



Stepping Up Update

November 8, 2017

A. Secure Committed Team Leadership.

The Commissioners signed the Stepping-Up Resolution December 10th, 2015. Berks County was one of the first Counties in PA to address the initiative and among the first wave of Counties in the Nation. The community was also involved in a Cross Systems Mapping conducted in November of 2015 consisting of individuals from the justice system (DA, PD, APO offices), Berks County Jail System (BCJS), Berks Connections Pre-Trial Services (BC/PS), forensic Mental Health providers as well as Chief Psychiatrists from both hospital systems. Individuals who have been through the justice and mental health systems and government officials also participated. Our Berks County Stepping-Up Team is comprised of our Prison Warden, County Commissioner and our Forensic Case Management Diversion Unit Supervisor and members of our CJAB Advisory Board as needed. The team lead is our MH/DD Administrator.

B. Ensure Implementation of Timely Screening and Assessments.

We have begun by gathering statistics that our MH Diversion Specialist has collected regarding diversions and some recidivism numbers but in reaching out to our Prison Health Services Provider, we have found that they did not collect statistics and had to estimate the percentage of individuals in the BCJS that were in mental health treatment – approximately 20%. Individuals, both in the community and those being released from jail, are routinely referred to our primary Case Management provider Service Access and Management for intake and assessment and are in turn referred to outpatient providers for treatment as appropriate. To date and since 2012, we have diverted 276 individuals and our recidivism rate is 7%.

C. Obtain Baseline Data.

We are in the process of developing a data sharing technology plan utilizing the Open Lattice Platform which will allow us to review and analyze the top consumers for each Intercept and create baseline measures. We have reached out to police departments with the full support of our county Chiefs of Police Association, Emergency Medical Service providers, our Emergency Management Agency, as well as our District Attorney's Office and a vast array of other interested stakeholders to be a part of this structure. We have been working on an Integrated

Data Management System for many years prior and are using that structure as a foundation to enhance this initiative.

D. Complete a Comprehensive Process Analysis and Inventory of Services.

We accomplished this through the Cross Systems Mapping which occurred on two separate occasions referenced earlier. Both the Stepping-Up Initiative and the Data Driven Justice Initiatives have advanced our plan to recently form a Forensic Coalition. This group of providers, advocates and other interested stakeholders will provide us with a baseline of information regarding services. We can turn to these individuals for assistance and support as they were key participants in the development of our Sequential Intercept Map for the County.

E. Prioritize Policy, Practice and Funding Improvements.

A core group was established to identify, develop and implement policies as well as to establish timelines and to explore funding sources for recommendation to our Board of Commissioners. We were fortunate to be chosen as one of 14 national applicants and the only Pennsylvania County to participate in the Data-Driven Justice and Behavioral Health Initiative in September 2017. We are in the process of gathering data, identifying measures of success and reviewing the costs for instituting the Open Lattice system which is a platform developed to collect data for our top consumers of services across all stakeholder systems and data bases.

F. Identify Strategies to Track and Evaluate Progress.

Through the use of the Open Lattice Platform we will be able to identify those individuals that utilize the most services at each intercept and through review of the data, we will be able to identify what services would best serve these individuals to reduce their impact on the judicial and other stakeholder systems and improve their personal outcomes by getting them the Behavioral Health services that they need.