

## Delaware County

Overview of where we are currently with Stepping Up: December 2016

Progress since May 2016:

1. Maryhaven created a new position, Rapid Engagement Specialist, for immediate access to services. The goal is to improve access to care for both Substance Abuse and Mental Health clients by engaging the patient at time of need.
2. Adopted a system-wide definition of mental illness and substance abuse to consistently identify the population that is the focus of the initiative's efforts.
3. Common Pleas Court Pretrial Services administers mental health screening and risk assessments to provide more informed bail/bond recommendations to arraignment judges.
4. Implemented the Grace Resource Navigation Program which utilizes trained volunteers or "Navigators" to provide jail in-reach support services and connect people to community based services upon release.
  - a. Jail In-Reach: Navigators provide pre-release needs assessment & linkage to community resources inside the jail
  - b. Community Outreach: Navigators housed at Andrews House provide post-release reentry support
5. Job and Family Services (JFS) benefits specialists go inside the jail to assist inmates, approximately 30 days pre-release, to begin the process of applying/reapplying for benefits, supports, and expanded Medicaid.
6. The Jail established a protocol for notifying JFS as soon as incarceration occurs to initiate the suspension (vs. termination) of Medicaid benefits for Delaware County recipients.
7. Del-Mor Dwellings opened two new permanent supportive 24/7 staffed housing units for persons living with severe persistent mental illness (SPMI).
8. Established Community of Grace, which is an ecumenical and collaborative, faith-based gathering of churches, community agencies and criminal justice representatives, and working together to form Reentry programs supporting our local Restored Citizens to transition home. Three identified priority areas include;
  - a. Grace – efforts to engage churches on Restorative Justice issues
  - b. Reentry Business Alliance – working with local business to find dedicated and loyal employees to support the Reentry Mission
  - c. Grace Resource Navigation Program – volunteers assist Restored Citizens, pre-release and post-release, navigating the challenges associated with reentry
9. The Jacob Edward Walls Foundation (Jacobs Way) solidified funding for a sober living house in Delaware County, at 15 North Franklin Street (building next to HelpLine). Jacobs Way is collaboratively working with the Reentry Coalition and Community of Grace to establish a "Unity Center" inside the building to provide information, a range of direct services, and convenient access to other community resources in a welcoming, supportive setting.