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2015JailAwardForm: Annual Award Competition

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Title	Annual Award Competition
CCAPCountyName	Bradford
CCAPCountyClass	Sixth Class
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City	Troy
ZIP/Postal Code	PA
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Department	Correctional Facility
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Project_Title	Supervised Bail
Start Date	9/27/2013
ChairofBoard	Douglas McLinko
Chairof County	
CountyChief	Michelle L Shedden

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## Program Narrative

### **Need:**

The population of the Bradford County Correctional Facility has fluctuated significantly in recent years. B.C.C.F. was designed to hold 207 inmates; 173 males and 34 females. A major renovation and expansion was completed in 2007 and additional beds were added in 2012 to reach the 207 bed capacity. Due to continued periods of overcrowding B.C.C.F. has been required to house inmates in other county facilities at a significant cost to the county. Since 2012 Bradford County has spent \$395,000 to house inmates out of county [2012: \$220,000 / 2013: \$175,000].

Additional costs not factored included transportation and staffing costs incurred by the Bradford County Sheriff's Office for transports to and from other facilities and the transportation and staffing costs incurred by the Bradford County Probation Department to facilitate the parole process of said inmates.

Prior to the implementation of the Supervised Bail Program there were no other programs in place to address the overcrowding problem.

### **Program/Policies:**

The Supervised Bail Program has provided the court system with alternatives to incarceration at every level of contact. Defendants can be made eligible during the arraignment and preliminary hearings at the Magistrate level and at any level of contact by the Common Pleas Courts. They can be placed in the program in lieu of continued incarceration after a sentence of Probation has been revoked and a re-sentence date is pending. The defendants' participation in the Supervised Bail Program provides the entire Court system with valuable information about the defendant's needs (ie drug and alcohol treatment, mental health services, ect.) and the likelihood that they will comply with future orders of the Court.

### **Approach:**

The Supervised Bail program is designed to seek and use all viable alternatives to incarceration for pre-trial detainees who are charged with bailable offenses. Supervised bail is an alternative method of bail, usually for first-time or low risk offenders, indigents, or as a supportive measure for defendant's who can post bail, but the Court deems additional supervision is necessary. Only a Magistrate Judge, Common Pleas Court Judge, Hearing Master, or Family Court Judge can place a defendant in the program. The program employs three full-time Supervised Bail Officers who are under the general supervision of the Warden. Each day the officers screen all the newly committed inmates to determine who would be an appropriate candidate for supervised bail. The Supervised Bail Officers can then make recommendations to the Courts for placement into the program. The Courts can also make defendants eligible for consideration or can place a defendant directly into the program. Defense attorney's can also petition the court to have their clients placed in the Supervised Bail program.

While under supervision with Supervised Bail the defendant's are expected to comply with a basic set of rules and conditions that are similar to that of the Probation and Parole department. Defendants are assessed to determine their needs and the appropriate referrals are made to assist the defendant's in addressing their mental health and/or drug and alcohol issues. Defendants are also assisted with educational deficits and seeking, obtaining, and maintaining employment. Sentencing reports are provided to the Courts at the time of sentencing outlining the defendant's conduct and adjustment while in the program. In addition to reducing the jail population the objectives of the Supervised Bail program include providing the Court with information to determine a defendant's amenability to rehabilitation and to aid the defendant in a seamless transition onto Probation or Parole supervision when applicable.

### **Evaluation:**

An evaluation of the Supervised Bail program has not yet been conducted.

### **Stakeholders:**

Stakeholders involved in implementing the Supervised Bail program include the administration of the Bradford County Correctional Facility, the Bradford County Commissioners, the Bradford County Sheriff, President Judge Maureen Beirne, and the Domestic Relations Office.

**Processes:**

The Bradford County Family Courts and Domestic Relations Department began working with Supervised Bail in December 2013. Defendants found to be in contempt by the Family Courts are having their jail sentences suspended and are given the opportunity to come into compliance in lieu of incarceration by participating in the Supervised Bail program. A total of 92 Family Court defendants have been placed on Supervised Bail thru the end of January 2015.

Due to the increase in demand the Supervised Bail office added its third officer to the program in October 2014.

**Costs:**

Implementation Costs:

\$20,000: Implementation costs that included office space construction, office furniture/equipment, Act 23 5 lethal weapons training and certification, officer uniforms, and security equipment.

\$180,000: Program operational costs including the salary and benefits to maintain three full-time Supervised Bail officers.

The Supervised Bail program has been solely funded by the Bradford County Commissioners.

Cost Savings:

The first defendants were placed on Supervised Bail on 09/27/13. Since that date thru the end of January 2015 a total of 179 defendants have been placed on Supervised Bail. Bradford County spent \$395,000 in 2012 and 2013 to house inmates in other facilities to alleviate overcrowding. Since the start of Supervised Bail no money has been spent on housing inmates outside of the Bradford County Correctional Facility.

Additionally, the availability of Supervised Bail has resulted in immeasurable savings in medical and staffing costs for inmates who terminally ill or are deemed to be in need of serious medical treatment.