



SOMERSET COUNTY JAIL
127 East Fairview Street, Suite 100
Somerset, Pennsylvania 15501
(814) 445-1500

Partners Award Nominee **Amanda Allen** Homeless Assistance Case Manager
Community Action Partnership for Somerset County

- **Amanda Allen** attended a Cross-Systems Mapping exercise administered by the PCCD with all the key criminal justice stakeholders in Somerset County. Re-Entry expansion was viewed as a top priority so Amanda Allen instituted a new program at the Somerset County Jail at the end of 2012 (Study Attached). The name of the program offered to the inmates is the prepared reenter program (PREP). PREP is a reenter education program that is a product of SDHP and was created in collaboration with the PHFA. The five week program promotes the objectives of the 21st Century Committee Best Practice Awards program in a five week program covering the following:
 - **Somerset County Jail PREP Sessions**
Incorporated a 5 week session to all inmates that are nearing their release date
Week 1—Preparing to Rent (Basic Tenant/Landlord Rights, Budget Preparation)
Week 2—Housing Search & Placement (Conflict Resolution, Housing Resources)
Week 3—Portfolio Development & Preparation (Referrals to outside agencies)
Week 4—Employment & Training Week (Mock Interviews, Employment Resources, Application Techniques, Overcoming Criminal Background)
Week 5—Community Integration (Provides Counseling options upon release)
- Due to Amanda's success with the program she was invited to speak at the 2013 Housing Alliance Conference. Her workshop titled **Preparing Justice-Involved Folks to be Great Tenants** was viewed as a model for other counties in the state of Pennsylvania.
Amanda/Justin/Greg, Thanks very much for the information. I really enjoyed your presentations yesterday and hope to use some of your county's business processes in Montgomery County.
Christine Sanchez Deputy Court Administrator - Montgomery County
- To accompany the new program Amanda Allen has been very vital in housing inmates with no home plans upon release. At the end of 2012 the Jail Administration and Probation Department recognized a population concern was due to inmates being past their minimum release date however not being able to provide a home plan for release. Amanda Allen has provided housing for many inmates lowering the jail population and promoting the objectives of the 21st Century Committee Best Practices Awards program.

Gregory Briggs, Warden Somerset County Jail (814)445-1606

Somerset County Priorities

Subsequent to the completion of the *Cross-Systems Mapping* exercise, the assembled stakeholders began to define specific areas of activity that could be mobilized to address the gaps and opportunities identified in the group discussion about the cross-systems map. Listed below are the priority areas identified by the workshop participants and the votes received for each proposed priority. (Please note that some priorities were combined and/or included in another priority on Day 2 of the mapping)

Top Priorities

1. Diversion prior to incarceration (18 votes)
 - a. Day reporting center (1 vote)
2. Expand upon re-entry (17 votes)
 - a. Identification
 - b. Better connections
 - c. Gap funding for initial re-entry treatment
3. Expanded and coordinated data effort (7 votes)
 - a. Identification of mental health population across intercepts (4 votes)
4. Collaboration across intercepts/ Cross Systems training/ Grant writer
 - a. System cost effective solutions (4 votes)
 - i. Strategies to blend funding
 - ii. Cross Budgeting

Additional Priorities

- One person to be ultimately responsible for tracking, coordinating, etc. (6 votes)
- Forensic peer specialists across intercepts (4 votes)
- Adequate physical facilities (3 votes)
 - New jail