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**AGENDA September 27, 2018 10:00 a.m.**  
**Vern Riffe Center, 31<sup>st</sup> Floor – South B and C**

- I. Call to order, roll call & approval of meeting notes from June 21, 2018  
Vice-Chair Selvaggio
- II. Stepping Up – Overview and Update  
“The national Stepping Up initiative is a collaboration between the National Association of Counties (NACo), the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center, and the American Psychiatric Foundation (APF) to help advance counties' efforts to reduce the number of adults with mental and co-occurring substance use disorders in jails. The initiative engages a diverse group of organizations with expertise on these issues, including those representing sheriffs, jail administrators, judges, community corrections professionals, treatment providers, people with mental illnesses and their families, mental health and substance use program directors, and other stakeholders”.<sup>1</sup>
- III. [Issue 1 – To Reduce Penalties for Crimes of Obtaining, Possessing, and Using Illegal Drugs](#)  
A constructive roundtable discussion among Commission Members on the ballot initiative & possible vote. [click title above for full text and related documents]
- IV. Appellate Review  
Members will consider proposed revision to 2935.08 & possible vote.
- V. General Updates
  - Recodification
  - Juvenile Committee
  - FY2020-2021 Budget preparation
- VI. Justice Reinvestment Update
- VII. Adjourn

Updates are available on the Commission website  
<http://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/Boards/Sentencing/>

**2018 Full Commission Meeting Dates**  
**Thursday, December 13, 2018 Riffe Center – 31<sup>st</sup> floor**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://commissioners.franklincountyohio.gov/stepping-up>



## NATIONALLY

**2 MILLION**

PEOPLE WITH MENTAL  
ILLNESS ARRESTED  
ANNUALLY

INMATES IN JAIL WITH  
MENTAL ILLNESS DO  
NOT GET THE HELP  
THEY NEED

**75%**

HAVE CO-OCCURRING  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE  
DISORDER

**MOST RELEASED  
WITHOUT SERVICES**

## LOCALLY

**30%**

OF OHIO'S INMATES HAVE  
MENTAL ILLNESSES

**ALL 78**

COUNTY JAILS HAVE  
BECOME DE-FACTO  
INPATIENT PSYCHIATRIC  
FACILITIES

**THEY OFTEN  
STAY LONGER**

**MORE  
RECIDIVISM**

## GET STARTED

**ACCESS THE  
STEPPING UP  
TOOLKIT**

RECEIVE A VISIT WITH  
YOUR COMMUNITY  
LEADERS FROM THE  
STEPPING UP TEAM

PARTICIPATE IN A FREE  
READINESS  
ASSESSMENT WITH AN  
EXPERT TEAM

**RECEIVE FREE  
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

**Stepping Up is a national movement to reduce  
the number of people with mental illness in jails.  
Ohio has joined this movement.**

The movement was launched by the Council of State Governments Justice Center, the National Association of Counties, the American Psychiatric Association Foundation with support from the U.S. Justice Department Bureau of Justice Assistance. In Ohio, the initiative is funded by Peg's Foundation.

To participate, email Melissa Knopp, Esq.  [knoppm@steppingupohio.org](mailto:knoppm@steppingupohio.org)



## The Problem

Each year there are an estimated 2 million people with serious mental illnesses admitted to U.S. jails and almost three-quarters of adults with serious mental illnesses in jails have co-occurring substance use disorders. The toll incarceration takes on these individuals and their families, as well as the costs assumed by taxpayers, is staggering. Jails have become de facto in-patient psychiatric facilities across the nation with little impact on public safety. Ohio is no exception, with as many as 30 percent or more of the individuals in jails having mental illnesses.

## Ohio Steps Up

A growing number of Ohio counties are joining with their counterparts across the country to engage in Stepping Up, a national initiative to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails. The initiative was launched in May 2015 by the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center, the National Association of Counties, and the American Psychiatric Association Foundation, with support from the U.S. Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Assistance, to help people with mental illnesses and co-occurring substance use disorders safely stay out of jails and on a path to recovery. In Ohio, leaders in Franklin County have announced one of the most comprehensive plans to date to overhaul responses to people with mental illnesses who are cycling through the criminal justice system. This type of engagement and resolve across the state has sparked a special Ohio Stepping Up effort led by county and state leaders, with support from the CSG Justice Center. This effort is generously funded by Peg's Foundation and the Gund Foundation.

**"Many Ohioans with serious mental illness and substance use disorder cycle through our jails, often not getting access to the sustainable treatment they need. We have an opportunity to do a better job of caring for those struggling with serious behavioral health issues by continuing to focus key resources where they are most needed, and aligning systems of care with our criminal justice systems."- Dr. Mark Hurst, Director, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services**

## Getting Started With Ohio Stepping Up

To make this effort a success, all Ohio county leaders are encouraged to sign up for Ohio Stepping Up and pass a resolution that includes a commitment to a six-step planning process. Counties that pass a resolution in support of the national Stepping Up initiative, not only demonstrate their commitment to reducing the number of people with mental illnesses and co-occurring substance use disorders in jail but also benefit from Ohio specific resources. Peg's Foundation has retained Retired Justice Evelyn Lundberg Stratton to serve as Project Director and Melissa Knopp, Esq., to serve as Project Manager to lead the Ohio efforts.



## FOUR WAYS YOU CAN BENEFIT FROM OHIO STEPPING UP

### 1. Access the Stepping Up Toolkit

Make sure your county has signed up to receive Stepping Up announcements at <https://stepuptogether.org/take-action>. By signing up, your county will receive a link to the Stepping Up toolkit, which includes written planning guides, training webinars, and relevant publications. Drawing on this assistance, counties can create actionable plans to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails. All counties will assign a County Coordinator as a contact point.

### 2. Participate in a free readiness assessment to determine what you have and what you need

Our team will work directly with your county to assess the current status of data collection for and policies and practices to address people with mental illness and substance use disorders in the criminal justice system. The results of this readiness assessment can help your county prioritize areas to tackle in your plan to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jail. To participate, email Melissa Knopp, Esq., at [knoppm@steppingupohio.org](mailto:knoppm@steppingupohio.org)

### 3. Receive free technical assistance with your county plan

Stepping Up Ohio participants will have access to resources that provide guidance and updates on learning opportunities, peer exchanges, and other technical assistance. For more information, please check out the OhioMHAS Stepping Up webpage at: [www.mha.ohio.gov/steppingup](http://www.mha.ohio.gov/steppingup). You may also contact Kathy Yokum at [kathy.yokum@mha.ohio.gov](mailto:kathy.yokum@mha.ohio.gov) for further details regarding technical assistance.

### 4. Ohio Stepping Up conference

Once a year all registered Ohio Stepping Up counties attended a one-day conference that brought state and local leaders from across Ohio together with partners from the national initiative to identify strategies to build local capacity and connect with training and technical assistance resources. The 2018 conference will be held October 22 at the Quest Center in Columbus; all registered Ohio Stepping Up Counties will be invited to participate.

**To learn more about Ohio Stepping Up and the opportunities available through this initiative, please contact Project Manager Melissa Knopp, Esq., at [knoppm@steppingupohio.org](mailto:knoppm@steppingupohio.org).**

**Stepping Up is a national movement to reduce the number of people with mental illness in jails. The Stepping Up Ohio initiative aims to ensure that leaders in every county pass a resolution that includes a commitment to a six-step planning process. Counties will then be given the tools to walk through these steps to fully implement Stepping Up.**



**To download the resolution for your county visit <https://stepuptogether.org/stepping-up-initiative-county-resolution-template>. To learn more about Stepping Up Ohio and the opportunities available through this initiative, please contact Project Manager Melissa Knopp, Esq. at [knoppm@steppingupohio.org](mailto:knoppm@steppingupohio.org) or visit [www.mha.ohio.gov/SteppingUp](http://www.mha.ohio.gov/SteppingUp).**



## STEERING COMMITTEE

### CORE WORKING TEAM

<b>Evelyn Lundberg Stratton, Esq.</b>	Project Director
<b>Melissa Knopp, Esq.</b>	Project Manager
<b>Thom Craig, MPA</b>	Advancement Director, Mental Health Program, Peg's Foundation
<b>Kathy Yokum, OCPC, LPCC-S</b>	Criminal Justice Administrator, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
<b>Dustin McKee</b>	Policy Director, NAMI Ohio
<b>Ruth Simera, M. Ed., LSW</b>	Director, Criminal Justice Coordinating Center of Excellence
<b>Sally Luken</b>	President, Luken Solutions

### STATE PARTNERS

<b>Dan Fitzpatrick</b>	Office of Governor John Kasich
<b>Mike DeWine, Esq.</b>	Ohio Attorney General
<b>Michael Sheline</b>	Assistant Section Chief, Crime Victims at Ohio Attorney General's Office
<b>Tom Stickrath, JD</b>	Superintendent, Bureau of Criminal Investigation
<b>Paul Pfeifer, Esq.</b>	Ohio Supreme Court Justice, Retired, Executive Director, Ohio Judicial Conference
<b>Mark Hurst, M.D.</b>	Director, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
<b>Chris Nicastro, LPCC-S</b>	Chief, Bureau of Criminal Justice, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
<b>Stuart Hudson</b>	Director, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction
<b>Roger Wilson</b>	Chief Inspector, Ohio Department of Rehabilitations and Correction
<b>Kara Miller</b>	Chief, Care Management and Quality Improvement Section, Ohio Department of Medicaid
<b>Lisa Shoaf, Ph.D</b>	Office of Criminal Justice Services, Ohio Department of Public Safety
<b>Sean Thomas</b>	Executive Director, Ohio Housing Finance Agency

### ASSOCIATION PARTNERS

<b>Suzanne Dulaney</b>	Executive Director, County Commissioners Association of Ohio
<b>Robert Cornwell</b>	Executive Director, Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association
<b>Stephen J. Levorchick</b>	Sheriff, Ottawa County, Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association
<b>Jeffrey Mitchell</b>	President, Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police
<b>Terry Russell</b>	Executive Director, NAMI Ohio
<b>Stacey Smith</b>	Director of Operations, NAMI Ohio
<b>Cheri Walter</b>	CEO, Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities
<b>Liz Henrich</b>	Associate CEO, Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities
<b>Lori Criss</b>	Chief Executive Officer, The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers
<b>Aly DeAngelo, MPA</b>	Director, Health Economics & Policy, Ohio Hospital Association
<b>Dave Ervin</b>	CorJus, Executive Director, West Central Community Correctional Facility
<b>Katie Kitchin</b>	Director, Corporation for Supportive Housing, Ohio
<b>Lusanne Green</b>	Executive Director, Ohio Community Corrections Association





## STEERING COMMITTEE

**Denise Robinson**

**Janet Shaw, MBA**

**Megan Testa, MD**

**Angela Weaver**

CEO, Alvis House; Ohio Community Corrections Association

Executive Director, Ohio Psychiatric Physicians Association

Forensic Psychiatrist, Ohio Psychiatric Physicians Association

Director of Regulatory Affairs, Ohio Association of Health Plans

### OTHER PARTNERS

**Betty Young, Ph. D, JD**

**Jane Okwako, Ph. D**

**Mark Munetz M.D.**

**Marilyn Brown**

**Michael W. Daniels**

**David Malawista**

President, Hocking College

Development Officer, Hocking College

Chair of Psychiatry, Northeast Ohio Medical University

Commissioner, Franklin County

Justice Policy Coordinator, Franklin County Office of Justice Policy and Programs

Reserve Commander, Athens Police Dept.; Clinical & Forensic Psychologist

### NATIONAL PARTNERS

**Richard Cho, Ph. D**

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**Kati Habert, MA**

**Elizabeth Buck**

**Nastassia Walsh**

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Director, Behavioral Health, CSG Justice Center

Senior Policy Advisor, Behavioral Health, CSG Justice Center

Deputy Program Director, Behavioral Health, CSG Justice Center

Deputy Program Director for Housing, Behavioral Health, CSG Justice Center

Program Manager, National Association of Counties

Legislative and Policy Advisor, Treatment Advocacy Center



## The Ohio Initiative

Each year there are an estimated 2 million people with serious mental illnesses admitted to U.S. jails—almost three-quarters of whom also have a co-occurring substance use disorder. The toll incarceration takes on these individuals and their families, as well as the costs assumed by taxpayers, is staggering. Jails have become *de facto* in-patient psychiatric facilities across the nation with little impact on public safety. Ohio is no exception, with as many as 15 to 30 percent or more of the individuals in jails having mental illnesses.

Ohio counties have joined with their counterparts across the country to engage in Stepping Up, a national initiative to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails. The initiative was launched in May 2015 by the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center, the National Association of Counties, and the American Psychiatric Association Foundation, with support from the U.S. Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Assistance. Stepping Up seeks to provide counties with tools to develop and promote cross-systems data-driven strategies that lead to measurable reductions in the number of people with mental illnesses and co-occurring disorders in local jails.

The Peg's Foundation contracted with the Hocking College Institute for Social and Economic Advancement to conduct a Readiness Assessment for the status of data collection practices in the 27 Ohio counties registered for Stepping Up as of January 2017. Retired Justice Evelyn Lundberg Stratton serves as the Project Director and Melissa Knopp, Esq., serves as the Project Manager for Ohio Stepping Up. Dr. Jane Okwako analyzed the data received from the Readiness Assessments and drafted this report.

## Steering Action from Bottom-up: Ohio's Promising Pathway

Treatment and re-integration are challenges dominating Ohio's policy landscape. A state-supported bottom-up movement has emerged with leaders mobilizing resources with multiple stakeholders. A vibrant arena for collective action has been created. Stewardship by local leaders is propelling various initiatives.

Ohio is on a steady path. It ranks third in the country with grade A in criminal justice diversion efforts. Ohio is also poised to be one of the states whose initiative may be replicated across the country.

The ongoing progress described below has key elements:

Stepping Up leadership is successfully marketing win-win solutions

Diverse stakeholders are coming together to work on solutions on the state level

Data-driven initiatives are gaining traction as centerpieces for action

Local stewardship is propelling vital action on the county level.

Cross-jurisdictional peer to peer learning is being embraced

Cross-systems collaboration is increasing

Ohio confronts a daunting task. Its jail population has 15 to 30 percent or more who have mental illness. Resources must be deployed to bolster interventions. Counties are adopting the 6 Questions below\* for self-assessment.

**Is your leadership committed?**

**Do you have timely screening and assessment?**

**Do you have baseline data?**

**Have you conducted a comprehensive process analysis and service inventory?**

**Have you prioritized policy, practice, and funding?**

**Do you track progress?**

These Stepping Up principles are a Call to Action. The assessment tool should continue to be a yardstick for measuring progress. Innovation should be shared in multiple forums. This will create a sharing of solutions that work.

\* Haneberg, R., Fabelo, T., Osher, F., and Thompson, M. (2017). Reducing the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jail: Six Questions County Leaders Need to Ask.



Data collection and tracking should be prioritized. As noted in the analysis, counties are deficient in tracking, despite an impressive screening record. Adoption of common intervention strategies for creating definitions, tracking, and screening should be prioritized.

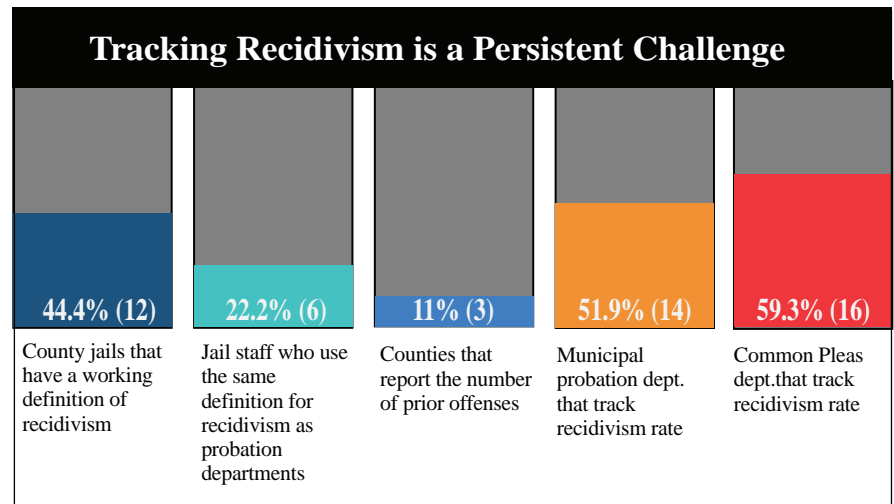
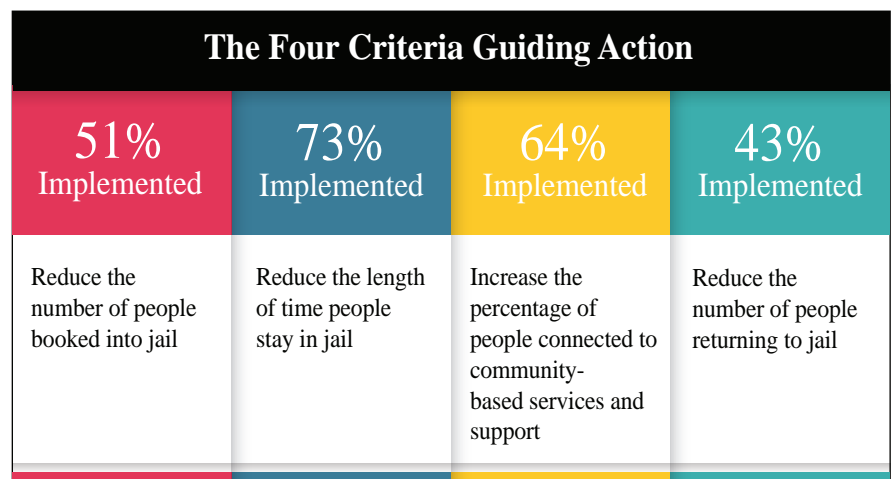
Data collection must specify prevalence of mental illness, recidivism, length of stay in jail, and connections to community-based services.

Collaborative tracking and data sharing with courts in serving regular and veteran offenders is urgent. Accordingly, validated screening practices can be initiated.

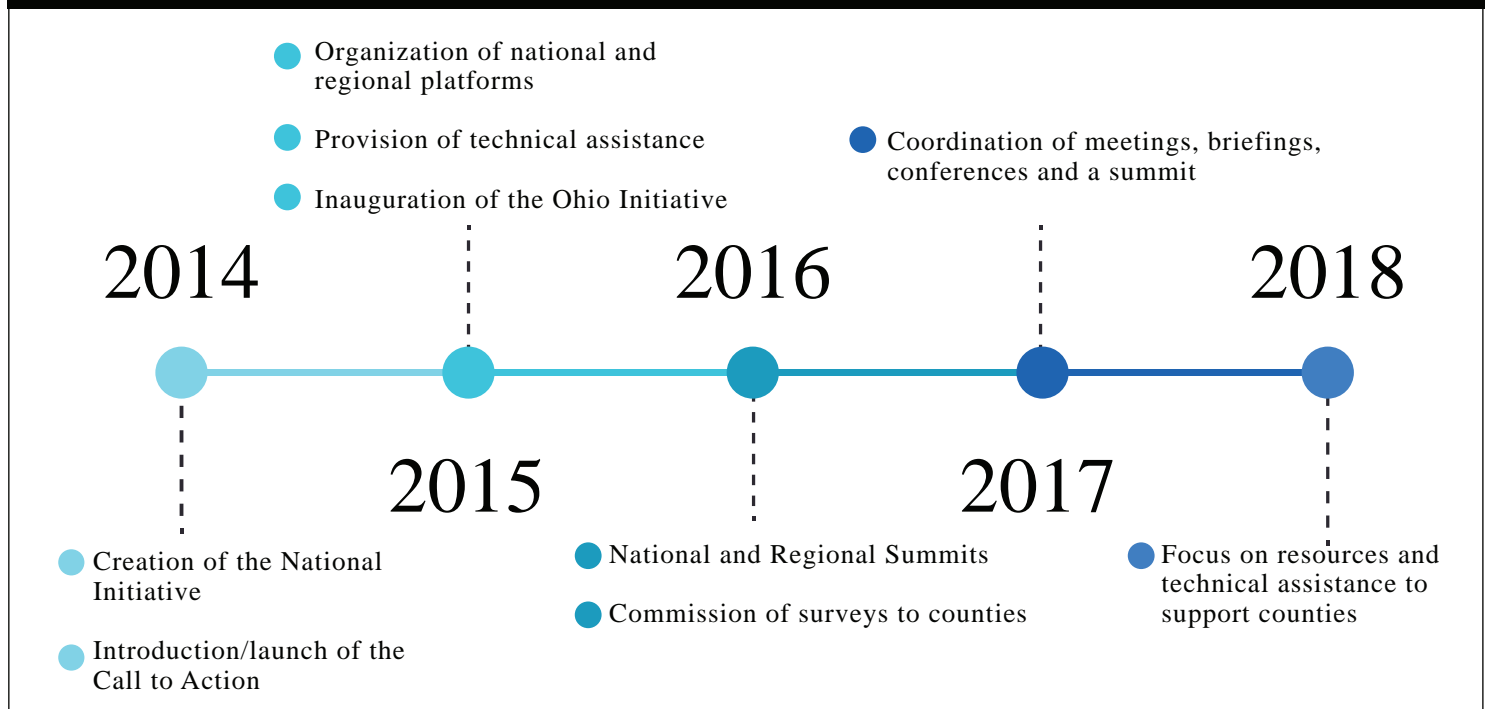
Collaboration has broader implications for multiple constituencies. Resource sharing reduces inefficiency and promotes inclusive crafting of solutions. Diversion dialogue should be an impetus for immediate and comprehensive action. Assessment of common challenges informs state-level responses. Ultimately, increased interventions will improve the well-being of individuals and communities.

Details on technical assistance coordinated under the auspices of the Stepping Up can be found at [www.mha.ohio.gov/steppingup](http://www.mha.ohio.gov/steppingup).

To learn more about Stepping Up opportunities, please contact the Project Manager Melissa Knopp, Esq., at [knoppm@steppingupohio.org](mailto:knoppm@steppingupohio.org).



## Roadmap for Ohio



# Readiness Assessment Findings

All information below is in reference to county jails

85.2%  
(23)

Jails with a data collection system

Counties with data on mental health treatment providers

92.6%  
(25)

92.6%  
(25)

Counties with data on substance abuse treatment providers

Counties partnering with community based treatment providers

92.6%  
(25)

48.2%  
(13)

Counties that share screening & assessment information with the court & probation

Counties have a validated mental health screening tools

51.9%  
(14)

25.9%  
(7)

Counties that track people going through the county jails

A positive mental health screen leads to a follow-up assessment in all counties

100%  
(27)

96.3%  
(26)

Counties that routinely use screening tools

Jails that administer criminogenic risk tool/s

14.8%  
(4)

Counties that screen for veteran status

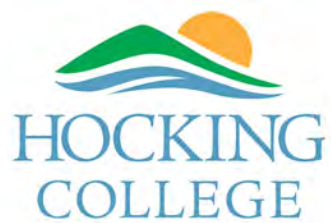
81.5%  
(22)

92.6%  
(25)

Counties that screen for substance abuse

Counties that can identify veterans at arrest

81.5%  
(22)





## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

### FUNDERS

The Stepping Up program is generously supported by the following funders and sponsors. Funders contribute to the 2018 Stepping Up Conference. Remaining funds are being used to host Stepping Up county visits and to provide materials and hand-outs. Sponsors are committed to supporting the general work of the initiative.



### SPONSORS

#### State



#### National



# 10 FACTS ABOUT CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAMS

## WHO

The Crisis Intervention **Team (CIT)** **model is widely adopted in Ohio**. 86 Ohio counties have trained CIT officers.

**Partnerships between law enforcement agencies and mental health systems are essential** to ensure that police officers are prepared to safely respond to encounters with individuals with mental illness and know how to help these individuals access mental health services.

Ohio has a CIT **Technical Assistance Center** at the Criminal Justice Coordinating Center of Excellence at NEOMED.

CIT training provides a foundation for **assisting those with a mental illness** and improves the likelihood of safety for officers and for citizens.

Research supports that CIT training is **effective at improving officer attitudes, skills and level of preparedness** in responding to individuals experiencing a mental health crisis.

## WHAT

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) is a **meaningful community program**, not just a police training program.

CIT Officers complete a voluntary, specialized **40-hour training** which is offered free of charge to law enforcement.

The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) model prepares police officers to safely resolve situations involving mental illness. **Ohio has trained over 10,000 law enforcement officers in CIT.**

Ohio's goal is to have specially trained officers available to **all communities 24 hours a day**.

## GOAL

CIT **Officers need alternatives** other than arrest and jail available to them when responding to crises involving mental illness which requires community involvement.

## WHY



## SEQUENTIAL INTERCEPT MAPPING (SIM)

### WHAT IS THE SEQUENTIAL INTERCEPT MODEL?

Within the criminal justice system there are points at which persons can be “intercepted” and diverted to the mental health treatment system.

Sequential Intercept Mapping is a day and a half exercise during which the resources a community has at each intercept point are identified, as are gaps in services. The gaps are prioritized and then a preliminary action plan to address the priorities begins.

### WHY IS THE SEQUENTIAL INTERCEPT MODEL NEEDED?

SIM brings the people needed to initiate community change together in a systematic, structured way; it helps foster collaboration amongst these key stakeholders and provides clear direction on how to approach what otherwise may feel overwhelming. SIM can take the goals of Stepping Up and provide a road map on how they can be achieved.

#### LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

- **Training 911 dispatchers and emergency responders** to recognize and respond safely and effectively.
- **Creating partnerships** between first responders and mental health crisis services so that law enforcement can link people in need to treatment.

#### INITIAL DETENTION AND INITIAL COURT HEARINGS

- **Screening for mental illness, substance use disorders and trauma history** to identify those eligible for diversion.
- **Linkage to comprehensive services** and assisting defendants in complying with conditions of pre-trial release.

#### JAILS AND COURTS

- **Maximizing potential for diversion** in specialty court dockets.
- **Monitoring progress** with scheduled court appearances and information sharing between courts and service providers.
- **Providing services consistent with community and public health standards** in jails.

#### RE-ENTRY

- **Assessing needs and risks and coordinating care** with community behavioral health and supervision agencies.
- **Planning for treatment and support** that addresses needs.

#### COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- **Assuring that community corrections and community mental health and addiction professionals work together.**
- **Connecting individuals** to employment and supportive health services and housing.
- **Ensuring that treatment addresses mental health, addiction and criminogenic risks and needs.**





## THE OHIO BENEFIT BANK

### WHAT IS THE BENEFIT BANK?

The Ohio Benefit Bank links people with resources and programs to help meet their basic needs. The Benefit Bank is a repository of information for the various aid systems in Ohio (food assistance, veteran benefits, prescription drug costs, etc.). Instead of consumers attempting to navigate each of these organizations individually, the Benefit Bank walks people through the process of finding and accessing the aid to help them become more stable and self-sufficient.

### WHOM DO THEY SERVE?

The Benefit Bank serves those who have trouble meeting their basic needs.

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

It is easy to have Benefit Bank counselors at your organization! Your existing staff persons can be trained in the process and sign up clients from your site. Visit [www.ohiobenefits.org](http://www.ohiobenefits.org) and click "Become a Site" to learn more. Clients can also use the Quick Check screening tool on the OBB website or contact them at **1-800-846-1176** to have one of the other OBB counselors walk the client through the process.

After an application is submitted, the system will determine which programs are available to the client and provide instructions for accessing them.

### TYPES OF ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE:

- Energy assistance
- Free tax filing
- Medicare/Medicaid
- Nutrition programs
- SSI/SSDI
- Prescription coverage
- Childcare assistance
- Federal student aid
- Food assistance programs
- Youth mentorships
- Vocational rehabilitation
- Veteran benefits
- WIC (Women, Infants and Children nutrition program)
- Voter registration

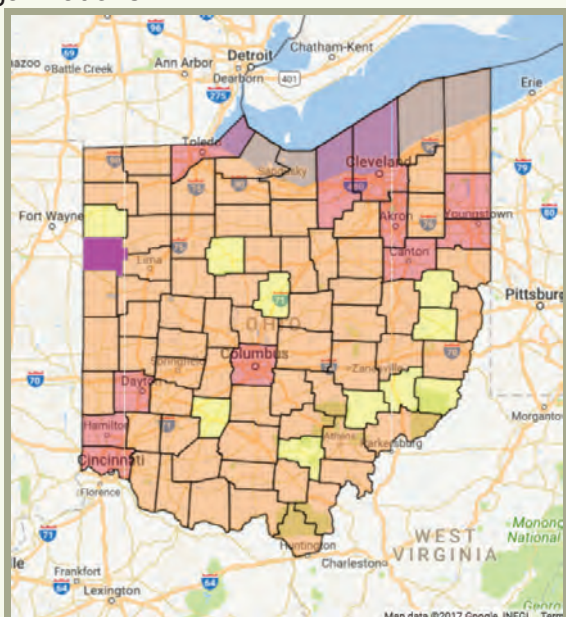


## THE OHIO COMPASSION MAP: SOCIAL SERVICE AND FAITH-BASED RESOURCES IN YOUR OWN COUNTY

### What is it?

Do you ever wish you had known about a resource sooner? Have you ever wished for a comprehensive list of all the human services available in your area? Want to know if there are local foundations in your community you could reach out to for financial support?

The Ohio Compassion Map has answered this call. Located at [www.ohiocompassionmap.org](http://www.ohiocompassionmap.org), the project assimilates information on faith-based and community nonprofits in all 88 Ohio counties into one easy-to-reference location. The resource is designed to facilitate networking and community collaboration between organizations.



Ohio boasts 67,556 nonprofit organizations which collectively hold \$140+ billion in assets and are the 4th largest employer in the state.

An interactive map displays the location and basic information for thousands of Ohio nonprofit organizations.

### How do you use it?

1. Search by Government Supported Nonprofits or the Number of Ohio Nonprofits by choosing either the \$ or # icon once you have entered the interactive map.
2. Choose a county and then filter results by Funding Level, Funding Year and/or Organization Type. Or simply click on a county in the heat map and choose "Details" to view non-profits in that area.
3. Scroll through the local organizations and regional contributors in each of the 88 Ohio counties.
4. Consider reaching out to the organizations in your area for partnership and collaboration.

### Explore further!

This project goes beyond the map and boasts a multitude of other resources, including:

- A listing of all Ohio organizations in each service sector.
- A picture of federal grant dollar distribution in Ohio, categorized by category of nonprofit and tracking percentage change over time.
- State funding agencies and their distributions.
- Links to related research.

### Join the movement!

The Ohio Compassion Map strives to capture as complete a picture of Ohio's nonprofits as possible. Go to [www.ohiocompassionmap.org](http://www.ohiocompassionmap.org) and click "Add My Non Profit to the Map" to register an organization that you see is missing.



## OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL TASK FORCE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND MENTAL ILLNESS

*"Since 2011, the Task Force on Criminal Justice and Mental Illness has focused on finding ways to stop the revolving door of incarceration for people with mental illness and to provide them with treatment."*

### Co-chairs

**Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine**

**Justice Evelyn Lundberg Stratton, Retired**

The Attorney General and Justice Stratton, Retired, have long been committed to issues involving those with mental illness who revolve through the criminal justice system. They lead the AGTF with over 350 members who have a common interest in working on the issues of mental health and criminal justice. Members from all walks of life: consumers, treatment providers, law enforcement, judges, agency representatives and many others meet quarterly in Columbus, Ohio.

### Sub-Committees

The task force is divided into 10 subcommittees made up of a diverse group of experts who meet quarterly to research and promote healthy, long-term solutions for those living with mental illness. The focus this year is on what each Subcommittee can do to help the Stepping Up challenge. Anyone can join one of the Subcommittees, which meet either via conference call or in person, always with a dial-in option. Visit the Attorney General's website for more information.

- Aging
- Diversion & Re-entry
- Housing
- Juvenile Justice

- Law Enforcement
- Mental Health & the Courts
- Policy & Legislative

- Psychiatry & Treatment
- Research & Best Practice
- Veterans Courts & Military Affairs

**For More Information about the Task Force and Subcommittees go online to:**

<http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/individuals-and-families/victims/task-force-on-criminal-justice-and-mental-illness>

### Contact the Ohio Attorney General's Office:

Michelle Gillrist  
Michelle.gillrist@ohioattorneygeneral.gov  
216-787-5995

Michael Sheline  
Donald.sheline@ohioattorneygeneral.gov  
614-644-8392

### Join or get meeting info:

Carolyn Bevins  
Carolyn.bevins@ohioattorneygeneral.gov  
614-466-3552



## OHIO CONSORTIUM OF CRIME SCIENCE AND THE STEPPING UP INITIATIVE

The Office of Criminal Justice Services is a Stepping Up Ohio partner and member of the Steering Committee. Their goal to help counties use data to bring about practical, workable solutions is in accordance with Stepping Up's mission to bring about solutions to problems we already know exist. OCCS projects do not need to be limited to the mental health crisis in the criminal justice system; the examples below show the range of issues they have worked on, while still maintaining a criminal justice focus.

### What is the Ohio Consortium of Crime Science?

The Ohio Consortium of Crime Science, or OCCS, is a group of researchers from colleges and universities across Ohio who are available to work with local criminal justice agencies to provide evidence-based solutions to the real-world problems they face. The OCCS is implemented through the Office of Criminal Justice Statistics (OCJS).

The OCCS is available to all local criminal justice entities, from law enforcement and corrections to courts and victim services. It is the goal of the OCCS to provide local practitioners with the tools they need to make informed decisions on criminal justice issues in their community. For this reason, services provided by the OCCS are free for practitioners.

### How can OCCS help you?

Here are just a few examples of the ways in which researchers have assisted practitioners:

- **Researchers have assisted local law enforcement to assess their staffing and structure, evaluate their policing districts, and provide technical assistance regarding data collection.**
- **Researchers have partnered with municipal courts to evaluate their specialized dockets.**
- **Researchers have worked with a prosecutor's office to evaluate a sexual assault and victim advocacy initiative.**
- **Researchers have worked with correctional facilities to evaluate a trauma-focused program, and to develop and implement an inmate survey.**

### How does OCCS operate?

Local agencies initiate their contact with the OCCS by filling out the Request for Assistance form, which is located on the OCCS website: [www.ocjs.ohio.gov/occs](http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/occs). In the request they are asked to identify the problem they have encountered, the kind of assistance they are looking for, and the outcomes they wish to achieve.



## VETERANS JUSTICE PROGRAMS

### WHY ARE THEY NEEDED?

**VETERANS ARE 9.3% OF THE INCARCERATED POPULATION IN THE U.S.**

**70% OF OFFENSES WERE FOR NON-VIOLENT CRIMES**

**CLOSE TO 60% OF INMATES HAVE MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS**

**82% OF INCARCERATED PERSONS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR VA SERVICES ON RELEASE**

### WHAT ARE THE JUSTICE PROGRAMS?

These are programs within the Department of Veterans Affairs that make sure that justice-involved Veterans get individualized care. They link persons to community services to help homelessness, behavioral health issues and recidivism.

### THERE ARE TWO MAIN PROGRAMS

#### VETERANS JUSTICE OUTREACH (VJO):

##### FOR THOSE ENTERING THE LOCAL JAIL OR COURT SYSTEM

- VJO Specialists work out of Veteran Health Administration (VHA) Medical Centers

- They ensure justice-involved Veterans have access to mental and substance abuse treatment and other medical services to avoid criminalization of mental illness

- VJO Specialists collaborate with local partners to help identify Veterans in need. They also provide case management and liaison services on the Veteran's behalf

#### HEALTH CARE FOR RE-ENTRY VETERANS (HCRV):

##### FOR THOSE COMING OUT OF THE PRISON SYSTEM

- HCRV Specialists work out of Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISN)

- They address the needs of incarcerated Veterans for re-entry into the community to be proactive in countering homelessness, recidivism and the impact of physical and mental health and substance abuse issues

- Specialists do pre-release outreach and assessments and make referrals and linkages to services upon release

### WHEN DO VETERANS ACCESS THESE SERVICES?

#### SERVICES ARE OFFERED TO VETERANS AT SEVERAL POINTS IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM:

- Point of law enforcement or emergency services
- Initial detention or court hearings
- Courts and jails
- Before release from prison or jail

### HOW DO THESE SERVICES WORK?

#### ELIGIBILITY

- Veterans are generally eligible if they have an Honorable or General Discharge from service and if those who enrolled after September 1980 have 24 months of consecutive service. National Guard Reservists may qualify if they were called to active duty. In some cases, Veterans with less than honorable discharges can receive services for things like traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress if they can attribute their struggles to their time in service.

- Eligibility is only limited by involvement with the criminal justice system during incarceration. At this time, VHA is only able to make assessments and referrals for services to begin following release.

- Monetary benefits will be reduced or suspended after a person has been sentenced; the amount to which this occurs depends on several factors.

### VETERANS TREATMENT COURTS

- Veterans Treatment Court is a specialized court structure to address underlying issues contributing to criminal behavior. The courts address not only the criminal behavior, but the factors that cause them. VJO Specialists work within these courts.

- Mental health issues such as PTSD, traumatic brain injury and adjustment disorder are often associated with particular crimes. A Veteran is assessed for these issues upon entry into court. VJOs try to link a veteran with services and programs that may help them enter diversion or avoid incarceration where possible and appropriate

### FOR A LIST OF OHIO VETERANS TREATMENT COURTS AND OTHER INFORMATION:

Go to [www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/JCS/specDockets/](http://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/JCS/specDockets/) or [www.justiceforvets.org/](http://www.justiceforvets.org/).

### FOR A LIST OF CURRENT NEWS, GRANTS, TRAINING, INFORMATION AND OTHER RESOURCES ON VETERANS AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE:

Go to Retired Justice Stratton's blog at [www.estrattonconsulting.wordpress.com](http://www.estrattonconsulting.wordpress.com).

### TO JOIN THE OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL TASK FORCE SUBCOMMITTEE ON VETERANS CARE AND MILITARY AFFAIRS:

Contact Carolyn Bevins at 614-466-3552 or [carolyn.bevins@ohioattorneygeneral.gov](mailto:carolyn.bevins@ohioattorneygeneral.gov).

## WHERE ARE THESE SERVICES?

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA):  
[WWW.VA.GOV/HOMELESS/VJO.ASP](http://WWW.VA.GOV/HOMELESS/VJO.ASP)  
1-800-827-1000

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (VHA):  
[WWW.VA.GOV/HEALTH](http://WWW.VA.GOV/HEALTH)  
1-877-222-VETS (8387)

HEALTH CARE FOR RE-ENTRY VETERANS:  
[WWW.VA.GOV/HOMELESS/REENTRY.ASP](http://WWW.VA.GOV/HOMELESS/REENTRY.ASP)





## OHIO MEANS JOBS-FREE SERVICE TO VETERANS

Ohio Means Jobs provides free employment services across Ohio. Specialized services are aimed at veterans and eligible spouses who: are getting out of jails and prisons, have a service-connected disability, are economically-disadvantaged and/or are educationally-disadvantaged. Job seekers who are veterans receive priority referral to jobs and training as well as special employment services and assistance.

### OHIO MEANS JOBS CENTERS PROVIDE:

**RESOURCE ROOM USE:  
COMPUTERS, FAXES & PHONES TO  
ASSIST JOB SEARCH**

**WORKSHOPS  
(E.G. BASIC COMPUTER SKILLS, RESUME,  
CAREER EXPLORATION, INTERVIEWING)**

**ADULT BASIC LITERACY & EDUCATION:  
GED OR SKILLS UPGRADE IN READING,  
MATH AND ENGLISH**

**INFORMATION ABOUT JOB TRAINING AND  
OBTAINING TUITION ASSISTANCE**

**REFERRALS FOR SUPPORTIVE SERVICES:  
TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE, CHILD CARE,  
HOUSING, UTILITY BILLS, ETC.**

### OTHER AVAILABLE SERVICES INCLUDE:

#### TRAINING & TALENT DEVELOPMENT

- Comprehensive assessment of education, skills, and abilities
- In-depth interviewing and evaluation
- Group and individual career coaching

#### INTENSIVE EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

- Assistance with civilian licensing/certification for skills developed while in military service
- Assistance with employability development plan to identify goals
- Referral to appropriate supportive services to overcome barriers

#### CAREER PLANNING & SUPPORT

- Occupational and labor market information, career exploration
- Job development contacts with employers
- Identifying workplace accommodations and follow-up services



**Ohio  
MEANS  
Jobs**

Department of  
Job and Family Services  
Office of Workforce Development

Ohio Means Jobs has locations in 88 counties, 20 workforce areas, 7 regions, 30 comprehensive OMJ Centers and 58 Associate OMJ Centers.

Visit [www.ohiomeansveteranjobs.com](http://www.ohiomeansveteranjobs.com) for more information, including available jobs, veteran-focused employment information and the Ohio Means Jobs Center nearest you.





### UCCI - UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI CORRECTIONS INSTITUTE: OVERVIEW OF SERVICES

**Mission:** to research, develop, disseminate and implement evidence-based practices in corrections.

UCCI provides services for federal, state, local and international governments as well as both for-profit and non-profit professional organizations to promote effective interventions for adult and juvenile offenders. Services are informed by research in the field and focus on core practices that incorporate cognitive behavioral and social learning approaches to encourage long-term, prosocial behavior. UCCI has trained over 20,000 corrections professionals at more than 335 agencies worldwide.

SERVICES	COGNITIVE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS UCCI CORE CURRICULUM	A thorough intervention that broadly targets all criminogenic needs. The curriculum provides modifications so that offenders with mental illness can participate, though it is not limited to this population. Uses a modified closed group format with multiple entry points to allow for flexibility across service settings and intervention lengths. The curriculum is free, requiring only facilitator training by UCCI.
	CORE CORRECTIONAL PRACTICES (CCP)	A 2-day training that instructs criminal and juvenile justice workers on the core skills needed to be effective agents of change. Provides information on the research supporting effective interventions, introduction to eight core correctional practices that play a role in reducing recidivism, and planning to incorporate these skills into an effective behavior management system.
	CCP COACHES TRAINING	An extension of CCP, in which staff learn effective coaching skills to increase the use or delivery of CCP in daily practice.
	EFFECTIVE PRACTICES IN COMMUNITY SUPERVISION (EPICS)	A 3-day training that teaches probation officers, parole officers and case managers how to apply the principles of effective intervention to community supervision practices. Combines monitoring, referrals and face-to-face interactions to provide a sufficient "dosage" of treatment interventions. Includes 5 months of follow up coaching.
	EPICS FOR INFLUENCERS (EPICS-I)	An extension of the EPICS model that teaches support members (Influencers) of individuals involved in the criminal justice system how to help support positive behaviors. The goal is to identify prosocial support persons and teach them the same skills probation/parole officers are using, thereby helping those they care about manage life's challenges. The training is 3 days; 1 day to train Influencers on the EPICS model and 2 days to train officers to provide ongoing coaching support. Includes 5 months of follow-up coaching.
	OHIO RISK ASSESSMENT SYSTEM (ORAS)	A risk/needs assessment tool for adult offenders, with the ability to assess individuals at various decision points across the criminal justice system. The tool is free, but agencies must be trained prior to implementation. Training includes techniques for administering and scoring as well as development of case plans for reducing risk to re-offend.
	EFFECTIVE CASE PLANNING (CP) PRACTICES	Incorporates the Principles of Effective Classification to give participants the skills necessary to develop assessment-driven case plans. Can be delivered as a 2-day training, or 1-day add-on to an ORAS training.



The University of Cincinnati, in partnership with Cordata Healthcare, Interact for Health, the Institute of Crime Science and the UCCI, have received an Ohio 3rd Frontier grant for \$1.5 million to fight the region's opioid epidemic. This collaborative will create Quick Response Teams (QRT) who will immediately begin working with an individual who has overdosed and provide support in transition to treatment. Teams will also use automated data collection to identify at-risk individuals and provide prevention and intervention services. UCCI will provide training to these teams in key areas such as: dealing with involuntary populations, data collection, and involving prosocial influencers in the individual's life to provide long-term support.