

2023 Criminal Justice Advisory Board Conference
Strengthening Collaboration and Partnerships
The Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center, State College, PA
March 21-22, 2023

Session Descriptions Day One
Tuesday, March 21, 2023

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Morning Plenary Sessions

9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Professional Empowering, Enabling, and Disabling

This session will discuss holding people responsible for that which they have control over, tracing relapses back to their source, using case-management to prevent relapse, and allowing consumers to feel the natural consequences of their actions. Participants will be asked to look at their own cultural values and developmental issues when deciding how to deal with relapses.

10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Morning Break

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Technology Threats and Trends for Criminal Justice Professionals

Technology is an asset that simplifies our lives and makes us more efficient and effective, but it can also be used to compromise the personal safety and security of others. This session will focus on current trends, including air tags, hidden cameras, and metadata in our photographs, and illustrate the real-life use of these technologies.

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Lunch and Awards Ceremony

1:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Transition to Breakout Sessions

1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

First Set of Breakout Sessions

Law Enforcement Treatment Initiative (LETI) - Diversion Program Multisector Collaborative (Part 1)

Law Enforcement Treatment Initiative (LETI) diversion programs offer a unique model for collaboration among various community and governmental partners in addressing substance use, community health, and safety. It offers a law enforcement-led policy to connect individuals to treatment services, using opportunities for collaboration with local stakeholders. This session will discuss working with your local stakeholders to establish a LETI program, tailoring policies to fit your community's needs, and utilizing the local resources to support your program.

Prosecuting Cold Cases Using DNA

This workshop will describe PSP's efforts in resolving long term criminal investigations through a collaborative effort. The PSP Criminal Investigation Assessment (CIA) unit has been utilizing the latest forensic technology and techniques and will describe how genealogical forensic processing/testing has assisted in furthering several violent crime cold cases. According to the US DOJ Office of Justice Programs, it is estimated that our nation currently has 250,000 unsolved murders, which is increasing by 6,000 each year.

Competency to Stand Trial: Stakeholders Share their Experience Partnering with the Mobile Competency Restoration Team (Part 1)

If an individual is charged with a crime but lacks a factual and/or rational understanding of their circumstance and/or an ability to aid in their own defense, a judge may deem an individual "Incompetent to Stand Trial." In Part 1 of this presentation, attendees will understand why competency restoration is of significant concern to the forensic community, and how rapid access to restoration programming and competency maintenance services, that are person-centered, efficient, and offered on an outpatient basis through the MCRT model, has transformed the way individuals receive support in several counties across Pennsylvania.

In Part 2, a panel discussion will be held with partnering stakeholders from several participating counties. This panel will share their account of key experiences in development of MCRT, its impact on the existing systems, and ways that their counties look to sustain services in the future.

A Collaborative Approach to System-Wide, Trauma Responsive Policies, Procedures and Programming in Chester County

Trauma Informed Systems principles call for a collective impact approach rather than silo-ed efforts. Aligning trauma responsive efforts across the criminal justice system supports transformation from trauma-inducing to trauma-reducing. In 2022, Chester County's CJAB embarked on a collaborative system-wide process to educate members about trauma-responsive practices, assess each member agency's current policies and procedures, and identify needed improvements to become more trauma-responsive. A panel of Chester County CJAB members will highlight their process and identify opportunities for replicating the model in other counties.

Burnout: Clinical, Ethical & Supervisory Issues

This session will describe how to recognize, avoid, and overcome burnout. This training also considers the effects of burnout on treatment, arguing that treatment professionals have an ethical duty to take care of themselves. This training also explores a supervisor's role in dealing with staff burnout.

First Set of Breakout Sessions (Continued)

Get Back Up – A Collaborative Approach to Addressing the Opioid Crisis (Part 1)

Franklin County's Get Back Up program combines the resources of the District Attorney's office and the Franklin Together Reentry Coalition. Certified Recovery Specialists (CRSs) are the first responders to provide immediate contact with individuals in overdose and crisis situations. CRS support continues through follow up communication and offers access to a variety of treatment options including Moving Forward, a peer facilitated support group. Get Back Up meets people where they are in their recovery process and the data illustrate this approach yields positive results.

Enjoy Afternoon break and transition to next breakout session

2:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Afternoon Break

3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Second Set of Breakout Sessions

Law Enforcement Treatment Initiative (LETI) - Diversion Program Multisector Collaborative (Part 2)

Part one of this series discussed the formation of Law Enforcement Treatment Initiative (LETI) diversion programs. Building upon this discussion, panelists will share their unique approaches, including collaboration with law enforcement, utilizing embedded case management as well as developing partnerships with local service providers to streamline referrals and connections to services. This session will focus on the unique elements of establishing a program, using the resources and programming available, working with stakeholders, as well as lessons learned.

Enhancing Your Collaborative Through Data

To address the overrepresentation of people with mental illnesses in the criminal justice system, many counties have collaborated across criminal justice and behavioral health systems to decide on policy, practice, and program changes. This session will explore the significant role that data plays in forming, continuing, and strengthening these collaborations. The session will feature Stepping Up counties to speak about their process for accurate data collection and how they use their data to inform and drive their cross-system collaboratives to ultimately create change in their communities.

Competency to Stand Trial: Stakeholders Share their Experience Partnering with the Mobile Competency Restoration Team (Part 2)

If an individual is charged with a crime but lacks a factual and/or rational understanding of their circumstance, and/or an ability to aid in their own defense, a judge may deem an individual "Incompetent to Stand Trial." In Part 1 of this presentation, attendees will understand why competency restoration is of significant concern to the forensic community, and how rapid access to restoration programming and competency maintenance services, that are person-centered, efficient, and offered on an outpatient basis through the MCRT model, has transformed the way individuals receive support in several counties across Pennsylvania.

In Part 2, a panel discussion will be held with partnering stakeholders from several participating counties. This panel will share their account of key experiences in development of MCRT, its impact on the existing systems, and ways that their counties look to sustain services in the future.

Second Set of Breakout Sessions (Continued)

Public Defender Collaboration and Grant Funding

The presentation will focus on the collaborative efforts use to gather data, forms and connections to obtain grant funding to hire a social worker in the Public Defender's office. Presenters will also discuss the impact of their collaboration efforts to effectively reduce time spent on information gathering and how it assists stakeholders with tracking and analysis of data in to support ongoing funding and overall project progression.

Addressing Community Gun Violence: Perspectives from Jurisdictions Implementing Group Violence Intervention (GVI)

This cross-jurisdictional panel – facilitated by subject matter experts from WestEd's Justice Prevention Research Center – will highlight experiences from Pennsylvania communities using gun violence prevention strategies that 'bridge the gap' between public safety and public health. Panelists will share their experiences working together using approaches that combine more traditional law enforcement approaches with support and outreach, such as the Group Violence Intervention (GVI) model of focused deterrence. The discussion will offer perspectives and 'lessons learned' from these efforts, including recommendations for other practitioners seeking to address community violence through collaborative partnerships.

Get Back Up – A Collaborative Approach to Addressing the Opioid Crisis (Part 2)

Franklin County's Get Back Up program combines the resources of the District Attorney's office and the Franklin Together Reentry Coalition. Certified Recovery Specialists (CRSs) are the first responders to provide immediate contact with individuals in overdose and crisis situations. CRS support continues through follow up communication and offers access to a variety of treatment options including Moving Forward, a peer facilitated support group. Get Back Up meets people where they are in their recovery process and the data illustrate this approach yields positive results.

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Session Descriptions Day Two
Wednesday, March 22, 2023

9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Morning Plenary Session

A Justice-Touched Life: Where do we go from here?

After spending 52 of his 76 years serving a life sentence in Pennsylvania, Irvin Moore considers himself an "Eternal Optimist" while having both feet planted firmly in the reality of our times. He went from serving life in prison to serving as an Educational Support & Community Liaison for the Restorative Justice Initiative at The Pennsylvania State University. Irvin will share insights about "Life", both the one behind bars and the one he lives now, as it relates to our own.

10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Transition to Breakout Sessions

10:45 a.m. – 11:45 p.m.

Breakout Sessions

Bucks County Reentry Coalition: Strengthening Partnerships and Collaboration with Trauma Informed Initiatives and Peer Support

The primary mission of the Bucks County Reentry Coalition is to enhance collaboration among community and professional partners working with formerly incarcerated individuals. This collaboration has resulted in initiatives encompassing every facet of the reentry system such as an increased focus on reentrant employment opportunities, developing housing options, and incorporating peer support into all areas of service. Additionally, Bucks County is working to become a more trauma informed system and recently obtained a PCCD grant to implement a new trauma focused reentry program.

This presentation will provide participants with a model of building, sustaining, and growing a county reentry coalition by strengthening partnerships and enhancing collaboration. What has worked (and what has not) will be discussed by a panel of leaders from the Bucks County Reentry Coalition. Local trauma informed initiatives and the importance of incorporating peer support will be highlighted.

Establishing a Shared Vision and Lessons Learned from a Multisector Drug Chemistry Project

New programs and initiatives can involve opposing viewpoints between systems such as the criminal justice system and the public health system. The University of Pittsburgh Program Evaluation and Research Unit has experience with designing and developing a shared vision to successfully meet program and project goals. This workshop will discuss the process of reconciling differing stakeholder interests to avoid delays or, worse, using lessons learned from a Drug Chemistry project as an example.

Breakout Sessions (Continued)

A Full Continuum of Support for Justice Involved Individuals with Substance Use Disorder

This training will have a focus on the importance of how an individual's environment affects their Mental Health, Substance Use, and recidivism with the criminal justice system. More specifically, the training will discuss the missing pieces to closing the gap on providing a full continuum of support to the individuals seen within the criminal justice system. The role of peer supports and sober living for justice involved individuals living with SUD will be reviewed. The training will review the benefits of structured DDAP Licensed recovery housing programs to individuals. It will also provide a framework on how to utilize SAMHSA's 4 major dimensions of recovery, health, home, purpose, and community to guide an individual's success.

Bringing Community Members to the Table – Consumer Advisory Board

While leadership and membership in each organization includes individuals with lived experiences, no consistent, formal mechanism for ongoing consumer/client review or feedback is in place that operates across organizations and systems. Formation of a joint consumer advisory board (CAB) will give individuals with lived experiences a clear voice across health, justice, and human services systems. This comprehensive representation will work to reduce overdose among probation and/or reentry populations by ensuring that a wide variety of planning efforts that tackle these issues are guided by the voices of those directly impacted. A consumer advisory board's mission is to meet the needs of the community through incorporating lived experience into program development decision making and collaboration across sectors.

Protecting Ourselves from Technology Threats and Trends

This session is a follow-up to the Technology Threats and Trends for Criminal Justice Professionals and will focus on the methods we can deploy to protect ourselves from current technology threats and trends.

Inside Out: A Review of Dauphin County's Justice System

In June 2016, Dauphin County's commissioners passed a Stepping Up resolution to reduce the number of individuals with mental illness in their local prison without compromising public safety. Following the resolution, the County underwent an in-depth, cross-systems analysis of the flow of individuals with serious mental illnesses (SMI) through the Dauphin County criminal justice system.

11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Networking Lunch and Closing Remarks - TBD