

# Bucks County Magisterial District Judge Mobile Engagement Pilot

Bucks County Housing and Human Services

Lenape Valley Foundation Crisis Services

Bucks County Court Administration

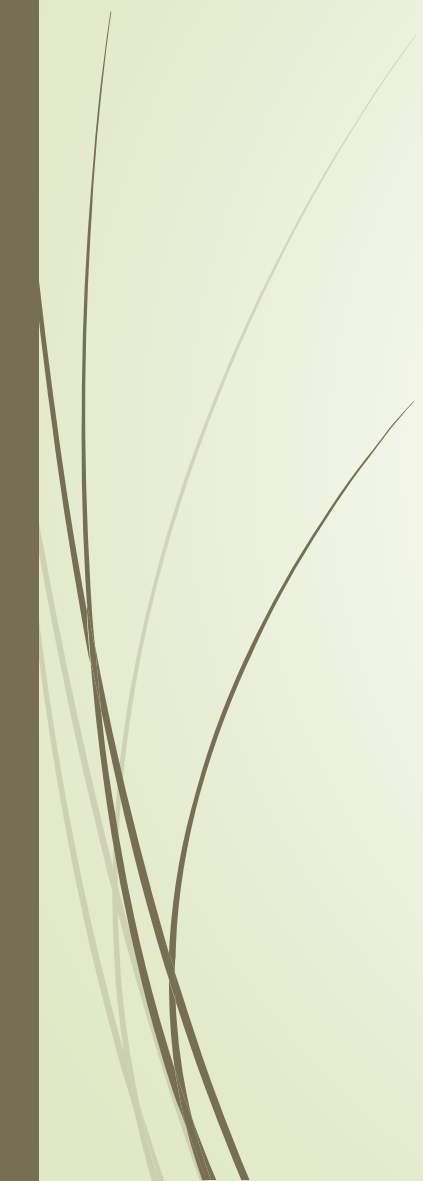
Bucks County Department of Mental Health/Developmental Programs

Bucks County Drug and Alcohol Commission

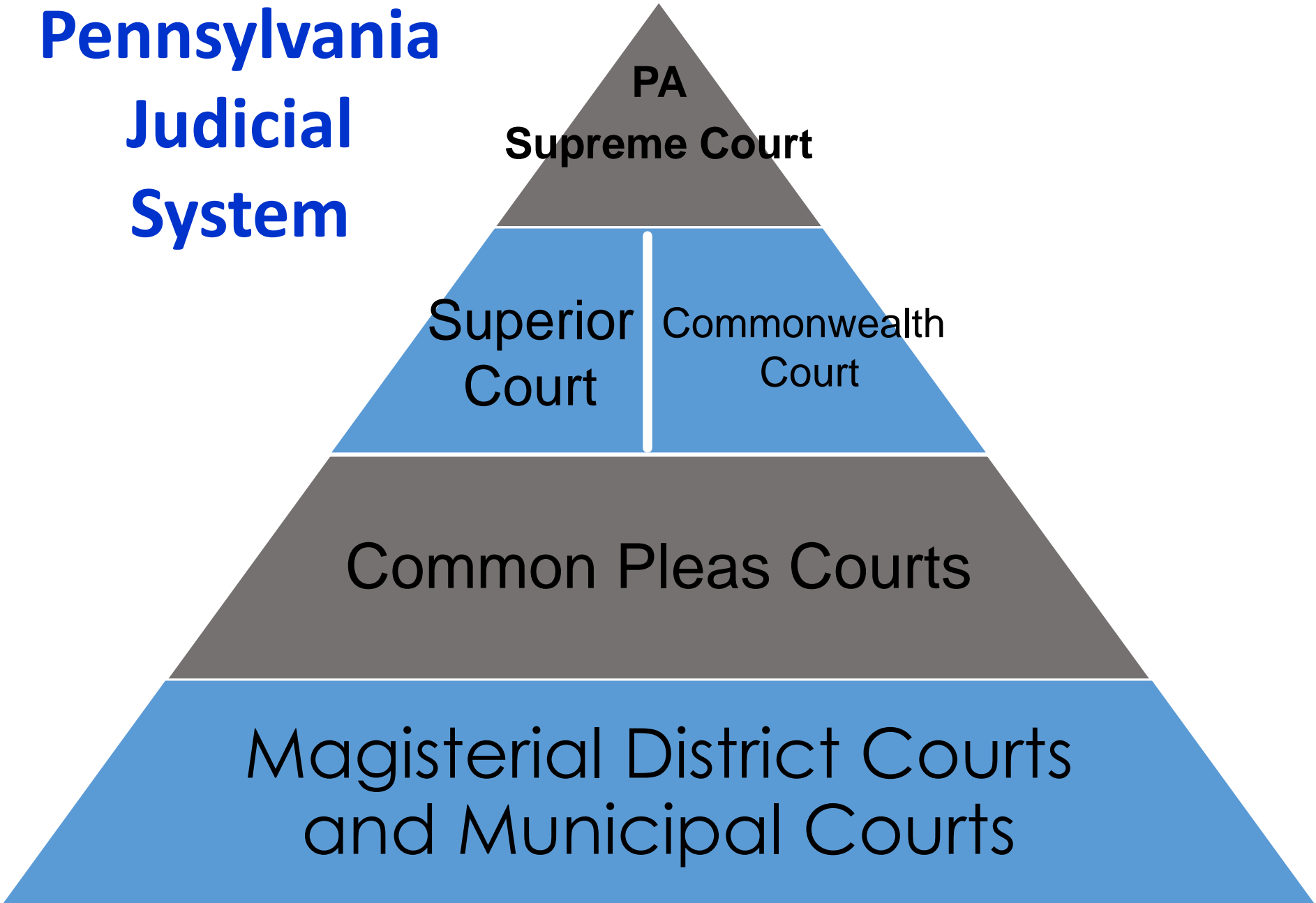
Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency



# MEETING OBJECTIVES

- Background
  - Collaboration with criminal justice system and behavioral health system
  - Implementation of program
  - Outcomes
- 

# Pennsylvania Judicial System



# BACKGROUND

- Number of individuals with mental illness, substance abuse, and/or co-occurring disorders continues to rise in criminal justice system
- All levels of criminal justice system seeing this rise

	General Public	State Prisons	Jails	Probation & Parole
Serious Mental Illness	5.4%	16%	17%	7-9%
Substance Use Disorders (Alcohol & Drugs) – Abuse and/or Dependence	16%	53%	68%	35-40%
Drug Abuse Only	1.4%	17%	18%	N/A
Drug Dependence Only	0.6%	36%	36%	N/A
Co-Occurring Substance Use Disorder when Serious Mental Illness is Diagnosed	25%	59%	72%	49%



# Early Intervention as a Focus

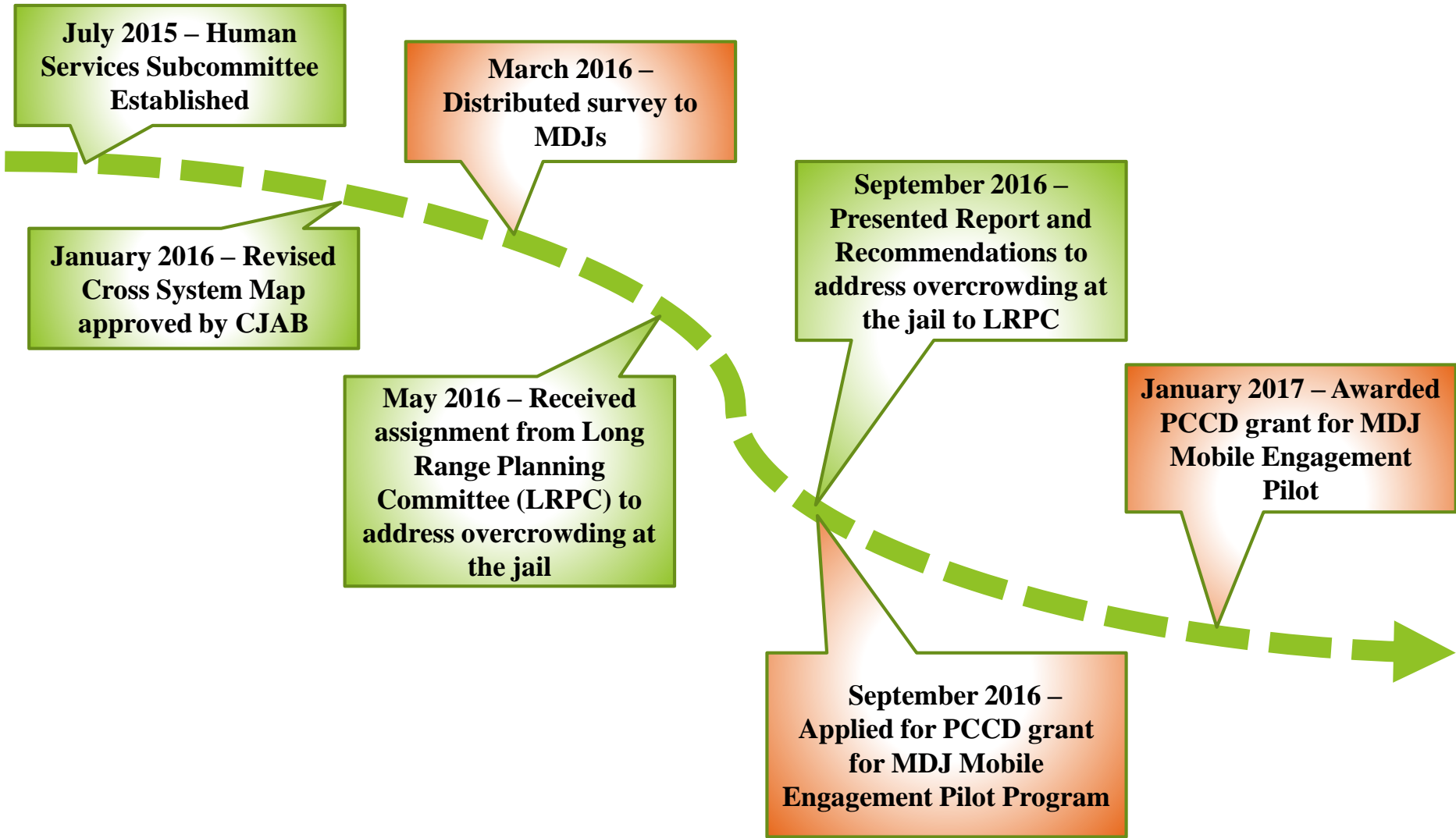
- “Front-door” of criminal justice system is a critical juncture
- “Intercept 2 may hold the most unexplored potential” for diversion<sup>1</sup>
- Intervention and investment
  - financially and strategically
  - downstream savings
  - better outcomes for individuals with mental health, substance use disorders and/or co-occurring disorders.

<sup>1</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Municipal Courts: An Effective Tool for Diverting People with Mental and Substance Use Disorders from the Criminal Justice System. HHS Publication No. (SMA)-15-4929. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2015.



# Establishing the Need





# Information Gathering

- MDJs recognizing the need for resources
  - Training
- Human Service Subcommittee identified Intercept 2 gaps as priority for action plan
- Frontline view
- Collaboration with Court Administration and MDJs to define and develop the needed resource
- Site visits to District Courts









# Developing the Program



# Proposed Program

- ▶ Mobile Crisis to MDJ Mobile Engagement Program
  - ▶ Enhance Lenape Valley Foundation's existing mobile crisis team
  - ▶ Increase their service capacity
  - ▶ Take referrals from Magisterial District Judges
  - ▶ Dedicated team for MDJs
    - ▶ Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
  - ▶ Length of stay
  - ▶ Continued contact with MDJs and treating provider
  - ▶ Specialized Referral Form

# Goals of the Pilot

- Increased collaboration between Magisterial District Judges and Behavioral Health System
- Increased connections to community based treatment resources
- Increase in diversion options
- Decrease in repeat appearances in front of MDJ
- Decrease in re-incarceration incidents
- Decrease in jail admission rates

Addressing Behavioral Health needs can ↓ recidivism  
and ↓ expenditures in Criminal Justice system while ↑  
public health and safety outcomes



Planning and Implementation  
Court

# Program Planning

- Weekly meetings
- Key players
  - Bucks County Human Services
  - Bucks Mental Health and Development Disability
  - Bucks County Drug & Alcohol Commission
  - Bucks County Court Administration
  - Crisis Provide Lenape Valley Foundation



# Information Sessions for all MDJs

- Blue Jeans Video Conference
- MH/DA training
- Providing a feedback loop
- Referral process enhancements







# Information Sessions for all MDJs

- ▶ All Bucks County MDJs participated in sessions (21 judges total)
- ▶ Meeting Objectives
  - ▶ Review Program Background
  - ▶ Goals of the Pilot Program
  - ▶ Identify Non-Urgent behaviors vs. “Urgent” (Emergent) behaviors
  - ▶ Review the difference between using “Site Based Crisis” and “Mobile Engagement”
  - ▶ Define 302 Process and Criteria
  - ▶ Mental Health/Drug and Alcohol training
  - ▶ Review application of the program by district courts
  - ▶ Identify the referral process



# Authority for Magisterial District Court

## SUMMARY NON-TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS

(Minor Offenses typically filed on a citation.)

- ▶ Adjudication Alternative Program
  - ▶ Exceptions Title 75 (Traffic) and 34 (Game)
  - ▶ Program must be in the best interest of the community and the offender.
  - ▶ MDJ must receive periodic reports and written notice of completion.
  - ▶ Defendant may refuse participation or fail to complete.
  - ▶ Program in lieu of fine and disposition.

## COURT CRIMINAL

(Misdemeanor/Felony Complaints typically filed by a police officer.)

- ▶ Bail
  - ▶ Purpose: to ensure defendant's appearance at subsequent proceedings.
  - ▶ The MDJ may impose additional conditions to ensure appearance and address specific situations such as "require that the defendant undergo counseling and/or treatment when the defendant has a history of mental illness or drug or alcohol addiction."
  - ▶ Failure to comply may result in bail revocation.



# Standard Bail Conditions

## Defendant is responsible for compliance

### Incarceration

#### Inability to Post Bail

Within 24 hours following release from jail, the defendant is required to make contact with Lenape Valley Mobile Crisis (215-758-9765) and comply with all recommendations made by the crisis team. Lenape Valley Foundation will report compliance to the court. Non-compliance, may result in bail revocation.

### Release

#### Bail posted/unsecured bail

Within 24 hours following release from jail, the defendant is required to make contact with Lenape Valley Mobile Crisis (215-758-9765) and comply with all recommendations made by the crisis team. Lenape Valley Foundation will report compliance to the court. Non-compliance, may result in bail revocation.



# Court Process

## **Urgent/Emergent Behaviors**

- If the defendant meets the criteria for an Involuntary commitment, the police officer should complete a 302 petition.
- Other Urgent/Emergent behaviors, the defendant should be transported to Site Based Crisis Center recognizing this is voluntary.

## **Non-Urgent behaviors**

- MDJ refers to mobile crisis.
- Mobile crisis will respond within 72 hours of referral.

# Court Process

## *Summary*

- MDJ offers alternative option to the defendant.
- MDJ explains program and expectations (See Information Sheet)
- Defendant accepts and signs “Release of Information”
- Court completes the “Referral Form”
- Court emails or faxes forms to Mobile Crisis (Referral, Release of Information and citation).
- Mobile engages with the defendant for up to 90 days.
- Upon successful completion the citation is dismissed.
- Non-compliance-court proceeds with charges.

## *Court Criminal*

- MDJ sets bail with condition to engage with mobile crisis. (See “Standard Bail Conditions”)
- MDJ explains program and expectations (See Information Sheet)
- Defendant signs “Release of Information”
- Court Completes the “Referral Form”
- Court emails or faxes forms to Mobile Crisis (Referral, Release of Information and Criminal Complaint).
- Mobile engages with the defendant for up to 90 days.
- Non-compliance-bail may be revoked

# Definition of Compliance

## Program Compliance

- Contact mobile crisis team w/in 24 hours of release schedule a meeting
- Communicate with team to facilitate treatment recommendation
- Engage in recommended treatment
- Communicate status/progress with the mobile crisis team
- Appear/communicate as required for all meetings, hearings, status updates

## Program Non-compliance

- **Summary violations**
  - Continue with summary proceedings
- **Court Criminal**
  - Prior to Preliminary Hearing - The MDJ may schedule a bail revocation hearing
  - After the Preliminary Hearing - Court of Common Pleas action required



# Planning and Implementation Programming



# MDJ Mobile Engagement Pilot Program

- Mobile coordinator
- 2 mobile crisis workers
- 9-5pm Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
- Refer anytime
- 72hr response to referral



# Eligibility

- Bucks County Resident
- Criminal behavior in question seems to be related to an untreated behavioral health disorder
- Willingness to sign releases of information in order for the mobile crisis engagement team to communicate with MDJ on progress.
- Willingness to sign consent for assessment/treatment upon engaging with mobile team.





## PCCD MDJ Mobile Crisis Referral

Phone: 215-785-9765

Fax: 267-893-5345

Email: [mobile.crisis@lenapevf.org](mailto:mobile.crisis@lenapevf.org)

Court Contact Date: [ ] Time: [ ] Docket# [ ]

Referral Date: [ ] Time: [ ]

Referral Completed by [ ] Phone # ( ) [ ]-[ ]

MDJ: [ ] click to pick

Client Name: [ ] SS# [ ]-[ ]-[ ]

Date of Birth [ ]/[ ]/[ ] Age [ ]

Address: [ ] Apt#: [ ]

Living Situation:  Alone  Family  Friend/s  Recovery House Other: [ ]

Best Phone # ( ) [ ]-[ ]

Secondary Phone # ( ) [ ]-[ ]

### Marital Status:

Single  Married  Separated  Divorced  Widowed Other: [ ]

Probation

Parole

Officer Name: [ ]

Officer Name: [ ]

Phone # ( ) [ ]-[ ]

Phone # ( ) [ ]-[ ]

### Behavioral Health and/or Drug & Alcohol

Drug use

Suicidal

Alcohol use

Homicidal

Behavioral Health needs

History of Violence

Unable to care for self

Self-Mutilating

Presenting Challenges/Additional information: [ ]

LENAPE VALLEY FOUNDATION  
500 N. WEST STREET, DOYLESTOWN, PA 18901  
AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF INFORMATION

RE: \_\_\_\_\_  
Client's Name                      DOB                      Social Security #

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby authorize Lenape Valley Foundation  
Name                      SELF                      Relationship to client

(LVF) to: release to  \_\_\_\_\_  
obtain from:  Bucks County Court system  
(Name of Party Receiving Form, Address and Phone Number)

the information specified below.

\*Information disclosed will be limited to:  
 Description, Verification of Disability                       Summary of Medical Care                       Hospital Summaries  
 Summary of Outpatient Care                       Psychological Testing Report                       Laboratory

Other treatment recommendation and progress with treatment  
(Please specify)

Check/enter reason for release:

Continuity/Integration of care with other providers

Obtaining benefits (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Other treatment recommendation and progress with treatment

This Authorization begins on \_\_\_\_\_ and expires on: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Not to exceed 1 year)

I understand that I have the right to revoke this Authorization at any time. I may not revoke it to the extent that LVF has already relied upon it, or if this Authorization was signed as a condition of obtaining insurance coverage. In order to revoke this Authorization, I understand that I must revoke it in writing to LVF. I may do so by submitting LVF's Revocation of Authorization Form to LVF's Privacy Officer.

I understand that I have no obligation to authorize the release of information. I understand that I have the right to inspect any information LVF is to release in accordance with LVF policy. I understand that even if I authorize the release of information, LVF will not release information if LVF considers it not to be in my best interest to do so. I understand that LVF may not require that I sign this Authorization in order to obtain treatment from LVF.

I understand that information released under this Authorization could potentially be re-disclosed by the person receiving the information and may no longer be subject to the privacy protections provided to me by law.

This form has been explained to me and I understand its content.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of client, if 14 years or older or client's legal representative                      DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of custodial parent or legal representative of client under 14 yrs. of age                      DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Witness                      DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Second Witness (Required for verbal consent or if client unable to sign name)                      DATE

\*(A separate, specific Authorization is required for the release of HIV-related information and/or drug and alcohol related information and must be attached to this Authorization)

This information has been disclosed to you from records whose confidentiality is protected by State and Federal Law. These Laws limit your right to make any further disclosure of this information without prior written consent of the person to whom it pertains.

If you are the legal representative of the person listed above,  
please check the basis for your authority.

Power of Attorney (attach copy)  
 Guardianship Order (attach copy)  
 Parent of Minor  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

For Office Use Only  
Client ID Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Copy Given to Client by \_\_\_\_\_

# Role of the Mobile Engagement Team

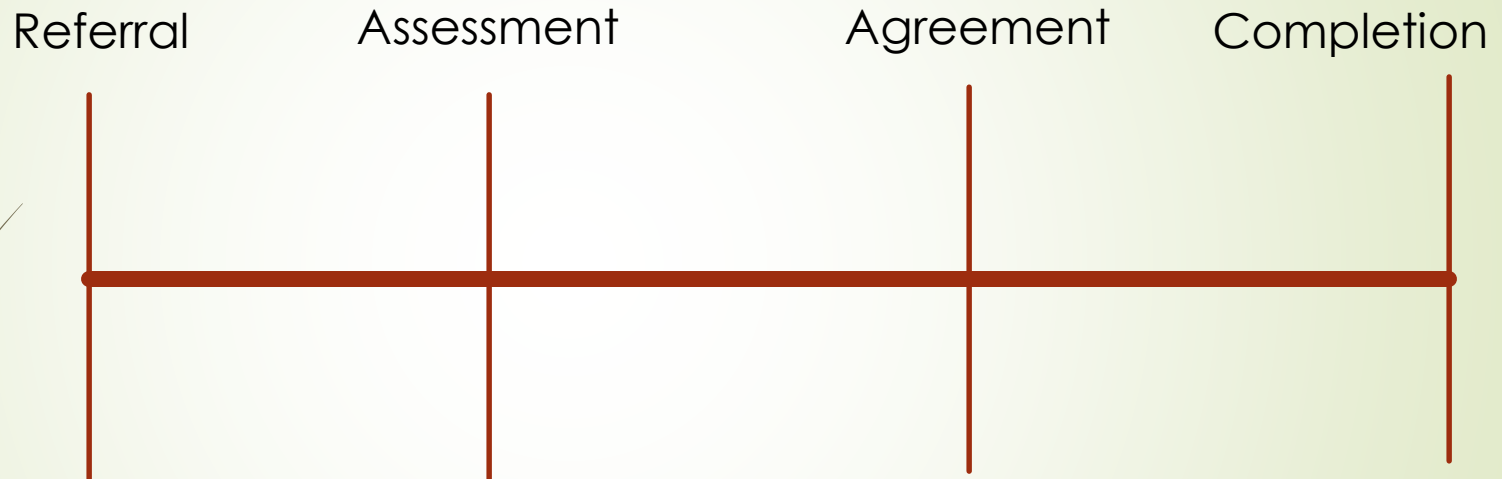
- Assessment
- Crisis planning
- Referral & connection to recommended treatment & resources.
- Follow up with the District Court ( very important to capture release of information)
- 30-90 days
- Phone/ face to face





Planning and Implementation  
Outcomes

# Flow of Pilot



## Time frames:

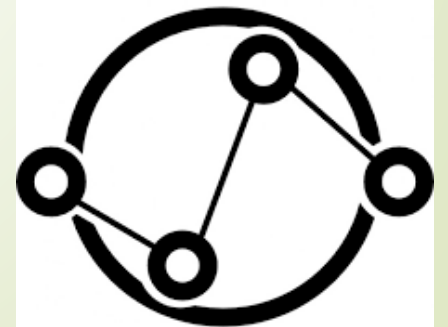
Referral to Assessment: first contact made with 72 hours of referral

Assessment to Agreement: varies depends on recommendation

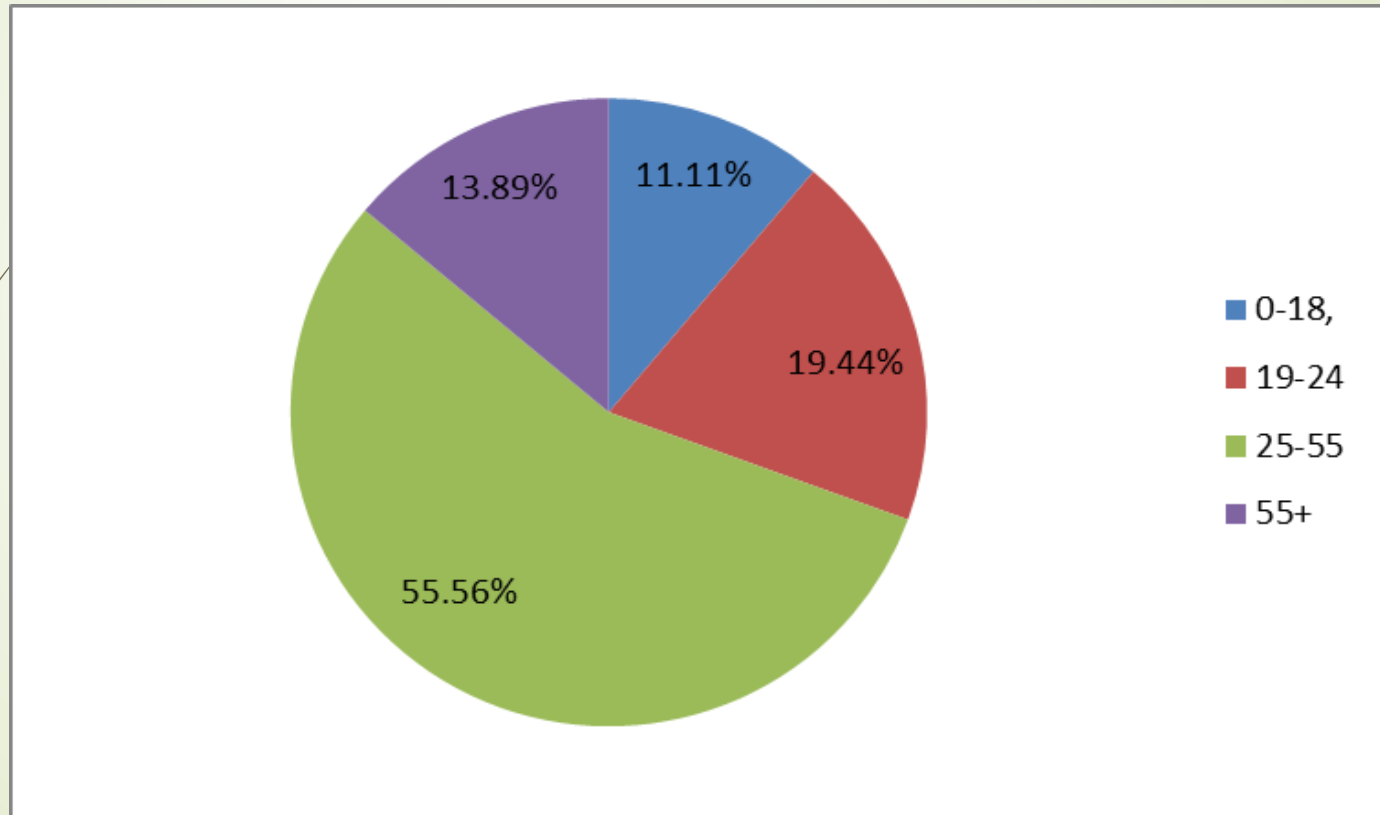
Agreement to Completion: up to 90 days

# Data Collection

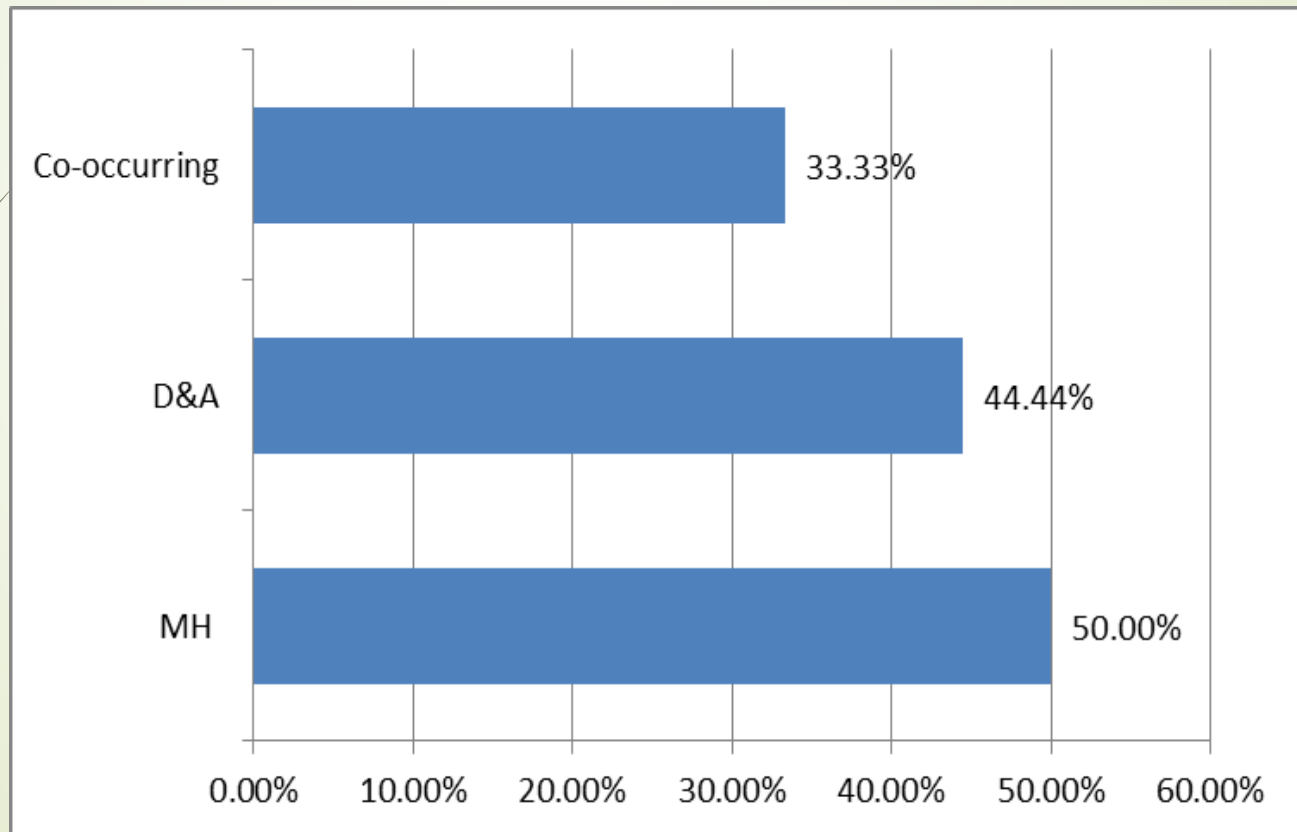
- What constitutes a diversion
- Past and current police contact
- Number of past/current incarcerations
- Connection to community based services
- Mental Health vs. D&A vs. Co-Occurring
- Disposition



# 36 Clients

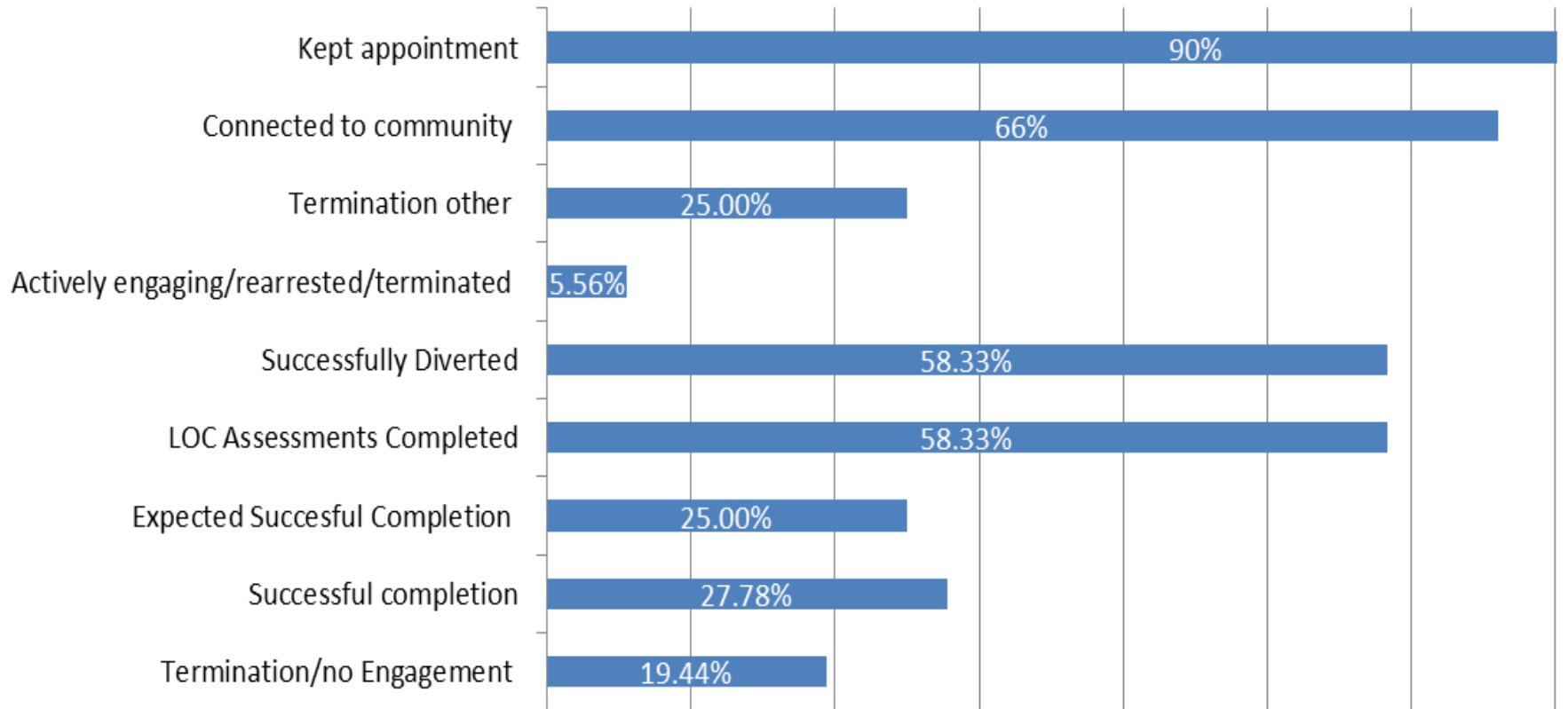


# Behavioral Health Needs





# Targeted Outcomes



# Predominate Activities

- 766 phone calls crossed all clients
- Average Number of follow up calls per client 21
- 231 miles per month total
- 51.43 miles per client overall.





# Program Outcomes

- Data through December
  - 10% recidivism rate
  - Almost 100% decrease in repeat appearances in front of MDJ
  - Almost 60% increase in diversion options and connections to community based treatment
  - About 20% increase in kept appointments



# Examples

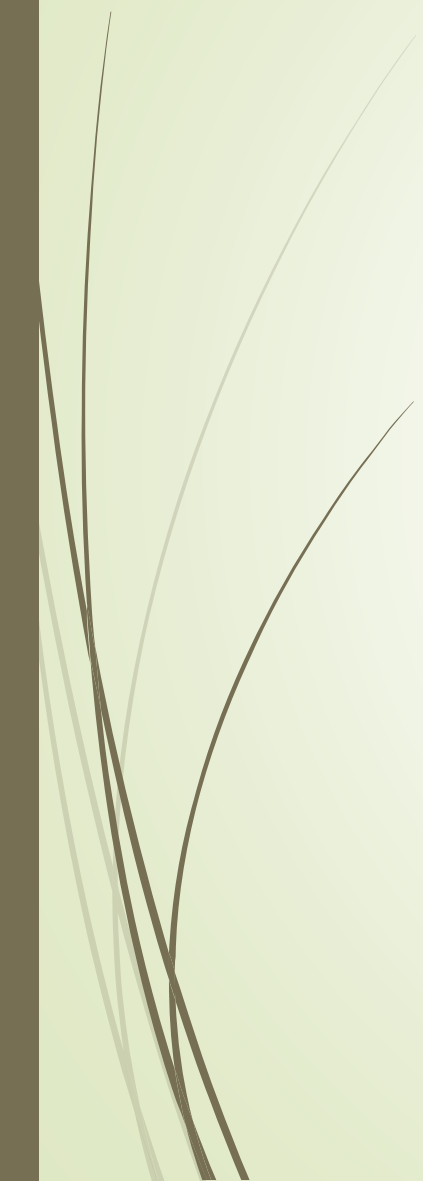


# Case Study #1

- Aggravated, Simple Assault, Terroristic Threats, Reckless Endangerment
- 302ed → Inpatient → Transferred to MDJ → Referred to MDJ Engagement
- Discharge Planning and Continuity of Care
- Partial Hospital Program
- Regular Face to Face visits to engage in treatment
- Rapport/ Trust in MDJ Team
- Collaboration
- Case Management

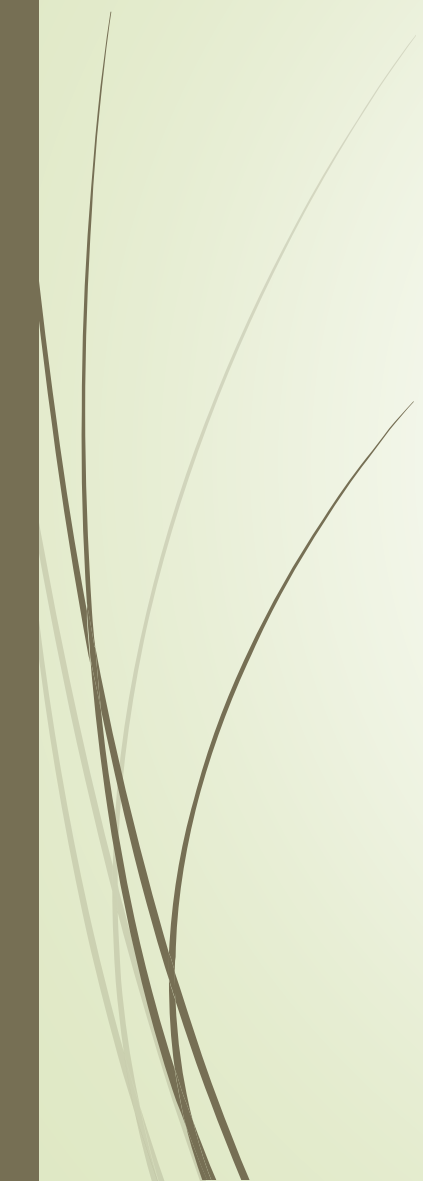


# Case Study #2

- ▶ Fleeing or Attempting to Allude Police, DUI, Careless & Reckless Driving, Failure to Yield to an Emergency Vehicle
  - ▶ Treatment Gap that Resulted in Relapse
  - ▶ Face to Face Visits for one week
  - ▶ Detox
  - ▶ Collaboration w/ Inpatient Provider
  - ▶ 30 day IOP/EMDR/Residential
  - ▶ Successfully Completed 90 Program/ Remains Engaged in Treatment.
- 



# Case Study #3

- Simple assault, harassment
  - Off meds and not compliant with outpatient treatment
  - Reconnected to outpatient treatment: TOP and meds
  - Weekly check ins
  - Treatment compliance and successful completion of program
- 



# Future Directions





# Obstacles

## Procedural

- The Defendant refuses to participate/refuses to sign release of information forms.
- The defendant is incarcerated and referred to Mobile Crisis
- Transportation from the District Court to the Site Based Crisis
- Time limits on summary case dispositions
- Reporting non-compliance after the MDJ loses jurisdiction

## Program

- The Defendant refuses to participate/refuses to sign release of information forms.
- Not engaging in program
- Nonadherence with conditions
- Transportation
- The defendant lives in another county
- Reporting to the courts when MDJ jurisdiction ends
- The mobile team is unable to make contact with the defendant.

# Any questions??



- Christina Finello, JD, PhD - Deputy Director of Housing and Human Services, Bucks County Human Services - 215-340-8801 (office) 267-372-1669 (cell)  
[cmfinello@buckscounty.org](mailto:cmfinello@buckscounty.org)
- Carolynn Perry, BA - Senior Administrative Officer/Minor Judiciary, Bucks County Court Administration – 215-348-6462 [cmperry@buckscounty.org](mailto:cmperry@buckscounty.org)
- Kris Thompson, LCSW - Director of Crisis Services, Lenape Valley Foundation - 215-458-4210  
[Kris.Thompson@Lenapevf.org](mailto:Kris.Thompson@Lenapevf.org)
- Ray McManamon, LPC, CAADC - Emergency and Court Services Coordinator/Forensic Liaison, Bucks County Department of MH/DP - 215-444-2872  
[rdmcmamanon@buckscounty.org](mailto:rdmcmamanon@buckscounty.org)



# Additional Team Members

- ▶ Wendy Flanigan, MA – Coordinator of Service Development and Quality Management, Bucks County Department of Mental Health/Developmental Programs - 215-444-2882 [wflanigan@buckscounty.org](mailto:wflanigan@buckscounty.org)
- ▶ Ana Rosado, LCSW, CAADC - Clinical Director, Bucks County Drug & Alcohol Commission, Inc.- 215-444-2712 [arosado@buckscounty.org](mailto:arosado@buckscounty.org)
- ▶ Nicole Richardson, MS - Coordinator of Mobile Services, Lenape Valley Foundation - 267-893-5130 (desk) 215-350-8282 (cell) [Nicole.Richardson@Lenapevf.org](mailto:Nicole.Richardson@Lenapevf.org)



# Appendix

Court forms

**REFER TO THE MOBILE ENGAGEMENT TEAM**

E-mail [mobile.crisis@lenapevf.org](mailto:mobile.crisis@lenapevf.org) or Fax 267-893-5345

Forward the referral form, release of information and the criminal complaint/citation  
Site based Crisis center 215-785-9765-Crisis workers available 24/7

When the defendant is exhibiting behaviors\*, either in person or concluded upon a review of the charges or series of charges, that would indicate the need for mental health/substance abuse assistance.

Summary Non-Traffic (Pre-disposition)	Court Criminal (Misdemeanor/Felony)	Other Contact (Payment of fines/Post disposition warrants/filing a complaint, etc.)
<b>42 Pa.C.S.A. § 1520 Adjudication Alternative Program</b>	<b>Pa.R.Crim.P. 527 Nonmonetary Conditions of Release on Bail</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
<p>The MDJ has the option of referring the defendant to the mobile engagement team to seek an assessment and recommendation for assistance. Under the Adjudication Alternative statute (cited above), the MDJ may give the defendant the option of participating in the recommended program/treatment in lieu of a fine. Additionally, successful completion would result in the citation being dismissed. (Some costs would still be required.)</p>	<p>As a Non-monetary Condition of Bail the MDJ is permitted to consider a requirement that the defendant undergo counseling and/or treatment, for example, when the defendant has a history of mental illness or drug or alcohol addiction.</p>	<p>Whenever the court has contact with a member of the public that appears to be in need of assistance for mental health or substance abuse, the court may make a referral to the mobile engagement team.</p>
<p>The statute requires that the MDJ be kept informed of the fulfillment of the program requirements and finally completion of the program. Eligibility for this program option would require the defendant to sign a release of information form to allow status updates be given to the MDJ.</p>	<p>This scenario would require that the MDJ be kept informed of compliance to the bail conditions. To obtain this information the defendant would need to sign release of information form. A violation of the bail condition would result in a bail hearing initiated either by notice via mail or bench warrant issue by the district court.</p>	<p>In this scenario, the court would make a referral but there is no requirement for further status updates to the court nor would the court have leverage to require the defendant to participate in a recommended program. The defendant would not be asked to release information to the court.</p>
<b>MOBILE TEAM RESPONSE PROCEDURE</b>	<b>MOBILE TEAM RESPONSE PROCEDURE</b>	<b>MOBILE TEAM RESPONSE PROCEDURE</b>
<p>Once the referral is made, the mobile engagement team will make contact with the defendant within 72 hours. The mobile engagement team would assess the defendant's needs and make a recommendation for assistance.</p>	<p>Once the referral is made, the mobile engagement team will make contact with the defendant within 72 hours. The mobile engagement team would assess the defendant's needs and make a recommendation for assistance.</p>	<p>Once the referral is made, the mobile engagement team will make contact with the defendant within 72 hours. The mobile team would work with the defendant to provide appropriate assistance.</p>

Lenape Valley Foundation Crisis is available for referrals 24 hours a day 7 days a week. The team responsible for following up with court referrals will be working Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9a-5p. The response time for all referrals would be 72 hours. The Mobile team would reach out to the individual multiple times until contact is made. The team would make an assessment and respond to the MDJ with a recommendation. Anytime an individual is displaying dangerous behavior in the court and is willing to seek crisis, the police should transport the individual to the nearest crisis center. **In this scenario, the court should still make a referral to the mobile team.** If the individual is unwilling to seek crisis and the situation meets the criteria for a 302 petition, the police officer should initiate this action. (In the absence of a police officer, the mobile team may file the petition.)

\*Examples of "red flag" behaviors that indicates a referral should be made may include but are not limited to the following: Slurring speech, sedated, hyper, talking incessantly and can't be interrupted, delusional, extreme and/or uncontrollable agitation, concentration difficulties, auditory or visual hallucinations, expressing thoughts of harm to self or others.



Defendant appears at the district court  
(Pre-disposition Summary Non-Traffic/Court Criminal Matter/Any Other Action)

If the behavior is questionable, call the Site based Crisis center to speak to a counselor-215-785-9765

Defendant is Exhibiting “URGENT” (EMERGENT) behaviors

- Thoughts of suicide
- Thoughts of homicide
- Combative and uncooperative
- Psychotic-Unable to care for self because of disconnection from reality

Transport to Site Based Crisis Center by Police

**AND**

Complete Mobile Engagement Referral Packet including having the defendant sign the release of information form. Scan and email referral form, release of information and the criminal complaint/citation to [mobile.crisis@lenapevf.org](mailto:mobile.crisis@lenapevf.org) **or** fax to 267-893-5345.

*(If the defendant meets the criteria for an Involuntary Mental Health Commitment, a 302 petition should be completed by the involved police officer.)*

Defendant is exhibiting NON-URGENT behaviors or a series of actions/charges indicating the need for mental health/substance abuse assistance

- Hyper
- Talking incessantly and can't be interrupted
- History of substance abuse
- Delusional
- Concentration Difficulties
- Auditory and/or visual hallucinations
- Expressing feelings of hopelessness and helplessness

Complete Mobile Engagement Referral Packet including having the defendant sign the release of information form. Scan and email referral form, release of information and the criminal complaint/citation to [mobile.crisis@lenapevf.org](mailto:mobile.crisis@lenapevf.org) **or** fax to 267-893-5345.

The Mobile Engagement Team will respond to the referral within 72 hours by reaching out to the defendant.

For Court Criminal Cases, when appropriate, the defendant should be released on unsecured bail with a non-monetary bail condition to require compliance with the mobile engagement recommendation(s). In addition, the defendant should leave the court with a contact number 215-785-9765 for the Mobile Engagement Team with the stipulation to make contact. The defendant must sign a release of information for the district court to obtain information on assessment, recommendations and status information.

For Summary Non-Traffic, the MDJ may allow the defendant to participate in an alternative program as recommended by the Mobile Engagement Team following an assessment. The defendant must sign the release of information to participate in an alternative program, which will permit the mobile team to provide information on assessment, recommendations and status updates. In addition, the defendant should leave the court with a contact number 215-785-9765 for the Mobile Engagement Team with the stipulation to make contact.

The Mobile Engagement Team will continue communication with the referring District Court to assure compliance with the bail conditions/alternative program.

## **Magisterial District Judge Mobile Engagement Program**

You have been referred to the magisterial district judge mobile engagement program as a condition of your release on bail or an adjudication alternative program for a summary offense. To be eligible for this program your active participation is critical and you must agree to the following:

1. You must sign a "Release of Information" form for the Magisterial District Court and a "Release of Information" form for any treatment provider recommended by the mobile team. This will allow the mobile team to communicate **compliance** to the court. (Details regarding treatment will **not** be communicated to the court.)
2. If you are on your parent's insurance plan, you must at least sign a limited release to discuss insurance information with your parents so the team is able to make an appropriate treatment recommendation.
3. You must be willing to engage in the treatment recommendation provided by the mobile team.
4. The mobile team will be following up with you to check on your status and progress. The team will also follow up with the treatment provider to verify your progress and status in treatment.
5. The mobile team will be relaying this information back to the court.

To be considered **compliant with bail conditions/alternative program** the following is expected:

- Contact the mobile crisis team within 24 hours of release to schedule a meeting.
- Communicate with the mobile crisis team to facilitate a treatment recommendation.
- Engage in recommended treatment.
- Communicate status/progress with the mobile crisis team. (Frequency of reporting will be determined by the mobile crisis team; typically weekly contact with the team is expected.)
- Appear/communicate as required for all meetings, hearings and status updates.

Non-compliance with this bail condition could result in bail revocation.

You can reach the mobile crisis team by calling Lenape Valley Foundation Crisis at Lower Bucks Hospital at 215-785-9765 and ask for the mobile crisis team.

The mobile team works Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 9am-5pm. You can expect a call from a member of the team to contact you to set up a meeting to complete an assessment, sign releases of information, and make a treatment recommendation.