

**Committee on County Criminal Justice System Best Practices for the 21st Century –
Annual Award Program 2019
Honoring Best Practices County Jail Programming**

BACKGROUND

The County Criminal Justice Systems for the 21st Century, a subcommittee of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) Courts and Corrections Committee has been charged by the CCAP Board with developing programs to promote best practices in criminal justice. First introduced as a means of promoting the 2003 CCAP Prison Overcrowding Task Force recommendations, the awards program has evolved over time to focus on best practices in general, rather than just programs that are designed to address overcrowding.

HISTORY

The County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania undertook the Pennsylvania Prison Overcrowding project in 2001, in response to concerns raised by members about jail overcrowding and construction costs. The committee appointed a task force to conduct a study and report back its findings, assuming the board would take a policy position in support of finding funding for expansion and upgrades. A study was commissioned that examined the state of overcrowding, including the reasons behind those conditions, and the findings demonstrated a need to examine process before deciding on expansion of jail space.

In order to assure that counties would take advantage of the report findings to look for strategies that could be employed locally, the CCAP Board created the Committee on County Criminal Justice Systems for the 21st Century, and charged them with education for members and promotion of the report. The Committee designed the awards program as a way to highlight the work that counties are doing in this regard and to share that information for other counties to consider for their own plans.

The Awards program has evolved to include a component for juvenile detention and alternative programs, and an award honoring a county partner for their efforts in assisting counties with criminal justice goals. The awards program is in its eighth year.

AWARD PROGRAM GOAL

The focus of the award is to recognize county jails for implementation of best practices for jail operation. These may be consistent with the 2003 report recommendations or the recommendations of the recently released CCAP Comprehensive Behavioral Health Task Force Report. Best Practices may address conditions of confinement using successful re-entry initiatives, prevention or early intervention programs, development of effective linkages with community behavioral health services, family involvement, school communication and efforts to make communities safer. Efforts to introduce sharing or collaborations that result in improved outcomes for local justice systems are areas of interest, in that other counties may use the example of awardees in developing their own programs. Initiatives that may be considered include the following:

- Efforts to stabilize or reduce the jail population
- Adoption of assessment methodologies which identify areas for effective change
- Implementation of re-entry initiatives

- Establishment of community corrections programs
- Use of technology to enhance operations of the jail and outcomes for inmates
- Improving the quality of data
- Employment of innovations in housing and treatment of mentally ill inmates
- Development of community services efforts
- Implementation of diversion programs for specific populations
- Collaboration between county departments that are not traditionally involved with corrections
- Innovations through public/private partnerships

2019 Themes

While all projects and programs are of interest to the Committee and eligible to enter, the committee is encouraging the submission of projects that demonstrate the following:

- Addressing the Opioid Crisis
- Successful collaboration and partnerships at the local level
 - Court/judicial team impact on jail population, lives of inmates, successful community re-entry
- The use of evidence based correctional programming
 - Assessment of need/risk levels
 - Enhancement of offender motivation
 - Targeted interventions
 - Staff training consistent with delivery of programs, including positive reinforcement, environments conducive to success

NUMBER OF AWARDS

No more than one large county and one small county jail will receive an award. A large jail is one from a county of the first, second, second A or third class. A small county jail is one from a county of the fourth through eighth class.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Entries will be judged on the following categories:

Problem description (10 points)

Background (20 points)

Soundness of approach (20 points)

Description of specific program elements (20 points)

Expectations and measurable goals (20 points)

Evaluation, sustainability (10 points)

PREPARING AND SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRY

Use the official award form in this brochure or available online at <http://www.pacounties.org/ProgramServices/Pages/Criminal-Justice.aspx> click on “Criminal Justice System Best Practices Awards”

ELIGIBILITY

A county jail is eligible to enter under the following conditions:

- The project took place in and was operating during calendar year 2018
- The county has applied for this award in the past, but can show an ongoing benefit to the project
- The county plays a significant leadership role in the development and implementation of activities
- The county commits to follow up evaluation by phone if requested by the committee
- The chair of the board of county commissioners must sign the form for non-home rule county submissions and the Chief Executive Officer must sign the form for home rule county submissions

Projects submitted in previous years are eligible for resubmission and the committee urges those counties to reapply.

DEADLINE

Entries must be submitted via email using the electronic form no later than close of business **February 15, 2019.**

JUDGING AND SELECTION

All entries will be scored by the Committee on County Criminal Justice System Best Practices. The winning entry in each category will be announced at the CCAP annual conference in March, and afterwards, contacts identified for each winning submission will be notified. Awards will be presented at a time and location chosen by the awardee.

NOTICE

By applying the applicant agrees that items submitted for the program narrative will be posted on the CCAP and JDCAP websites, and made available to counties who wish to establish similar best practices. The signatures on the submission indicate agreement with the public posting, and the award recipient may be asked to share additional information with other counties. The Committee on County Criminal Justice Systems Best Practices reserves the right to disqualify and entry if all of the required elements are not included. Further, entries not receiving a minimum score may be disqualified. Further, entries that fail to achieve a minimum score may be disqualified.

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Entrants must complete all sections for the entry to be considered by the Committee. A copy of this official entry is available at www.pacounties.org

County	Northumberland
County Class	5th
Address	500 Northumberland Drive
City, State, Zip Code	Coal Township, PA, 17866
Primary Contact, Title	Maryrose McCarthy, Chief Clerk
Contact Phone	570-988-4437

PROJECT INFORMATION

Title: Northumberland County Rehabilitation Center

Project Start Date: June 2018

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

Enter program narrative that addresses each of the following subject areas, and does so in the order presented below. Entries must be submitted using this form. All sections must be complete. Entries submitted without the required information may be disqualified.

Problem Discussion - Enter comments on the identified need and the background including what programs were in place before the current project, if any, and how it led to this effort. This section is worth 10 points.

The Opioid Crises has severely hindered the citizens of Northumberland County. According to a report conducted by the Northumberland County Behavioral Health/ Intellectual & Developmental Services (BH/IDS), the County ranked twenty-seventh (27th) out of the sixty-seven (67) counties of Pennsylvania for having the most overdose deaths per 100,000 people in the county in 2016. This is a major increase from 2015 when Northumberland County was listed as forty-first (41st). Given the area's economic disparity, a large portion of the public is vulnerable to drugs and the negative aspects associated with them. Another report shows that in 2017 there were 30 confirmed deaths in the County as a result of drug overdoses. In the first six months of 2018 there were 11 deaths related to overdoses. The same report also states that in the 709 assessments completed by the Northumberland County Single County Authority in 2018, the drug of choice for 38% of those individuals was Heroin/Opiates, followed by Marijuana at 14%, Methadone 11%, and Alcohol 11%. In addition, approximately 300 of Northumberland County's child abuse cases are related to drug abuse. While there has been some success in improving this situation in recent years, it still persists. In relation to previous programs, in 2016

Northumberland County formed the Opioid Coalition to counteract the rising number of drug issues caused by the Opioid Crises; comprised of medical professionals and County officials, the Opioid Coalition implements strategic efforts to reduce the number of drug incidents within the area. Some of these strategies consist of being a member of the Stepping Up program and coordinating with the Courts and Human services on drug reinforcement efforts. After the original County prison was destroyed by a fire in 2015, the Northumberland County Commissioners sought out ways not just to create a new prison facility but expand on drug recovery efforts for arrested and/or incarcerated individuals affiliated with drugs. It is important to note that the area is sparse with drug rehabilitation centers, resulting in a large number of individuals having to travel 20 or more miles to receive treatment. The County's goals of creating a better recovery program combined with its efforts to reduce drug use and the prison population is what led to the creation of the Northumberland County South Campus, a rehabilitation center operated by Gaudenzia Inc., a national non-profit organization dedicating to assisting individuals suffering from drug addictions. The site of the South Campus facility is located on the same grounds of the Northumberland County Prison. Formerly a multi-building juvenile detention campus known as the Northwestern Academy, sections of the campus were repurposed into either the new prison complex or the South Campus drug rehabilitation center. The South Campus facility provides an extensive rehabilitation program with outpatient services, seven-bed detoxification centers, and 24 inpatient beds. It is important to note that in addition to Northumberland County, the facility also serves individuals from seven other counties which include Schuylkill, Columbia, Montour, Snyder, Union, Lycoming, and Clinton.

Background – Enter history of the project, including any evidenced-based approaches to divert individuals from further penetration into the juvenile or adult justice system, community involvement strategies, formation of stakeholder groups, county- wide planning strategies, etc. This section is worth 20 points.

The planning initiative for the South Campus Rehabilitation Facility began in June of 2017 with the renovation work occurring in June of 2018. The South Campus facility began to receive outpatients on February 4, 2019 and expects to welcome inpatients by early March. The project is a collaborative effort of eight counties (Northumberland, Schuylkill, Columbia, Montour, Snyder, Union, Lycoming, and Clinton) all of which can utilize the facility to the benefit of arrested individuals. Arrested individuals who are suffering from drug addictions, if allowed by the Courts, have the option to go through a rehabilitation process rather than go to prison. This gives individuals who are affected by drugs a better, more productive, alternative than prison. A report conducted by Families Against Mandatory Minimums (FAMM) states that 40% of individuals leaving prison will reoffend and eventually return to prison within three years of their release. Given that the region is already hindered by drug trafficking and drug related criminal activity, it is important to reduce the number of repeat offenders. An alternative to prison would allow an individual to take the appropriate steps to a full recovery and break the cycle of drug

abuse. As mentioned previously, there is a high number of child abuse cases in Northumberland County and as a result many parents cannot legally be with their children. This hinders the much needed family bond for many of these youths, some of whom seldom see their parents. Unfortunately, in some cases, this leads said youths down the same path as their parents, thus continuing the cycle of drug abuse. It is important to note that the creation of the South Campus facility adheres to the guidelines described in the Northumberland County Opioid Coalition's "Community Response Plan" which is intended to address the ever changing social landscape affiliated with substance abuse. One of the key goals of the Plan is to provide all individuals with accessible resources necessary to avoid and/or recover from illicit substance abuse.

Soundness of approach – Enter a description of the ways the project conforms to either program themes or goals as established in the criteria. This section is worth 20 points

The implementation of the South Campus Rehabilitation Facility, relates to three (3) of the Award Program Goals: 1). The project addresses the Opioid Crises, which has enacted a heavily toll on the health and well-being of the community. The sole purpose of the South Campus facility is to assist individuals hindered by drug addictions and provide them with a more accommodating alternative to prison. 2). The project is a result of collaboration of entities not just within Northumberland County but the surrounding region. The well-being of all citizens (incarcerated or not) is of the utmost priority for all parties involved. This project is intended to play a major supporting role for the recovery and eventual re-entry process for individuals suffering from drug addiction(s). 3). In regards to targeted interventions, Gaudenzia Inc. provides intervention classes for inmates at the Northumberland County Prison complex. Said classes primarily focus on treatment education for inmates. In addition, the Opioid Coalition and Gaudenzia Inc. are in the process of creating a program that would allow representatives from these agencies to accompany police during patrols. This will allow said agencies to form a better connection with local police and coordinate with them on how best to serve the public, especially in communities plagued with drug trafficking.

Program Elements – Enter a description of the elements of the project, utility, adaptability, strategies used, community and stakeholder involvement, evidence-based approach. This section is worth 20 points.

The project is a collaborative effort made by numerous entities with the goal of providing much needed assistance to individuals affected by drugs, particularly opioids. As mentioned previously, eight counties, each with their respected Drug and Alcohol and/or Behavioral Health agencies, assisted with the project. In regards to specifically Northumberland County, the County Commissioners, Opioid Coalition, the BH/IDS, Drug and Alcohol Services, Court Administration, Probation, Chief Clerk, and Gaudenzia Inc. have all contributed to the project and will continue to do so. In addition to the standard rehabilitation process, the South Campus facility provides individuals with group sessions and recreational activities such as games and access to a gymnasium. Individuals also have regular access to professionals and counselors who can provide one-on-one treatment. While the South Campus facility focuses primarily on

arrested individuals in an attempt to direct them away from prison, its operator Gaudenzia Inc., provides intervention classes for inmates at the neighboring prison complex two to three times a week.

Expectations and Measurable Goals – Enter a description of the costs of the project, how it was funded, projected impact, number of inmates diverted or assisted, utilization of risk assessment, impact on recidivism. This section is worth 20 points.

The South Campus was funded by Act 152 dollars/BHSI funding from each of the eight counties previously mentioned. After gaining the approval of the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, the South Campus facility was able to be constructed and provide an intensive rehabilitation and detox program. As per a lease agreement with Northumberland County, Gaudenzia Inc. incurred the cost to renovate the structure. In addition, Gaudenzia covers the building's utilities and pays \$5,000 monthly rent. Renovating a former juvenile detention facility into a prison and rehabilitation center has saved the County time, resources, and millions of dollars. Gaudenzia Inc. officials have stated that the location of the facility is ideal because it is already designed to be an institution and is separated from the community. In addition, the facility was granted tax exempt status in November of 2018 and received a state licensing in January of 2019. Being in its early stages, the collection of data and the analyzation of the project's outcomes are still on going. However, since its initial conception, the South Campus project has been met with praise from the public. Given the nature of the program and the critical need for an extensive drug rehabilitation facility in the area, the implementation of any activities is expected to be positive. All entities involved with the project anticipate expanding the facility to accommodate a larger number of individuals. Currently, the South Campus utilizes two buildings; however, if there is a need to accommodate a greater number of individuals, it can expand its program into two adjacent structures. In addition, Gaudenzia Inc. is hoping to expand on its inmate intervention program for the Northumberland County Prison.

Evaluation/Sustainability – Enter details describing the process for evaluating success including assessment methodologies, data reports, continuation, and determination of success. This section is worth 10 points.

Success will be evaluated in a number of different ways. One being the number of arrested individuals that are diverted away from prison into the South Campus facility. The number of individuals who choose to undergo rehabilitation over prison will be noted by Gaudenzia Inc. and shared with the Northumberland County Prison administrative staff, as well as any other appropriate party, in an effort to monitor the fluctuation of incoming individuals to both locations and address accordingly. Another way success is evaluated is by the number of individuals who make a full recovery. This will be measured by an individual's completion of the recovery program as per the standards set by Gaudenzia Inc.'s guidelines. Gaudenzia Inc. incorporates an extensive program that ensures individuals have the best chance of recovery. Depending on an individual's scenario, they may start in an inpatient program then go into an

outpatient program (if they are not already an outpatient). Upon completion of the outpatient program an individual can attend an aftercare program to ensure their continued recovery. After a year of remaining clean, an individual can then “graduate” from the program and, if they so desire, can continue aftercare counseling free of charge. It is important to emphasize that if just one person’s life can be changed from this project, then that will be considered a success by all parties involved. That being said, it is important to understand that there are countless individuals hindered by the region’s drug trafficking. It is, by all definitions, a plague on the community. The lives of all the individuals hindered by this plague can be changed through the programs offered at the South Campus facility.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Please include any supporting documentation to demonstrate the impact of the project in cost or population outcomes, or other data to demonstrate the considerations utilized in determining the scope or design of the project. Scoring will be based on factors including the entrant’s description of the problem, the soundness of the approach, and success in meeting goals and objectives.

Award submissions will receive consideration for outcomes or best practices supported by data.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION SHOULD BE COPIED AND PASTED DIRECTLY INTO THE FORM USING THE BOX BELOW.

Northumberland County Opioid Coalition Community Response Plan:

<https://www.norrycopa.net/documents/opioidcoalition/NorthumberlandCountyOpioidCommunityResponsePlan.pdf>

Press Release on the Project:

https://www.dailyitem.com/news/update-drug-rehab-center-opens-at-northumberland-county-south/article_f01888b4-2892-11e9-8712-ef2808619b9f.html

Gaudenzia Inc. Website:

<http://www.gaudenzia.org/>

All forms must contain at least one signature. Signatures can be entered electronically, or submitted via fax using a separate form. To sign, right-click on the signature line, select “Signature Setup” from the drop down, and follow the prompts. If submitting signatures on a separate form, enter “FAXING” on the signature line.

X Faxing

X Faxing

SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRY – To submit the entry, save a copy of this completed form after all information, including signatures and supporting materials have been added. When saving the form, please assure that the document name includes the

county name, the type of project and the year – (i.e. FranklinJailAward2019). Address an email to bpenyak@pacounties.org and attach the award submission.