



Comprehensive Behavioral Health Task Force

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REENTRY PROGRAM SURVEY RESULTS

November 2021

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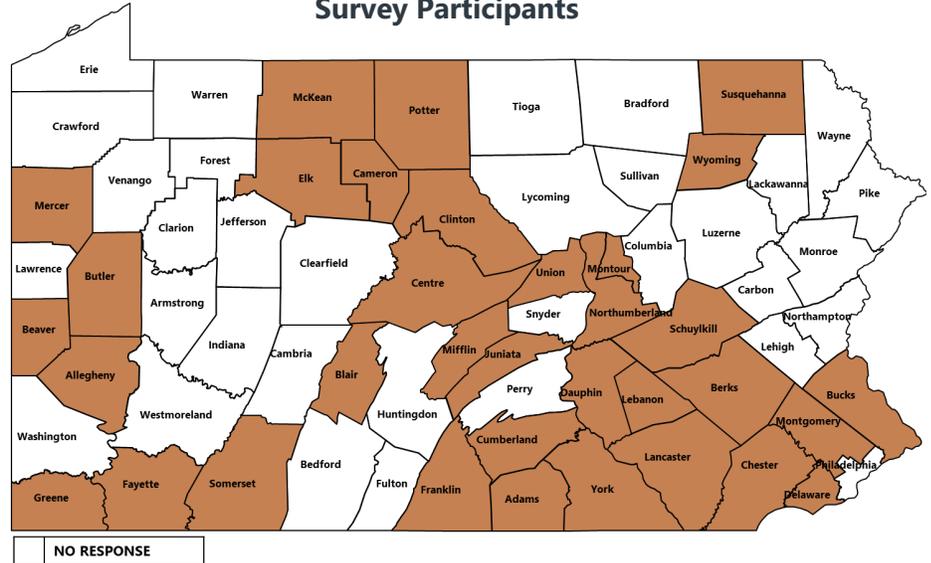
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Comprehensive Behavioral Health Task Force was privileged to have the participation of key stakeholders at the local level who shared their knowledge and expertise through this survey and wishes to thank them for their contribution.

Overview

CCAP's Comprehensive Behavioral Health Task Force (CBHTF) conducted a statewide survey between August 31, 2021 and October 31, 2021 on local criminal justice reentry programs. The purpose of this survey was for the Task Force to identify best practices and plan for future training and educational opportunities. In total, 44 individuals participated in the survey representing 34 counties throughout the commonwealth. Survey participants included County Commissioners, County Corrections and Probation, and County Human Services. The following report is a summary of the survey results.

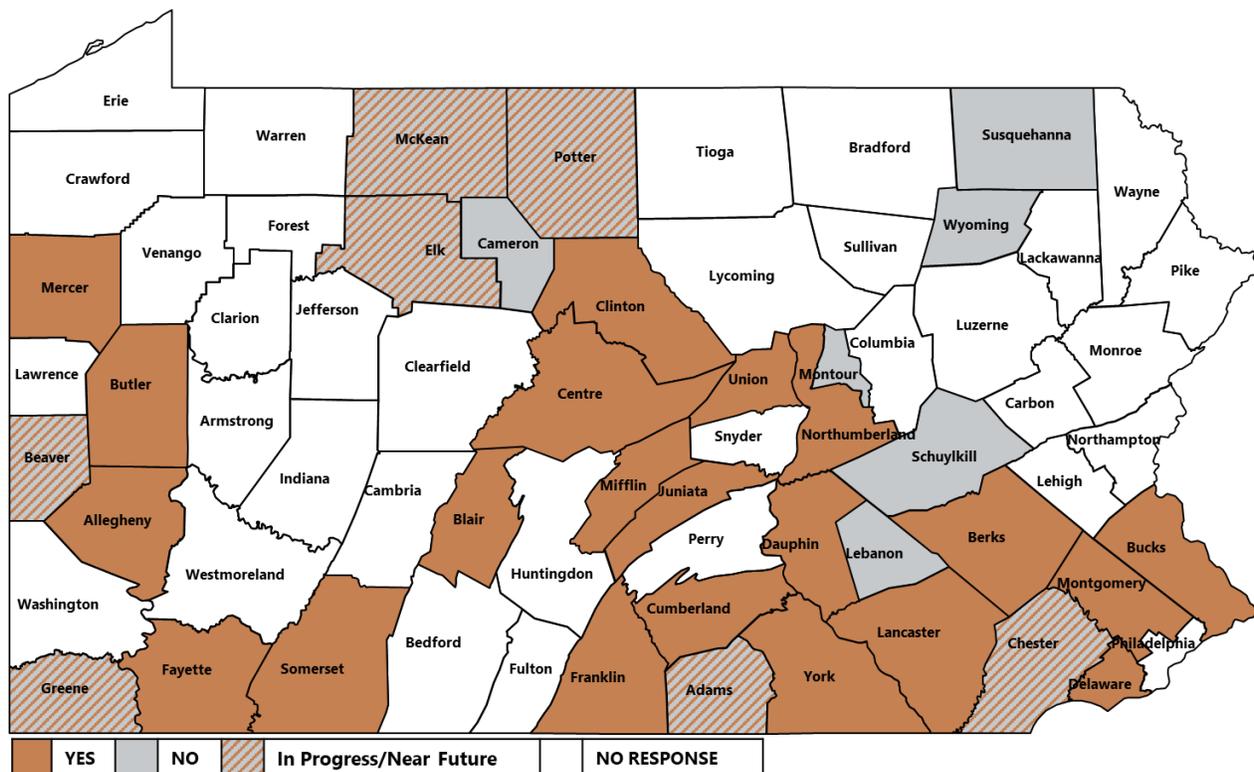
Survey Participants



Survey Highlights

- **21 Counties** reported having a reentry coalition and **7 Counties** reported that they were in the process of creating a coalition or have plans to create one in the near future.
- **9 Counties** reported PCCD Grant Funding and **8 Counties** reported support from their CJAB as the main catalyst for beginning their coalition.
- **18 Counties** indicated having a strong partnership with their CJAB including regular report outs on reentry efforts.
- **16 Counties** encountered impediments when beginning their reentry coalition. These impediments included funding, adequate staffing and local buy-in.
- **19 Counties** reported having successful housing and workforce initiatives.
- **19 Counties** encountered difficulties in obtaining services to offer reentry. These difficulties included a lack of providers, a lack of resources and challenges in obtaining housing and employment services.
- **19 Counties** reported using technology to get inmates with behavioral health challenges connected to resources and opportunities outside of jail.

Does your county currently have a reentry coalition?



What was the catalyst for beginning your coalition?

Condensed to show substantive responses

Allegheny
 Many years ago, Allegheny County leadership observed that not enough was done for former inmates to support the reentry into Allegheny County's communities, to increase public safety and reduce recidivism.

Beaver
 The increased focus on re-entry and having funding to be able to start the coalition and services.

Berks
 We have had a form of a coalition since our Community Reentry program began in 2010. It has evolved since then and recently partnered with our forensic coalition to form the current group we have today. The goal is to bring community members together to identify needs for re-entering citizens and how those needs can be met by various community groups/services.

Blair
 County Commissioner was interested following a presentation.

Bucks
 Spear-headed by Adult Probation/Parole and Dept of Corrections in response to a PCCD Grant which provided re-entry consultation funding. Recommendation of consultation was to form a re-entry coalition among forensic partners and community stakeholders. Bucks is also a Stepping Up County.

Butler
 Butler County saw a need for better communication across systems in order to better identify inmate needs and plan for successful reintegration into the community.

Centre
 Reentry was a focus of the Centre County Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB) for a number of years and in 2012, the CJAB created a Reentry Planning Subcommittee. The focus of that subcommittee was to make recommendations on offender reentry to the CJAB to be used in the development of an overall CJAB Strategic Plan.

In 2013, the Centre County CJAB conducted a survey of its members as part of the ongoing CJAB Strategic Planning Initiative. The goal of the survey was to identify priorities the CJAB wanted to address during the next three years and determine if any of the priorities previously identified had changed. The 2013 offender reentry, and more specifically the development of a plan to enhance the successful return of offenders to the community, was identified as a top priority of the CJAB.

The Centre County Reentry Coalition was formally created in 2014. The primary goal of the Centre County Reentry Coalition is to enhance the successful return of individuals to the community and thereby reduce recidivism.

Chester

To be in a better position to help those re-entering society. Provide resources, jobs, housing and supportive services.

Clinton

To reintegrate returning citizens into the community, reduce prison recidivism, and improve public safety through addressing the educational, employment, behavioral healthcare, housing, and family relationship needs of returning citizens re-entering society. We have a Re-entry Team, and a Re-Entry Sub-committee of our CJAB that reviews procedure and conducts studies with our local university.

Cumberland

Our APO has been running a tailored Re-entry program for a targeted group of participants for 3-4 years. In working with Charla Plaines, at that time with PCCD, discussion began regarding a reentry coalition. Through a collaboration of the CJAB and interested active community members, the CJAB endorsed the community members and APO initiating a reentry coalition. COVID slowed the endeavor down, but currently we are working with Melanie Snyder to develop a strategic plan.

Dauphin

We had a re-entry committee under the CJAB and have now joined it with our local Capital Region Ex-Offender support coalition to form a stronger/ cohesive entity.

Delaware

Observed need for services in the county for this population of incarcerated persons and pursued grant from PCCD.

Fayette

We recognized the special needs of citizens returning from the state corrections system as well as the local jail. PCCD Grant funding and coordination of resources to better serve justice involved individuals with their needs.

Franklin

We received a PCCD grant in 2015 that allowed us to have a year of strategic planning. This is what allowed us to organize our coalition. The grant opportunity was the catalyst.

Greene

Recidivism rate and we were not setting inmates up for success upon their release.

Juniata

Re-Entry Strategic Planning Grant from PCCD.

Lancaster

We had a lot of separate entities who wished to serve the returning citizen, however it was not organized and there was a lot of overlap of resources.

McKean

McKean's CJAB established a reentry committee to explore moving forward with a formal coalition. Additionally, McKean has a Jail Coordination team comprised of local stakeholders (Forensic Boundary Spanner/Case Manager, Behavioral Health, Housing, Career Link, Probation) which meets monthly to review the local jail census and identify case planning needs for individuals who require reentry services/supports.

Mercer

A grant opportunity through Vital Strategies/PCCD.

Mifflin

A strategic planning grant from PCCD.

Montgomery

CJAB involvement.

Northumberland

To reduce recidivism in our county.

Potter

Quantifiable and anecdotal (best practices) verification of the "return on investment" and willingness of key players locally to explore and implement criminal justice reforms, and of county fiscal administrators to support expanded re-entry services.

Somerset

There are many inmates that are released from jail without any help or support. Without this support more crimes are committed to help meet their basic needs. Reentry numbers are continually increasing due to this and lack of mental health and drug and alcohol follow-up.

Union

We are a joint judicial district and our neighboring county was trying to build reentry services. We had a reentry plan already. We participated in reentry coalition implementation as part of a PCCD grant.

York

In 2013, the CJAB identified coordinated planning for reentry as one of its top priorities. After several years of funding challenges, the CJAB coordinated a strategic planning process in 2016 that led to the formation of the York County Reentry Coalition (YCRC) and the creation of the first iteration of this plan to guide its function and activities. The YCRC complements the CJAB's focus on priority projects that reduce recidivism and increase positive outcomes through diversion, treatment, and community support.

What have you done to get all the local players on board?

Condensed to show substantive responses

Adams

We have had initial meetings and a presentation from a surrounding County's coalition.

Allegheny

Allegheny County has created a collaborative amongst the Fifth District Courts, Allegheny County Jail, Allegheny County Department of Human Services, and community service providers, called the Allegheny County Jail Collaborative.

Beaver

Meeting with key stakeholders

Berks

The coalition is headed up by two community agency leaders in Re-entry and forensic mental health services. We used the list of participants that we have developed over the years and identified new partners. The coalition leaders have sent out reach emails and talked to community members at other functions to seek participation in the coalition.

Blair

Started a steering committee and sub committees to address issues

Bucks

With the support of the Commissioners, the Court, and our local CJAB, Adult Probation and our DOC have spearheaded this effort. Many calls and meetings were held in an effort to build on current relationships and create new ones. Kick-Off Event which invited all forensic and community stakeholders (Event was promoted by the CJAB); formation of subcommittees to appeal to focused interest and to include physical/behavioral health; education/employment; housing; family services/mentoring; data.

Butler

Re-entry officer contacted stakeholders/departments and requested participation. Re-entry teams were created within the coalition (housing, D&A, MH, transportation, etc). Monthly planning/discussion meetings were held. Again, these have not occurred since prior to the pandemic.

Centre

Reaching out to partner organizations and community organizations to encourage their involvement with the coalition. We have been fortunate to have always had strong attendance at our meetings, thus creating strong collaborations.

Chester

We have reached out to community partners and County departments.

Clinton

We have a Community Re-entry Planning Committee as part of our Criminal Justice Advisory Board.

Cumberland

Through a grant award, we received funding to contract with Melanie Snyder to facilitate a strategic planning process. A group of community members, county criminal justice employees from APO and the jail, had been meeting via Zoom for a year to discuss planning issues and collect some data that was used for the grant applications.

The CJAB designated Ashley Rohm, APO's Reentry Coordinator, to coordinate the strategic planning process and engage additional community members to participate. There are 265 people on the reentry coalition email list that expressed interest and attendance at strategic planning meetings has been about 50 people on the zoom.

Dauphin

Obtained support of the courts and commissioners who directed all those needed to move forward with a PCCD grant for coalition building.

Delaware

With the help of a PCCD grant, the county did extensive outreach to a variety of stakeholders to invite them to a coalition launch. We initially had over 100 participants that included elected officials, members of the judiciary, criminal justice stakeholders, organizations, and impacted persons. The District Attorney's office, CJAB, and Office of the Public Defender collaborated to create an initial invite list for launch, and participation expanded organically as monthly meetings continued.

Fayette

We are a very collaborative county, so an invitation to work together was all that was needed.

Franklin

We have invited key people from all the sectors we identified as important. In addition, we have task forces that focus on different concerns and we ask our coalition members to volunteer on a task force. We also have a very strong strategic plan and bylaws to govern the coalition. When we ask someone to be on the coalition we are able to supply them with these documents that show people we are organized and focused on tasks. Personal invitations have proven to be effective.

Lancaster

Reach out to community agencies that have not been a part of the coalition before and see if they would be interested in joining.

Mercer

We have utilized our CJAB members.

Montgomery

CJAB involvement has brought on the key players to the table to work on reentry.

Potter

Shared best practices. Communicated candidly and consistently. Re-entry services can make a case for themselves but advocates must be respectful of the viewpoints and other responsibilities of all partners in criminal justice administration, jail/prison management, fiscal administration and service providers.

Somerset

Somerset County applied and received grant money to help provide reentry services within the county jail. A coordinator was hired and has made contacts within the county for housing, D/A, mental health and has started implementing programming within the jail for incarcerated inmates.

Union

Reentry services delivery has been and continues to be provided by the Probation department. While there are CJAB and Reentry coalition meetings, the probation department coordinates information sharing and service implementation with service providers at the Resource center and in the community. This is done through long standing relationships with partner agencies and service providers.

Community stakeholders were invited to participate in the joint reentry meetings and a diverse cross section of service providers participated in the process. Leveraging relationships already developed through the CJAB helped move the process along.

How is your coalition connected to the CJAB? Do you have regular report-outs?

Condensed to show substantive responses

Allegheny

Jail Collaborative leadership communicates and overlaps with CJAB leadership.

Berks

One of the coalition leaders is a member of CJAB and reports on upcoming events as well as annual progress on our re-entry strategic plan which is a part of the CJAB strategic plan.

Blair

We are a regular member and report monthly to CJAB.

Bucks

Adult Probation/Parole, Dept of Behavioral Health/ Developmental Programs, Division of Human Services, internal and external forensic stakeholders all have executive leadership as routine CJAB members. Our coalition is a CJAB Subcommittee. We report-out at CJAB quarterly meetings.

Butler

Multiple members of the re-entry coalition are also members of CJAB. I am not aware of regular report-outs at this time.

Centre

Yes and Reentry updates are provided to the CJAB.

Chester

Our Re-entry strategic plan was approved by the CJAB.

Clinton

Yes, we report to the CJAB quarterly.

Dauphin

Directly connected and yes- report out have been occurring for years and now will include a broader spectrum of voices.

Delaware

We are still in the initial stages of development, but the Judge who presides over CJAB, as well as the President Judge, are active participants in coalition meetings and co-chairs present monthly updates to CJAB at their meetings.

Fayette

Coalition leadership are members of the CJAB and regularly report to the CJAB.

Franklin

The managing co-chair of the coalition serves on a CJAB committee. During that committee's report at CJAB meetings this person reports on all the events and work being done by the coalition. This is done at each CJAB meeting.

Lebanon

The Re-entry Coordinator is a part of the CJAB and reports on a bi-monthly basis during meetings. Plus, additional reports as necessary.

McKean

McKean does not have a formal coalition, but the committee does report to the CJAB during the quarterly meetings.

Mercer

Yes. The coalition is a sub-committee of the CJAB. Regular report outs will occur at quarterly meetings.

Mifflin

It functions as a sub-committee of the larger CJAB. Yes, we do regular reports from the reentry task force.

Potter

Many of the members serve on both our CJAB and our Re-entry Services Work Group. Re-entry reports are presented at the CJAB and Jail Board meetings.

Union

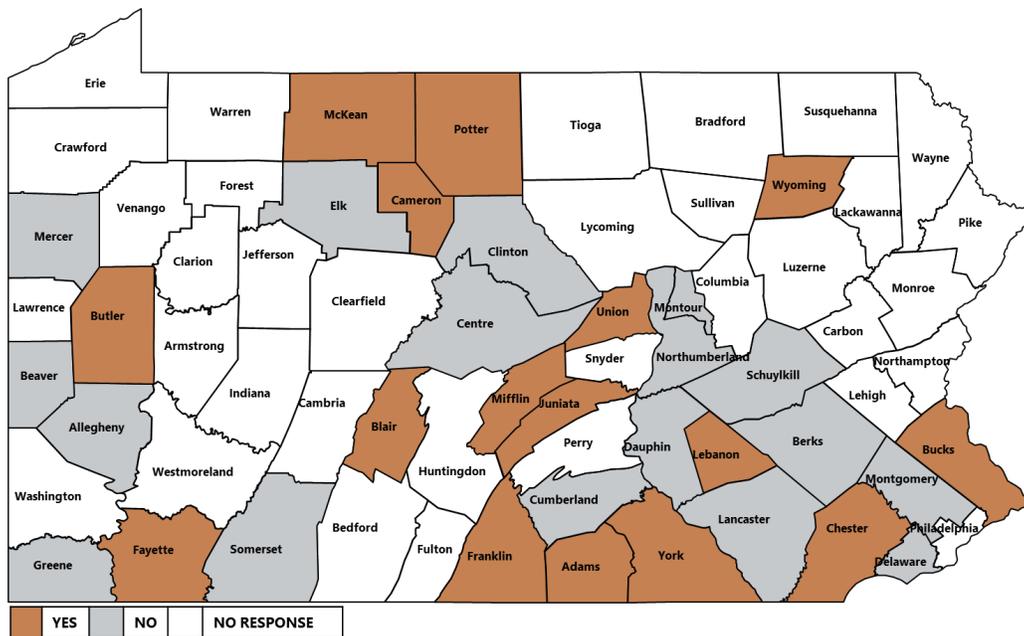
The coalition is a separate group; both groups are made up of many of the same players/agencies. Maybe in the future the coalition could become a workgroup/subcommittee of the CJAB. Coordination of reentry services and delivery of certain programs currently resides with the probation department.

York

Our reentry coalition came out of conversations in CJAB meetings. There are report outs at each CJAB meeting.

Have you encountered any impediments to beginning a reentry coalition?

Condensed to show substantive responses



If Yes, what were those impediments?

Adams

COVID, stakeholder buy in.

Blair

Maintaining members, trying to get information and statistics.

Bucks

Limited funding availability for reentry programming. Coalition members applied for federal grants but were not successful. There have been no recent reentry specific grant offerings at the state level to meet local needs that we are aware of.

Butler

Covid has necessitated changes within the prison system that have made having regular meetings difficult at best.

Cameron

No county prison facilities.

Chester

Lack of dedicated resources to maintain momentum.

Fayette

Occasional scheduling challenges for meetings

Franklin

There were concerns about what a re-entry coalition might do and how it might try to influence the criminal justice system. We have focused our efforts solely on reentry issues and have purposely not leveled any criticism on the courts. This has helped us to gain the trust of those in that system so that we finally have some people from that system participating in our coalition.

Juniata

Buy in.

Lebanon

Staffing of the Re-entry Coordinator to head the coalition is a major impediment.

McKean

Some stakeholders have identified the formal requirements of a coalition as a concern to implementation. This concern appears to be driven by the workforce challenges across the behavioral health and criminal justice systems and the consequential capacity challenges to implement a formal coalition.

Mifflin

staff changes, buy-in, funding.

Potter

Only those that have been "self-imposed." Advocates at the county level are now dedicating more focused attention on it. Rob Reed, Charla Plaines and others with expertise on these topics have been extremely helpful.

Union

The coalition is duplicating some work that is covered at a CJAB meeting.

Wyoming

Lack of interest.

York

We've been a coalition for five years and have encountered road blocks, but for the most part, government and human services rallied for its creation and have supported it.

What programs are available in your county to connect inmates with behavioral health challenges with services in the community?

Condensed to show substantive responses

Adams

Multiple avenues, most recently began outpatient level behavioral health services six weeks prior to release to ensure a warm hand-off at release to the community provider. Information books, probation involvement, Forensic Mental Health Partnership, Contracted Medical Provider.

Allegheny

Allegheny County uses an array of proven assessments to determine client's behavioral health needs and links them with appropriate community providers through community referrals by way of case managers, service coordinators and Allegheny County Jail's Discharge and Release center. Two common pathways to behavioral health services are enrollment in the Reentry program or Justice Related Services (JRS).

The Re-Entry Program is a joint effort by the Allegheny County Jail Collaborative to provide pre- and post-release services to men and women serving a county sentence in the Allegheny County Jail or an alternative housing facility. Incarcerated individuals may be referred to Re-Entry and educational classes by court order, program staff, ACJ staff or written request as a self-referral. The policy of the Allegheny County Jail for enrollment is to give first priority to individuals who have been targeted for services based on medium/high risk and need.

JRS offers an array of supports designed to work with the Allegheny County Jail, District Courts, behavioral health and other community service providers, to assist persons with mental illness and/or co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorder who encounter the criminal justice system. JRS is comprised of several departments that serve individuals throughout all levels of the criminal justice system.

Beaver

BCM, DACM, faith-based providers, CPS.

Berks

We use a variety of community based agencies to deliver services to our incarcerated population including case management, housing programs and substance use disorder treatment. We also have a forensic diversion team who assists prior to and after arrest for individuals with significant behavioral health needs. We have established an interdisciplinary MH team to review incarcerated individuals with significant MH needs and bridge any gaps in services or community resources.

Blair

Forensic Case manager, outpatient and inpatient MH services, peer support, BCM, etc.

Bucks

Two Forensic Navigators focused on re-entry and community integration (one embedded in the jail and one embedded in the community); three Probation/Parole Behavioral Health Re-Entry Officers; Case Manager through Behavioral Health in jail (via PrimeCare). Also, D/A treatment program staff embedded in jail.

Butler

A Forensic Support Services Program staffed with two full time case managers and a full time therapist is now housed inside Butler County Prison. Case managers assist inmates in connecting to services in preparation for release and can assist them in the community briefly until they are established with their community providers. The therapist is available to any inmate in the prison who has need for MH therapy. The prison has two contracted mental health professionals in house who work to identify any inmate who has MH needs and assists in getting them connected to needed supports (meds, psych, case management, etc.)

Cameron

Referral to local mental health services.

Centre

There is a Forensic Program Specialist through Centre County MH/ID/EI and D&A that spends part of her day at the county correctional facility to link individuals to jail and community based treatment. The Penn State Psychological Clinic and Crossroads Counseling provide therapy to individuals who are incarcerated that are Centre County residents. PrimeCare Medical, Inc. medical provides medication management for individuals who are in need of psychiatric medication while they are there.

When an individual is being released the Forensic Program Specialist meets with individuals and links them to the necessary community services which can include not only mental health services, but can also include other community resources such as physical health, food banks, clothing vouchers, etc.

Chester

We have 3 re-entry officers that work with inmates to connect them with services upon parole.

Clinton

We have a MHID Crisis Management Caseworker, and a whole other sub-committee under our CJAB that deals with Mental Health challenges. Our MHID worker also serves on multiple different committees throughout the county and is well connected.

Cumberland

When we are aware of an impending release, all inmates with a MH or Substance Abuse issue are connected with services when recommended. Counselors at the jail are skilled at making referrals to appropriate programs and most inmates leave with appointments in the community and services lined up.

Dauphin

Re-entry planning for folks with SMI using Team MISA, also DCP has a re-entry staff and screening at booking center has diverted folks as well so services in the community can be maintained.

Delaware

Not enough. We have limited help from two mental health liaisons and a developing referral database but need many more programs in jail, many more resources for "soft" hand-offs, and more service providers that will accept referrals. Lack of service providers is a big problem.

Fayette

Memphis Model CIT; MH Program Specialist and Adult Probation Officer stationed at the jail (2 and 5 days, respectively) for reentry planning; Forensic Diversion Program in the community; beginning the Law Enforcement Treatment Initiative (LETI); Specialty Courts (MH, SUD, and Veterans); use of the Ohio Risk Assessment Scale (ORAS) to determine risk for recidivism and properly allocate supervision and support resources.

Franklin

Our county has a program called Case Assisted ReEntry (CARE) which helps inmates connect to mental health services such as psychiatric appointments for assessment and medication management as well as therapy. We have contracts with local providers that allow our participants to have an appointment within a week of release when the waiting list for the general public is 9 months to 2 years depending on the service and the provider.

We also help to pay for medication and PennDOT ID as well as a birth certificate. There is also a housing component that can pay for first month's rent and security deposit to help someone secure a home plan. This program is highly successful.

Greene

All Human Services programs, Salvation Army, Food Bank, Career Center, etc.

Lancaster

Mental Health America, Community Services Group, PA Counseling, Lancaster County BH/DS, TW Ponessa, LGH.

Lebanon

Team MISA (Mental Health Substance Abuse) meets on a monthly basis to discuss and connect inmates with behavioral health services and supports in the community.

McKean

Forensic Boundary Spanner/Case Manager Independent Living - available to eligible individuals ages 21 years and under Housing Coordinator and Case Managers (SOAR) Career Link D&A and MH Counseling and Treatment.

Mercer

We have programs through Mercer County Behavioral Health Commission and Community Counseling Center including MAT programs.

Mifflin

Local base service unit.

Montgomery

Montgomery County is currently working with the Family Services. They report at CJAB on the Reentry Coalition and on the grants they have to work with the criminal justice population currently incarcerated.

Northumberland

We have a MH meeting weekly and County staff that go to jail to set up appropriate services upon release. We also have a full time SUD case manager in jail.

Potter

This is a work in progress and will be a high priority for the Potter County Jail Board, which was only recently created by action of the Board of Commissioners.

Schuylkill

Inmates are referred to administrative case management services to help them get connected to services.

Somerset

The reentry coordinator contacts behavioral health before inmates are released, or shortly thereafter to schedule intake appointments for counseling and psychiatric needs.

Susquehanna

Forensic Case Management.

Union

Our Day reporting center has the following services: Reentry mediation, License Drug Treatment Provider, OVR, Thinking for A Change / CBT, Coping with Anger, Service navigation through Community Action Agency and CareStar, Parenting classes, Financial Literacy, CareerLink, GED/Adult Education, Trauma counseling, Credit counseling, General Counseling, Sex offender programming, Employment readiness, CBI Substance Abuse, Victim Awareness.

Wyoming

Mental health providers

York

START is a Community Certified Behavioral Health Clinic, the first of its kind in southcentral Pennsylvania. Through extensive collaboration with community partners, referrals for housing other support services are provided as well. Services includes primary health care screenings in addition to screenings, assessments and diagnosis of mental health and substance use disorders.

START also partners with the Community Action for Recovery & Diversion project (CARD) to work with the York County criminal justice system to reduce incarceration rates for individuals with substance use or mental health disorders by helping them to access treatment services.

We also have an active Health committee with the Reentry Coalition that has members of multiple health organizations. They have been able to work with Prison admin on streamlining services before and after incarceration.

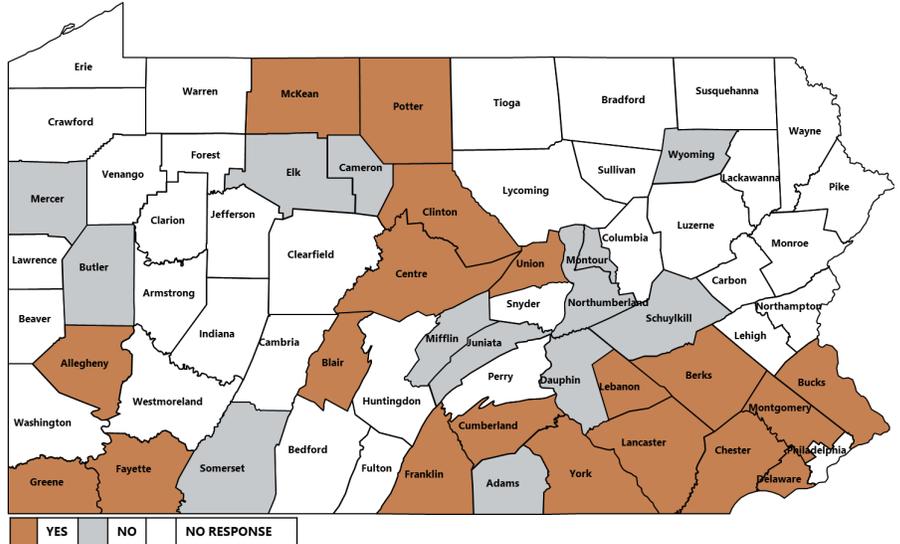
Does your reentry coalition include successful housing and workforce initiatives?

Condensed to show substantive responses

Allegheny

The Allegheny County Jail Collaborative contracts with a local community provider that offers temporary housing with supports for participants to gain long term housing. Allegheny County's Re-Entry program employees a workforce development specialist which assesses participants skills and areas of interests with vocational training opportunities and employment when relevant.

The Allegheny County Jail Collaborative contracts with a local community provider to pay for vocational training for local vocational training providers. The Allegheny County Jail Collaborative recently launched a federal Department of Labor-funded project to offer full-time wage equivalent stipends to individuals while they complete vocational training programs and supports to link them pre and post release to training and employment opportunities.



Potter

These are also works in progress. We do have a full-time Re-entry Services Coordinator in place, administered by Potter County Human Services but with ties to jail management and criminal justice system. Some progress has been made on housing, including a new "transitional living facility" for men who have recently been released from the jail. More progress is anticipated.

Union

We have a Justice Bridge Housing Program, and Transitional Housing available at the county level. The Justice Bridge Program has a workgroup and is facilitated by our Housing Authority and Probation Department. The probation department manages the Transitional Housing program. We are partnered with CareerLink, Community Action Agency and Chamber of Commerce to provide employment training/skills/job search and job fairs.

York

We have numerous government and human service agencies represented on the Coalition in addition to the local Chamber and the York County Economic Alliance. All are represented and are active on our Coalition's subcommittees. Many of these agencies provide case management, assistance and additional services to reentrants. Housing is very difficult as many landlords won't rent without verification of work/income and it is complicated with a shortage of affordable housing.

Some smaller counties may have difficulty is obtaining services to offer for reentry. Has your county encountered difficulties in getting services? *Condensed to show substantive responses*

Adams

There are a lack of services and providers in the County, as well as funding challenges.

Berks

Funding can always be challenging, however we work with our community partners to find grants and other means of financially supporting re-entry efforts.

Blair

Limited space in the prison to do education or to meet with people pre-release.

Bucks

Bucks is not small, but waiting lists of hundreds by community service providers since the pandemic is widespread across treatment and housing services.

Cameron

Our county does not have a prison so therefore local programs are inaccessible.

Centre

Affordable housing can be an issue in our community since we have a large university within our county.

Cumberland

Housing/home plans are most challenging. More recently psychiatric services appointments are difficult to obtain in any timely manner.

Dauphin

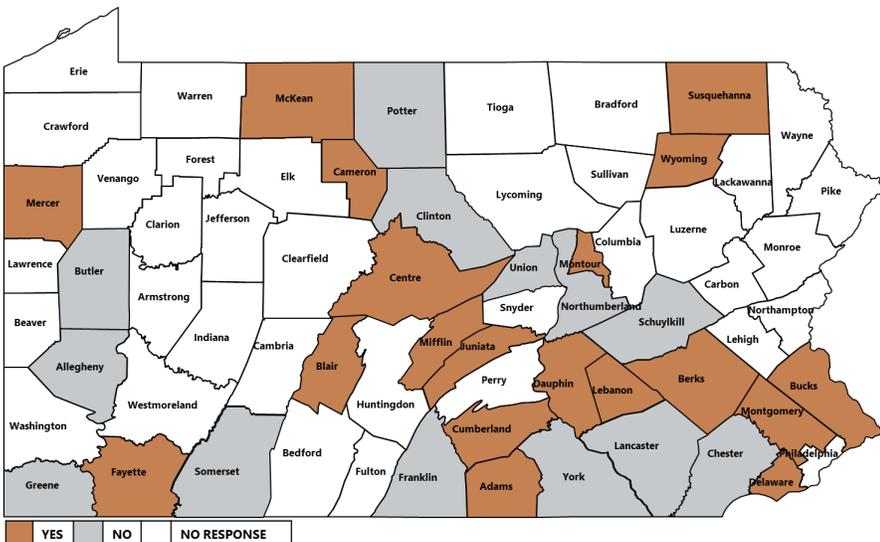
Job placement and housing supports as well as D&A treatment due to out of pocket costs.

Delaware

We simply do not have the resources in place to equip people for success after release. I know multiple agencies are working hard to bridge that gap, but we have not completed the task yet.

Fayette

The Sexual Offenders Advisory Board has refused membership to a well-qualified, HealthChoices-enrolled provider. This type of Medicaid-funded provider is needed for the 43,000 MA recipients of Fayette County (total population of 129,000). Our county needs a provider that is available daily and that has non-traditional hours. The SOAB leadership either does not recognize this or they don't value universal access to qualified, credentialed providers.



Franklin

I am not sure I understand the question because I do not know what you mean by "difficulty obtaining services." We have created programs where services didn't exist. For example, we created a peer support group for justice involved individuals because we saw this as a gap that existed. It was very difficult but we found a grant to help us get started. We need money to make things happen. That is the bottom line. We need money for support staff and for programs. Without money I don't see how any sized county can make a coalition work. It becomes something that is just tacked on to someone's job description and that is just not doable for most people who are already working to capacity.

Juniata

Housing and workforce development issues.

Lebanon

Long wait lists for services and supports due to hiring difficulties. Also, housing is extremely difficult as there are few resources in the county and most do not wish to work with individuals coming out of the prison system.

McKean

Safe and affordable housing remains a challenge for individuals involved in the criminal justice system based on past experiences with landlords and certain offenses in their backgrounds. Additionally, since McKean County is nearly 1,000 square miles, transportation can be a barrier to accessing traditional resources/treatment methods.

Mercer

Lack of providers, services.

Mifflin

Difficult to find housing and employment services

Montgomery

Yes, COVID would be the main reasoning behind this difficulty at this time.

Potter

Not yet, except for the difficulty in securing psychiatric services, which we're addressing.

Susquehanna

Housing is very limited.

How does your county define recidivism?

Condensed to show substantive responses

Adams

There is no county-wide definition at this time.

Allegheny

Allegheny County measures recidivism by tracking three metrics: re-arrest, rebooking, and reconviction. These are each measured at 6 months, 12 months, and 24 months.

Beaver

Re-offending by obtaining new charges

Berks

We are still working to establish a definition that can be used by various departments.

Blair

Reincarceration within 1 to 2 years

Bucks

We currently do not have an agreed upon definition of recidivism.

Butler

Re-incarceration.

Cameron

Conviction for misdemeanor or felony within 2 years.

Centre

For purposes of this program, recidivism is defined as the return of any Centre County individual who received a county sentence of imprisonment, is released, and is subsequently incarcerated within three years of release.

Chester

Recidivism is defined as a new felony or misdemeanor charge sustained by a judicial officer. It will be measured for three years from the start of the period of supervision, whether probation, county intermediate punishment (CIP) or parole. If a post-parole probation tail is imposed, the three years should be measured from the date of release on parole. (Note: 'sustained' does not require conviction, but simply bound over at the MDJ level.)

Clinton

The re-arrest and conviction of a client which results in return to prison as a probation or parole violator or the new conviction of an offender which results in incarceration.

Cumberland

Through the Adult Probation Office we are in the middle of our second (follow-up to the first) recidivism study. The study actually breaks recidivism into multiple categories (PV, rearrest, conviction), by age, by # of prior offenses, by the grading of the original charge vs. grading of the subsequent charge. This provides us more detailed information about the recidivating population and how to target them. We look at recidivism over a 3 year period from original conviction.

Dauphin

We are currently re-evaluating the definition so we have one across all systems.

Delaware

Re-arrest, re-incarceration for a new crime, and/or reconviction or return to prison within three years of an individual's release from prison/jail or placement on supervision for a previous criminal conviction.

Elk

Rearrest.

Fayette

Rearrest for a similar or related offense.

Franklin

The jail reports recidivism in two ways. The first is to report at the monthly Prison Board meeting the number of inmates who have been in the jail before for any reason. The second way is to report any inmates who are in the jail for a new charge.

Greene

In this case, the rate of re-entry into the judicial system.

Juniata

Previously incarcerated individuals who return to jail.

Lancaster

Definition of recidivism: Occurs when an offender under the supervision of Adult Probation & Parole Services is returned to Court based on either the commission of a new criminal offense and/or a technical violation of the rules & regulations of supervision.

Lebanon

Any individual who has been convicted of a crime, placed in the local or state prison system, released and then convicted and back into the prison system.

McKean

McKean has not yet identified a formal definition. The Jail Coordination Team's primary focus centers on case planning and management.

Mercer

Repeated or habitual relapse into criminal behavior or the tendency of a convicted criminal to reoffend.

Mifflin

Previously incarcerated individuals who return to jail.

Montgomery

A new felony or misdemeanor charge sustained by a judicial officer. It will be measured for three years from the start of the period of supervision, whether probation, counter intermediate punishment (CIP) or parole. If a post-parole probation tail is imposed, the three years should be measured from the date of release on parole.

Northumberland

An individual reengaging in the CJ system.

Potter

This is a work in progress and we, simultaneously, work on implementation of data collection and sharing.

Schuylkill

If the individual reoffends.

Somerset

An inmate that is convicted and reincarcerated within a year of being released.

Union

Current department policy defines recidivism as someone on supervision that commits a new offense or a new offense within 3 years following their discharge from supervision.

York

Recidivism is any new conviction on misdemeanor or felony charges within three years of leaving incarceration. Rearrest, or reincarceration due to parole violation or summary charges, are not counted. Recidivism relates only to those returning to the York community after serving a sentence in YCP or a State or Federal Correction Facility. Those held in YCP pre-trial, or for other reasons, are not counted in recidivism numbers.

How does your county define recidivism for inmates with behavioral health challenges, what data are you collecting, how are you collecting it?

Condensed to show substantive responses

Adams

We are just beginning to track this data at the jail since we have made improvements in our treatment programming.

Allegheny

Allegheny County collects recidivism data for all individuals incarcerated at the Allegheny County Jail regardless of diagnoses or service, however, we do also have the ability to crosswalk that with publicly funded service involvement to determine a recidivism rate for a subset of individuals as needed.

Beaver

Data collection is done through contracted evaluators through grants.

Berks

At this time, we are considering any encounter that leads them back to jail to be some form of recidivism, however

there are still problems in that practice. As part of the Stepping Up initiative, we have been using Open Lattice software to review de-identified data about mental health status and incarceration rates.

Blair

We are still trying to obtain data.

Bucks

Don't define recidivism differently except we look at shorter timeframes between re-commitments (admissions) to jail. Data collected from PrimeCare and Forensic Navigators. Fields include: New admissions; # SMI; total # SMI re-admits; ALOS; # suicide screens; # MH intakes completed; # SMI with co-occurring substance use dx; # inmates with ID/A, TBI, and/or Dementia; # inmates at Norristown State Regional Forensic Center; # SMI released from custody; # connections to treatment upon release.

Butler

Re-incarceration (after any time period). All inmates are screened for mental illness when booked. MH professional maintains data of number of inmates with MH (% of population).

Cameron

Same as any inmate

Centre

We do not have a separate definition at this point.

Clinton

We have a research team of interns from our local university. They also help with the developments of several strategic plans. They aid in the collection of data from the probation department and the local correctional facility. We then attempt to streamline the process to lessen the amount of time a person with behavioral health challenges is in jail. We also do this with addiction based offenders. We believe in a holistic approach to the challenges we face.

Cumberland

There is no difference, except that we attempt to account for recidivism separately in specialty courts.

Dauphin

we are working on cross referencing prison data with Human Services data.

Delaware

We do not have a definition for this because we are at the early stages of development. We have a newly-formed data subcommittee in CJAB and as part of the Coalition and they are developing plans for this.

Fayette

We are in the process of gathering a data set to determine what already-gathered measures can be used for this population.

Franklin

There is no difference in the definition of recidivism for inmates with behavioral health challenges. The data collected is the same as any other person on supervision. It is in the jail system and in the Adult Probation system.

Greene

Still defining.

Juniata

Previously incarcerated individuals who return to jail.

Lancaster

It's the same as for individuals without BH challenges.

Lebanon

Team MISA was established in the beginning of 2021. Team MISA will utilize the referral forms/process as a form of data collection and monitoring of individuals identified. A more formalized data collection system may be considered as Team MISA becomes more established.

Mercer

We define recidivism for inmates with behavioral health challenges as a recurrence or relapse of criminal behavior. The pertinent data we collect includes commitments, releases, re-commitments, suicide watches, visits with a mental health counselor, visits with a psychiatrist, and total MH consultations. This is collected at the jail and shared with CJAB.

Montgomery

A new felony or misdemeanor charge sustained by a judicial officer. It will be measured for three years from the start of the period of supervision, whether probation, counter intermediate punishment (CIP) or parole. If a post-parole probation tail is imposed, the three years should be measured from the date of release on parole.

Somerset

An inmate that is convicted and reincarcerated within a year of being released. No data is collected at this time due to the reentry program just starting 4 months ago.

Union

We have just entered into an agreement with PCCD to complete a comprehensive recidivism study in Union County to be completed over the next year. We don't have a separate definition of recidivism for clients with behavioral health challenges.

York

At this point we are working towards collecting data through Open Lattice which can help us with defining recidivism.

Have you thought about using technology to get inmates with behavioral health challenges connected to resources and opportunities outside of the jail - are you using it?

Condensed to show substantive responses

Adams

Yes, we use virtual appoints for our outpatient mental health services to connect inmates prior to release with their community providers.

Allegheny

Some Re-Entry Service Coordinators have tested out a mobile app called Re-Entry 412 to link participants to resources. Incarcerated individuals also have access to tablets during their incarceration which provides another mechanism for providing information about community resources prior to release. The Jail Collaborative is looking to leverage the tablets by adding a learning management system with courses related to recovery, reentry planning and cognitive behavioral change.

Berks

Our population recently started using tablets this year as well as video conferencing to connect with community partners. We are exploring options for more access to resources, information and evidence based programs on our tablets and expect that video conferencing will increase our population's access to community services while incarcerated.

Bucks

Video-conferencing is being used to conduct re-entry service/housing interviews; weekly groups are being conducted by NAMI through a virtual platform to provide BH education/support. Also, weekly interagency meetings with Forensic Navigators, inmates, and Norristown Regional Forensic Center staff.

Centre

The county jail has an agreement with the local Assistance Office to help individuals apply for medical assistance (Public Health Insurance) prior to their release or if they had Medical Assistance prior to their incarceration get it turned back on.

Cumberland

We have asked to use ARP funding for a computer/tablet lab for inmates to increase our treatment library to include audio visual and training possibilities.

Dauphin

We are in year three of a cross systems database. Working on refreshing the data due to some systems switching databases.

Fayette

We use telehealth treatment and case management.

Franklin

We use telehealth when possible to connect people to mental health services.

Greene

Virtual counseling and outreach is available.

Lebanon

Our local prison purchased a large quantity of tablets for the inmates to utilize while in the prison system to connect to community resources and opportunities.

McKean

Telehealth and online Career resources are utilized and will need to continue to be an alternative point of access for individuals.

Montgomery

Technology is being used by use of Zoom meetings to start those connections with mental health services or to just hold the first intake appointment.

Potter

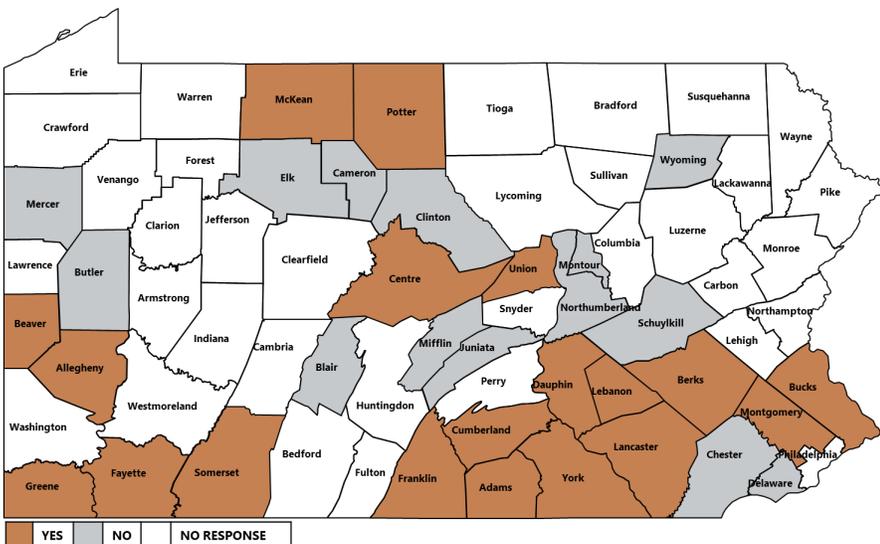
We will likely be signing a telepsychiatry services contract worked out through PIMCC/Cost Management Plus, modeled after similar services being provided in other counties, including our neighboring Tioga County.

Somerset

Inmates meet regularly with a psychiatrist for medicine management.

Union

Inmates approved for release services have access to the internet and web based programming at our Day Reporting Center.





COMPREHENSIVE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TASK FORCE

CCAP's Comprehensive Behavioral Health Task Force's focus is to help guide counties seeking alternatives to incarcerating mentally ill and substance abusing offenders in order to increase the likelihood of improved lives, better use of resources and safer communities.

TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Kevin Barnhart, Commissioner, Berks County, Task Force Chair
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Albert Abramovic, Commissioner, Venango County
Valerie Arkoosh, MD, MPH, Commissioner, Montgomery County
Jeff Eggleston, Commissioner, Warren County
Bruce Erb, Commissioner, Blair County
Pat Fabian, Commissioner, Armstrong County
George Hartwick, Commissioner, Dauphin County
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