



# Berks County Forensic Services Overview

10/4/17

# 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

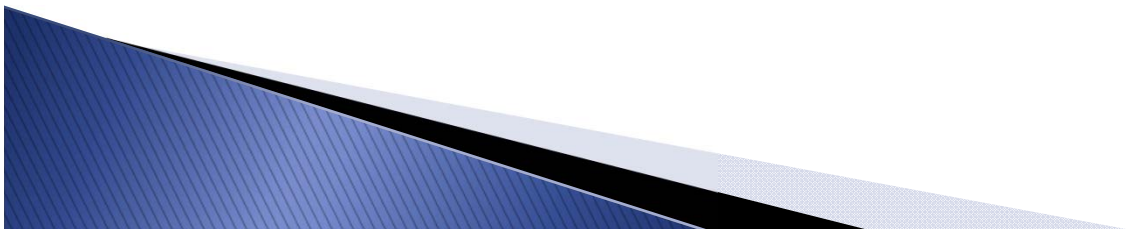
# CCAP Comprehensive Behavioral Health Task Force

- ▶ 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.



# CCAP Comprehensive Behavioral Health Task Force

- ▶ 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 17 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

# Crisis Services

- ▶ 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.

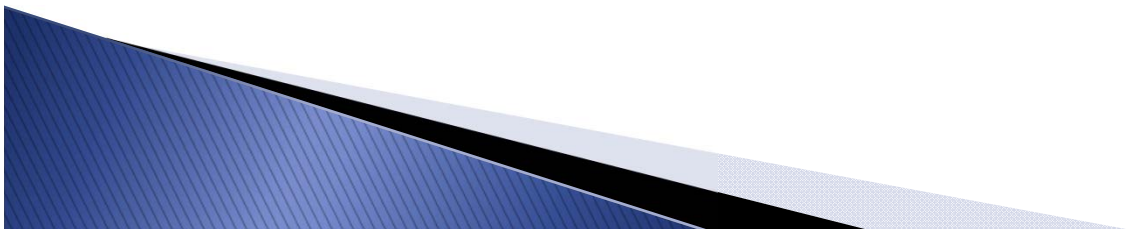
# Forensic Diversion Program

- ▶ 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.



# Forensic Diversion Program

## Program Statistics January 2012 to January 2017

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Total Number of Referrals to the Program:       | 606       |
| Unsecured Bail Diversions:                      | 101       |
| Number of Diversions using Treatment Resources: | 165       |
| Number of Follow up Contacts Provided:          | 3203      |
| Total Diversions for the 5 Year period:         | 276       |
| <br>  |           |
| Total Number Re-arrested:                       | 20 (7.5%) |
| Total Re-arrested post diversion program:       | 9         |
| Total Re-arrested during diversion program:     | 11        |

# Forensic Diversion Program

## 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 Diversion Program

## Forensic Transitional Housing Program

Total number accepted into this program to date – 48

- ▶ Individuals with dual diagnosis (MH & D&A) – 31
- ▶ Individuals with a Serious Mental Illness(SMI) – 25
- ▶ Individuals with a Felony Charge – 8
- ▶ Individuals with a Summary Charge – 42
- ▶ Individuals who have completed the program – 25
- ▶ Evictions from the Program – 10
- ▶ Elopements – 4
- ▶ Voluntarily Withdrew – 5
- ▶ Current number participating in the program - 4

# 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.
- ▶ Emphasis is placed on W.R.A.P. (Wellness Recovery Action Plan).
- ▶ 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

# Provider Coalition

## ▶ 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.



- ▶ Benefits of Stakeholder Involvement
- ▶ Policy and Procedure Changes
- ▶ Working with the Mental Health System
- ▶ Police Trainings
- ▶ Berks County Emergency Response Team