

BJA Statewide Recidivism Reduction Planning Grant

Reducing Recidivism of High Risk Offenders Through
Improved Behavioral Health Information Exchange



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Background

- * Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA): The Colorado Statewide Recidivism Reduction Planning Team (CSRR) was awarded a **planning grant** entitled: *Second Chance Act Statewide Adult Recidivism Reduction Strategic Planning Program*.
- * It covers the period of October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016
- * Upon completion of the Statewide Recidivism Reduction Strategic Plan, BJA will invite states to submit applications for implementation grants of up to \$1 million with the potential for two subsequent supplemental awards of \$1 million each.

Vision



That all justice involved individuals with serious mental illness will be provided improved continuity of care in prescribed psychotropic medications and evidenced-based behavioral health services . . . to promote positive community adjustment, improved health, reduced recidivism and improved public safety.

Mission

... The exchange of health information will enable a two-way sharing of health and behavioral health data between the justice and health communities so that individuals with mental illness **can be diverted from the criminal justice system when appropriate and those being released from incarceration can reenter the community successfully.**

Project/Program Goals

Goal 1: Define the high risk target population of offenders with serious mental illness, the majority of which have co-occurring substance use disorders

Goal 2: Identify electronic information exchange needs and opportunities for the statewide grant planning process

Goal 3: Develop a statewide justice to health information exchange system plan to improve triage, assessment, treatment and continuity of care for individuals with mental illness or substance use disorders whether they are in the criminal justice system, newly established mental health crisis system or community reentry.

Top Colorado Information Exchange Use Cases Identified

1. CJ health provider and community health provider exchange continuity of care information*
2. Information for program evaluation/data collection*
3. Information for criminal justice supervision
4. Criminal justice status information for health providers
5. Information for law enforcement response to a crisis situation involving risk of imminent threat to the health or safety of a person or the public

* 1st Priority

Progress to date

- * Selected the SAMHSA definition of ‘Serious Mental Illness’
- * Defined recidivism as return to a criminal justice facility for any reason
- * Identified information sharing needs, gaps and benefits

Progress to Date

- * Arranged consultant on-site interviews with 45 officials from 16 Colorado agencies to prepare technical recommendations for a statewide electronic justice and behavioral health information sharing system
- * Coordinated activities with the Behavioral Health Transformation Council Medication Consistency Workgroup

Next Steps

- * Consultants are preparing a final report with detailed findings, technical recommendations and a roadmap for building out the information exchange
- * After participating agency consensus on the recommendations, a team of lawyers will review the procedures
- * Preparing to respond to the BJA Implementation Solicitation which could bring \$1M per year for up to three years



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