



STEPPING UP INITIATIVE

CY 2016

The Challenge: Stepping Up asks counties to develop an action plan that makes more efficient use of budgets, promotes access to treatment and support services, encourages research-based practices and supports the use of jails to advance public safety.

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BACKGROUND:

Acknowledging our local jail had become the largest mental health provider in the region, in October 2013, the leadership of Franklin County's justice and behavioral health systems wrote to the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center about the challenges facing the county regarding the large number of people with mental illnesses cycling in and out of jail. From that outreach effort launched the Franklin County Justice and Behavioral Health Systems Improvement Project. Through extensive data collection and analysis efforts drawing on multiple data systems maintained by the Franklin County Jail, Community Shelter Board and ADAMH, a set of strategic policy recommendations to improve outcomes for justice involved individuals with mental health illness was developed.

Drawing from the findings and recommendations of the CSG and capitalizing on the robust momentum and collaboration surrounding the issue, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution on May 26, 2015 supporting the Stepping Up Initiative which challenges communities across the country to address the disproportionate number of individuals incarcerated in our local jails.

The activities described below are a reflection of efforts that occurred throughout CY2016 to strategically reduce the number of justice involved individuals from a number of decision points. Efforts directly address the findings and recommendations of the Franklin County Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health Systems Improvement project.

Franklin County has made significant strides to improve the outcomes of the target population; however, much work is still to be done.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PATHWAYS TO WOMEN'S HEALTHY LIVING PROGRAM

In partnership with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, Columbus Division of Police and Fire, ADAMH, Southeast Inc., Franklin University and Mighty Crow Media, the Pathways to Women's Healthy Living Program was launched in the Franklin County Correctional Center II on March 1, 2016. Pathways targets female offenders with a confirmed mental health and/or co-occurring diagnosis and a significant history of criminal justice involvement. The goal of the program is to reduce the number of individuals with a mental health diagnosis in the jail by increasing their access to quality pre and post release services; and thereby reducing their likelihood of return to incarceration.

Since launching the program in March 2016:

- 43 female inmates have been accepted into the eight week Pathways Cognitive Behavioral Treatment (CBT) group. Three cohorts were offered during CY2016.
- 18 females successfully completed the program meeting all strict program requirements and nine received achievement certificates for completing a significant portion of the program offering.
- 31 Transition/Reentry plans were created prior to participant's release.
- 17 females received a full risk assessment utilizing the Ohio Risk Assessment System instrument.
- Expanded the number of public safety departments actively participating in the Pathways program through linkage of program participants with CIT certified officers both pre and post release.

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Partner public safety agencies include Columbus Division of Police and Fire, Franklin County Sheriff's Office Corrections and Patrol divisions and Grove City Police Department. To date, five females have been linked with a public safety officer certified in CIT.

- As of November 1, 2016, only two of the 43 (or 4%) female participants have recidivated (based on preliminary evaluation – detailed analysis of 2016 activities to be released in early 2017)
- Business associate agreements and MOUs were executed with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, ADAMH and Southeast to allow for "first of their kind" information sharing, continuity of care and treatment planning.
- Specialized dorm in FCCII for Pathways participants was authorized by the Franklin County Sheriff's Office.

REVISION OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN TO INCLUDE STEPPING UP

The Franklin County Criminal Justice and Community Corrections Planning Boards adopted the 2016 – 2020 Franklin County Comprehensive Strategic Justice Plan which adopts Reentry and Behavioral Health as two of the three priority areas for Board planning, implementation and evaluation. The two overarching primary goals include 1) Reducing the average daily Franklin County jail population by 30% by 2020 and 2) Reducing the length of stay disparity between detainees/inmates with and without mental health issues by 50% by 2020. A comprehensive dashboard to monitor and measure our efforts has been created and will be shared with all partners in early CY 2017.

INCREASED STAFFING DEDICATED TO WORKING WITH JUSTICE INVOLVED INDIVIDUALS

The Franklin County reentry staff was increased by two FTEs during 2016. Ms. Patrice Palmer was hired on full time in February 2016 to serve as a Reentry Social Services Specialist after serving as a consultant for 10 months in a similar role with OHS&JP. Patrice provides assessment and direct services to individuals with a mental health diagnosis incarcerated in the Franklin County Corrections Center. Ms. Caitlyn Condon began with the OHS&JP on July 11, 2016 in a newly created position. The Reentry Support Specialist is charged with community outreach and linkage, capacity building and aftercare services for JMHC participants.

EXPANDED CIT AND PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER TRAINING

OHS&JP is responsible for maintaining the countywide database tracking the number of public safety officers certified in Crisis Intervention Training (CIT). Baseline data was collected via a survey sent out in mid 2016 to all law enforcement jurisdictions in Franklin County. As of November 21, 2016, 644 law enforcement officers, 44 dispatchers and one EMS/firefighter have been certified in CIT. This equates to almost 16% of public safety in Franklin County. The overarching goal for all public safety, including FCSO Corrections is 50%. In late 2016, OHS&JP will be conducting a survey of public safety jurisdictions in Franklin County to determine if Mental Health First Aid is a viable training option for Probation, LE and EMS/Fire agencies not able to send personnel through the 40 hr CIT training.

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In addition to expanding our cadre of public safety officers trained in CIT during 2016, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office Corrections Division instituted the following required training for all Corrections personnel:

<u>Course Name:</u>	<u>Number Trained in 2016</u> <u>(as of 11/29/16)</u>
<i>Overview of PTSD for Corrections Officers</i>	298
<i>Co-Occurring Disorders – An Overview for Corrections Professionals</i>	286
<i>Suicide in Jails and Prisons Part 1: Common Myths and Reactions</i>	470
<i>Managing Inmates with Mental Health Needs</i>	281
<i>Overview of Mental Illness for Corrections Staff</i>	256

For 2016, 2,524 training hours received by Corrections personnel were dedicated to behavioral health.

MEDICAID POLICY REFORM PILOT

Franklin County was invited by TASC Inc. to serve as one of three counties participating in a pilot program that will be advanced to the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services and the Governor's Office for consideration. The pilot program will focus on Medicaid reforms supporting criminal justice reform in Ohio. Franklin County along with Ross and Marion Counties are scheduled to meet with the Governor's Office to propose the following five Medicaid reforms be implemented:

- a) Permit Medicaid administrative claiming for public safety agencies and their contractors.
- b) Allow public safety agencies be permitted to act as "presumptive eligibility" determiners.
- c) Allow pre-release planning to be funded by Medicaid.
- d) Grant individuals leaving correctional institutions access to long-term services and supports.
- e) Add supportive housing services as Medicaid-reimbursable services through an 1115 waiver.

ADAMH JAIL LIAISONS

The ADAMH Board embedded a three person Jail Liaison team from Southeast Inc. within the Franklin County Correctional Center to provide in-reach services and to connect people to community based services upon release from jail. As originally constructed, it was anticipated the program would annually serve approximately 600 individuals screening as medium or high risk on the Brief Mental Health Screen. In reality; however, an average of 250 per month are being referred for assessment and in-reach services.

Despite this volume, Southeast Inc. has completed 220 Level of Care assessments as of October 31, 2016. Efforts to scale the program to size through leveraging of additional funding is underway for CY 2017.

MUNICIPAL COURT PRETRIAL ARRAIGNMENT

The Franklin County Municipal Court, with support from the state of Ohio's Probation Improvement and Incentive Grant program established a pretrial services program which includes both pre-trial assessment and supervision. The goals of the program include a) reducing the number of individuals who spend more

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than three days in jail by 20%, b) reducing the average length of stay for the SMI population from 32 to 26 days and c) reducing the Bail Failure Rates by 15%.

Since launching of the program on January 11, 2016:

- 1,012 pre-trial interviews have been conducted (as of Sept. 30, 2016).
- 63% (or 1,681 of 2,681) of individuals arraigned through Municipal Court were released within three days.
- Average length of stay for defendants self reporting as SMI and receiving pre-trial services was **two days as compared to 11 days** for those individuals self reporting as SMI and not receiving pre-trial services.

JFS NAVIGATORS IN PROBATION

In early March 2016, Franklin County Job and Families Services positioned two JFS navigators within the Franklin County Municipal and Common Pleas Court's Probation Departments to assist individuals on probation with registering for health care coverage, including Medicaid and other public benefits. As of November 8, 2016, 1072 probationers from both Courts have met with a JFS navigator for linkage to healthcare and other public benefits.

STEPPING UP CONFERENCE

Franklin County was one of fifty counties nationwide to send a team consisting of Commissioner Marilyn Brown, Policy Director Michael Daniels, Deputy Chief Geoff Stobart, County Administrator Ken Wilson and Kythryn Carr Herd, VP of Clinical Services for ADAMH to the annual Stepping Up Conference held in Washington DC in April 2016. The team was able to share the various initiatives being implemented in Franklin County in support of the national Stepping Up challenge.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SCREENING & OBJECTIVE CLASSIFICATION IMPLEMENTED BY FCSO

In alignment with correctional best practices for addressing specialized populations, including those with behavioral health disorders, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office now conducts the Brief Mental Health Screen at booking to better identify those with mental illnesses and in need of follow up assessment and treatment services. In addition to the use of the mental health screening tool, FCSO Corrections transitioned in CY 2016 to the use of an objective classification system which identifies levels of risk using valid and reliable information. Based on findings from the risk assessment, appropriate housing and program assignments are able to be made as it relates to the inmate's potential risk to staff, other inmates and him or herself.

OHIO BENEFIT BANK™

On December 9, 2016, OHS&JP reentry staff will receive training to become an Ohio Benefit Bank site making it easier to connect our justice involved clients with programs and resources

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