanded to include as many promising programs as possible by county.</p> <p>Develop a list serve with a monthly email to serve as a reminder, share new information/initiatives, and upcoming conferences.</p>

Targeted Area: Services, EBPs and Research-based Programs

GOALS	MHJAC ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE	COE ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE/ <i>PLANNED ACTIONS</i>	MHJAC NEXT STEPS
<p>Priority 1 - Improve access to evidence based practices associated with improved public safety and public health outcomes (e.g. access to appropriate psychopharmacologic medication; integrated dual disorder treatment; cognitive behavioral therapies addressing criminogenic features; assertive community treatment).</p>	<p>Established CoE to assist in this area.</p> <p>PCCD/DPW OMHSAS provide grant funds to implement evidence-based practices at the county level.</p> <p>PCCD/DPW OMHSAS released and funds awarded for forensic housing at the county level.</p>	<p>CoE serves as a resource to improve access to evidence-based practices associated with improved public safety and public health outcomes.</p> <p>Collaborated with OMHSAS and others in the annual Veterans Jail Diversion conferences that began in 2011.</p> <p>Provided presentation at annual forensic conference (Grantville) on evidence-based practice in risk reduction for justice-involved populations.</p>	

Targeted Area: Services, EBPs and Research-based Programs

GOALS	MHJAC ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE	COE ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE/<i>PLANNED ACTIONS</i>	MHJAC NEXT STEPS
<p>Priority 2 - Provide technical assistance in support of the start up, operation and sustainability of evidence-based and promising practices that target justice-involved individuals with MI/COD</p>	<p>Multiple training opportunities have been provided: Re-entry symposium, D& A Conference, Problem Solving Courts conference, Intercept 1 symposium, and Criminal Justice Advisory Board conference.</p>	<p>Collect county-level data regarding police agencies, problem-solving courts, correctional facilities, housing and behavioral health offices and probation/parole listing.</p> <p>Development of cross-systems mapping reports to requesting counties.</p> <p>Identification and documentation of exemplary practices.</p> <p>Site visits to assist in the application of best practices.</p> <p>Consultation to promote collaboration and partnership building.</p> <p>Providing data technical assistance through assisting locales with designing, implementing, monitoring and interpreting data.</p>	<p>Look at how much forensic peer support in each county and across the state during the CSM workshops; Disseminating information across the state.</p> <p>Develop a plan/format for best practices in sharing information across criminal justice/BH.</p>
<p>Priority 3 -Promote the proliferation of evidence-based and promising practices by educating practitioners and providers about the practical and economic benefits of their implementation.</p>	<p>Established CoE to promote proliferation of evidence-based practices.</p>	<p>CoE has organized and provided Cross-Systems Mapping Workshops in 26 counties.</p>	<p>Continue to maximize use of CJABs to promote promising programs/initiative in the state.</p>

Targeted Area: Services, EBPs and Research-based Programs

GOALS	MHJAC ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE	COE ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE/<i>PLANNED ACTIONS</i>	MHJAC NEXT STEPS
<p>Priority 4 - Increase services to individuals in county prisons.</p>	<p>PCCD/DPW OMHSAS funded statewide Forensic Peer Specialist initiative.</p>	<p>Increased community outreach with continuing education opportunities for CPS of incarcerated individuals.</p>	
<p>Priority 5 - Seek opportunities to incorporate peer mentors or certified peer specialists who have had forensic peer support training into diversion, in-reach and re-entry initiatives.</p>	<p>PCCD/DPW OMHSAS funded Pennsylvania Dept. of Corrections to train 100 individuals as Certified Peer Specialists while incarcerated (50 serving life sentences and 50 eligible for parole).</p> <p>PCCD/DPW OMHSAS funded statewide Forensic Peer Specialist initiative.</p>		

Targeted Area: Reentry

GOALS	MHJAC ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE	COE ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE/<i>PLANNED ACTIONS</i>	MHJAC NEXT STEPS
<p>Priority 1 -DPW, PBPP and DOC to develop appropriate community supervision and treatment plans for non-violent offenders leaving DOC as a result of the Recidivism Risk Reduction Initiative (RRRI)</p>	<p>DPW, the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole (PBPP), Department of Corrections (DOC), Department of Health (BDAP) and County Human Service Agencies partner for Enhanced Re-entry Planning at SCI Waymart, SCI Muncy and SCI Graterford.</p>		
<p>Priority 2 - Ensure all individuals leave state correctional institutions with legal forms of identification.</p>	<p>Department of Corrections has partnered with Department of Transportation to provide access to identification.</p>		