

DREXEL UNIVERSITY &
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH



Carbon County

Report of the Cross-Systems Mapping Workshop

October 12th & 13th, 2011

Transforming Services
for Persons with Mental Illness in
Contact with the Criminal Justice System

Facilitator

Patricia A. Griffin, PhD, Center of Excellence Senior Consultant

Other Support

Sarah Filone, MA, Project Coordinator - PA Center of Excellence
Katy Winckworth-Prejsnar, Research Coordinator – PA Center of Excellence

Center of Excellence Staff

David DeMatteo, JD, PhD
Sarah Filone, MA
Patricia Griffin, PhD
Kirk Heilbrun, PhD
Casey LaDuke, MS
Edward P. Mulvey, PhD
Marcel Schipper
Carol Schubert, MPH
Katy Winckworth-Prejsnar, BA



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Carbon County, Pennsylvania

Transforming Services for Persons with Mental Illness in Contact with the Criminal Justice System

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the Pennsylvania Mental Health and Justice Center of Excellence *Cross-Systems Mapping* workshop held in Carbon County on October 12th and 13th, 2011 at the Whispering Pines Banquet Hall, Penn Forest Twp. Volunteer Fire Co. #1 in Jim Thorpe. Carbon/Monroe/Pike (CMP) MH/MR and other stakeholders hosted the workshop as part of an ongoing process of developing collaborative systems of support for individuals who have mental illness and who come in contact with criminal justice. This report (and accompanying electronic file) includes:

- A brief review of the origins and background for the workshop;
- A summary of the information gathered at the workshop;
- A cross-systems intercept map as developed by the group during the workshop;
- A description of each intercept along with identified gaps and opportunities;
- An action planning matrix as developed by the group; and
- Observations, comments, and recommendations to help Carbon County achieve its goals.

Background

Jennifer Williams, CMP MH/MR Director of Consumer Supports, and multiple other stakeholders requested the Center of Excellence *Cross-Systems Mapping* workshop to promote progress in addressing criminal justice diversion and treatment needs of adults with mental illness in contact with the criminal justice system. As part of the workshop, they were requested to provide assistance to Carbon County with:

- Creation of a map indicating points of interface among all relevant Carbon County systems;
- Identification of resources, gaps, and barriers in the existing systems; and
- Development of priorities to promote progress in addressing the criminal justice diversion and treatment needs of adults with mental illness in contact with the criminal justice system.

Prior to the workshops, the Center of Excellence gathered information about Carbon County through a *Community Collaboration Questionnaire* and gathering of documents relevant to the population.

The participants in the workshops included 41 individuals representing multiple stakeholder systems including mental health, substance abuse treatment, human services, corrections, advocates, family members, consumers, law enforcement, and the courts. A complete list of participants is available in Appendix A (pg. 33) of this document. Patricia A. Griffin, PhD facilitated the workshop sessions. Sarah Filone, MA, and Katy Winckworth-Prejsnar also provided support.

About the Workshop

Upon receiving a grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency and the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare's Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services in late 2009, the Pennsylvania Mental Health and Justice Center of Excellence was developed as a collaborative effort by Drexel University and the University of Pittsburgh. The mission of the Center of Excellence is to work with Pennsylvania communities to identify points of interception at which action can be taken to prevent individuals with mental illness from entering and penetrating deeper into the justice system.

The Center of Excellence workshops, *Cross-System Mapping* and *Taking Action for Change*, are unique services tailored to each Pennsylvania community. These workshops provide an opportunity for participants to visualize how mental health, substance abuse, and other human services intersect with the criminal justice system.

This workshop is unlike other types of consultations or staff development training programs. A key element is the collaborative process. Meaningful cross-system collaboration is required to establish effective and efficient services for people with mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorders involved in the criminal justice system. This makes the composition of the group extremely important. While some workshops involve advertising to the entire provider community, it is essential in the *Cross-System Mapping* workshops that the organizers gather a group that represents key decision makers and varied levels of staff from the relevant provider systems. Center of Excellence staff work with this group, serving as expert guides to help:

- Create a cross-systems map indicating points of interface among all relevant local systems;
- Identify gaps, opportunities, and barriers in the existing systems;
- Optimize use of local resources;
- Identify and prioritize necessary actions for change; and
- Develop an action plan to facilitate this change.

Upon completion of the workshops, the Cross-Systems Map included in the report is provided in both print and electronic formats. It is meant to be a starting point. The electronic files can be revised over time to reflect the accomplishments and changes in the planning process.

Objectives of the Cross-Systems Mapping Exercise

The *Cross-Systems Mapping Exercise* has three primary objectives:

1. Development of a comprehensive picture of how people with mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorders move through the Carbon County criminal justice system along five distinct intercept points: Law Enforcement and Emergency Services, Initial Detention/Initial Court Hearings, Jails and Courts, Re-entry, and Community Corrections/Community Support.
2. Identification of gaps, resources, and opportunities at each intercept for individuals in the target population.
3. Development of priorities for activities designed to improve system and service level responses for individuals in the target population.

Keys to Success

Existing Cross-Systems Partnerships

Carbon County's history of collaboration between the criminal justice and behavioral health systems is reflected in a number of existing local efforts that were identified prior to the mapping. For example:

- Carbon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB) that includes but not limited to judges, police officers, human service practitioners, elected officials, Drug & Alcohol, and victim resources.
- Accelerated Rehabilitation Disposition (ARD)
- Police Visual Alert System
- The jail has volunteers through the Yokefellowship Prison Ministries that provide re-entry programming

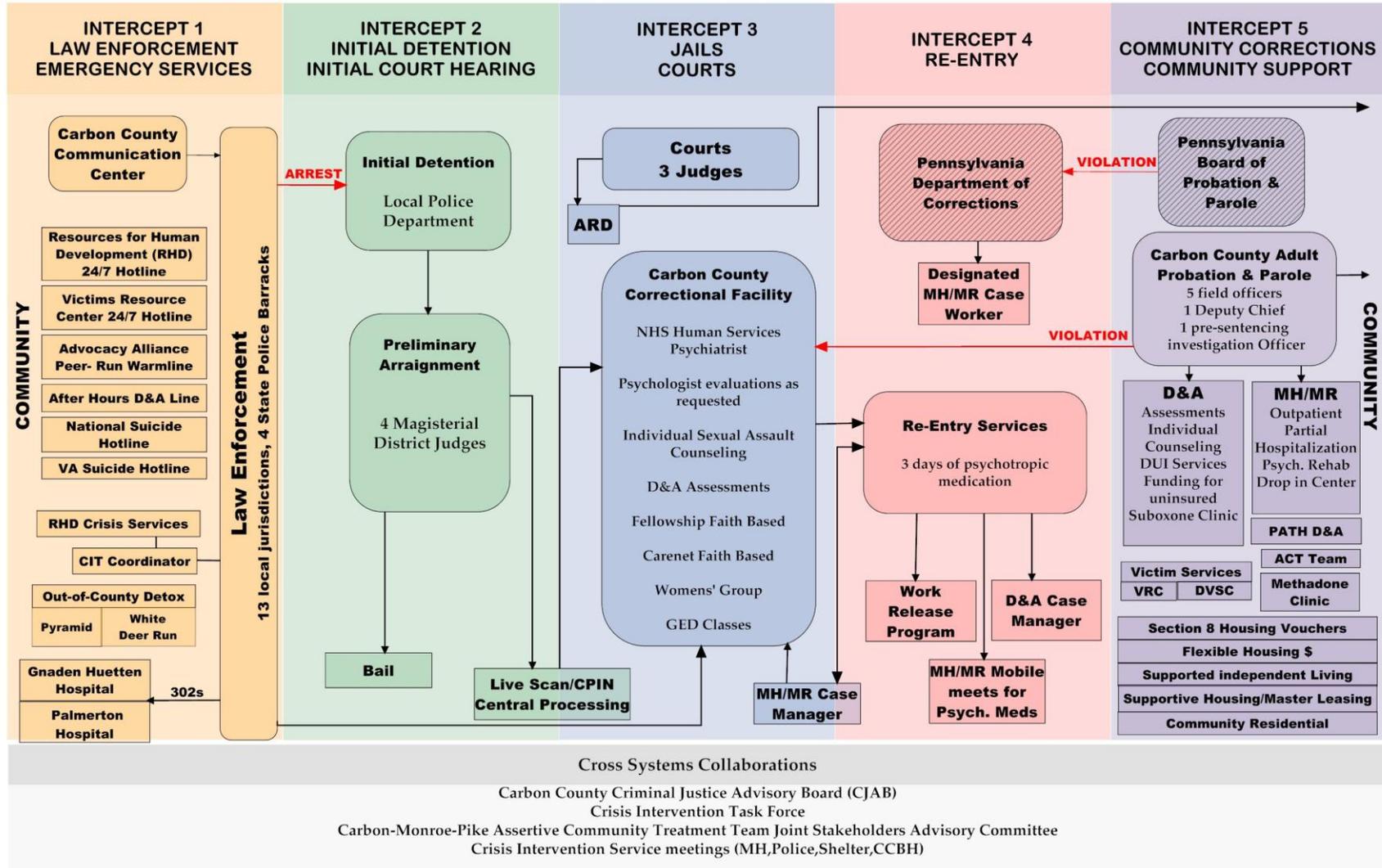
Representation from Key Decision Makers in the Workshops

- The workshops included wide cross-system representation and involved many of the key decision makers including a county commissioner, the District Attorney, several law enforcement jurisdictions, 911, Emergency Management, probation, victims' services, County Assistance Office, behavioral health services, and the Sheriff of the county.
- Opening remarks by Jennifer Williams, Carbon Monroe Pike MH/MR Director of Consumer Supports, set the stage and established a clear message as to the importance of the workshop. Ronald S. Kokinda, Chief Adult Probation Officer, welcomed participants and introduced the facilitator.

Data Collection

- In addition to the information gained during the workshop, the information in this report was developed from conversations with and questionnaires completed by key stakeholders in Carbon County in preparation for the workshop.

Carbon County Cross Systems Map



Carbon County Cross Systems Narrative

The *Cross-Systems Mapping* exercise is based on the Sequential Intercept Model developed by Mark Munetz, M.D. and Patty Griffin, Ph.D.,¹ in conjunction with the National GAINS Center. In this workshop, participants were guided to identify gaps in services, resources, and opportunities at each of the five distinct intercept points.

This narrative reflects information gathered during the *Cross-Systems Mapping Workshop*. It provides a description of local activities at each intercept point, as well as gaps and opportunities identified at each point. This narrative may be used as a reference in reviewing the Carbon County Cross-Systems Map. The cross-systems local task force may choose to revise or expand information gathered in the activity.

The gaps and opportunities identified in this report are the result of “brain storming” during the workshop and include a broad range of input from workshop participants. These points reflect a variety of stakeholder opinions and are, therefore, subjective rather than a majority consensus.

General Description of Services and Cross-System Collaboration

Carbon County was created on March 13, 1843, from parts of Northampton and Monroe Counties. Its name alludes to its deposits of anthracite coal. Jim Thorpe, the county seat, was originally incorporated on January 26, 1850 as the borough of Mauch Chunk, an Indian name meaning “bear mountain.” It was renamed in 1954 for the famous Indian athlete who is buried there. According to the 2010 census, the population of Carbon County is 65,249 with a median age of 44.

Carbon County was the home of the first large scale railroad in America. The “Switchback” railroad, as it came to be known in its glory days, was originally designed to carry coal. The Switchback led a long and active life, first as a coal carrier and then as solely a tourist attraction. In the 1930’s, the railroad carried its last passengers.

The County has been building a continuum of criminal justice and mental/behavioral health services that provide a basic foundation for continued growth and reorganization on all levels. There are a number of established links, both formal and informal, between the courts, probation, police departments, corrections and the mental health system that include, including but not limited to:

- Carbon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB) that includes but not limited to judges, police officers, human service practitioners, elected officials, Drug & Alcohol, and victim resources.
- Interagency Council
- Children’s Roundtable
- Partners for Progress

¹ Munetz, M. & Griffin, P. (2006). A systemic approach to the de-criminalization of people with serious mental illness: The Sequential Intercept Model. *Psychiatric Services*, 57, 544-549.

- Accelerate Rehabilitation Disposition
- Police Visual Alert System
- Jail's volunteers through the Yokefellowship Prison Ministries that support re-entry programs
- "All Call" system to borough residents through phone system
- Mutual Aid agreements with other police departments & shared planning commission

Carbon County provides an extensive and detailed network of care website for individuals, families and agencies concerned with behavioral health. It provides information about behavioral health services, laws, and related news, as well as communication tools and other feature is available at:

<http://carbon.pa.networkofcare.org/mh/home/index.cfm>

Intercept I: Law Enforcement / Emergency Services

911

Carbon County 911 dispatch services are operated by the **Carbon County Communication Center**, located at 1264 Emergency Lane, Nesquehoning, PA 18240. The center provides emergency dispatch to all local jurisdictions and dispatches 21 Fire Districts, 13 Police Departments and 14 EMS Stations. Services are provided 24/7 by 12 fulltime dispatchers. According to the Carbon County Communications Annual Report, the center received a total of 142,528 calls in 2010. Of the 12,931 EMS calls, 248 were characterized as 'mental health,' and 68 were listed as 'suicide.' Of the 52,636 police calls in 2010, 172 were listed as 'mental health,' and 162 were categorized as 'suicide.'

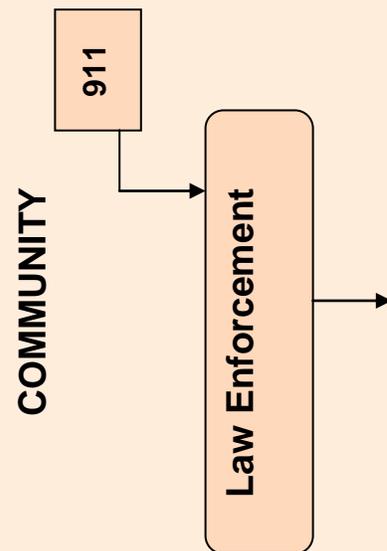
Law Enforcement

Carbon County is currently served by 19 police forces, including 13 local police departments, 4 State Police barracks, the Carbon County Coroner, and the Bethlehem Water Authority.

Carbon County Crisis Lines

- **Carbon/Monroe/Pike Crisis Services** provides a 24/7 hotline (570-421-2901 or toll free at 1-800-338-6467) which can be accessed directly or by calling C/M/P MH/MR. This hotline receives between 900 and 1000 calls each month.
- The **Carbon/Monroe/Pike Drug and Alcohol Commission** offers a 24/7 referral center number at 1-866-824-3578. Callers receive a recording that gives callers resources to contact.
- In addition, Carbon County residents have access to a peer -run warm line through the **Advocacy Alliance**. This line operates between the hours of 6 and 10 PM. It can be reached at 866-654-8114.
- **Resources for Human Development, Inc.** Toll-Free 800-338-6467, Local Line 570-992-0879
- **Victim Resource Center Hotline** Toll-Free 1-877-279-0415, Local Line 1-570-325-9641
- **Protective Services Line:** 1-800-233-0249
- **National Suicide hotline:** 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
- **VA Suicide hotline:** 1-800-273-8255

Intercept 1 Law enforcement



Carbon County Crisis Services

The **New Perspectives Crisis Intervention Services**, a division of Resources of Human Development (RHD), provide telephone crisis, emergency counseling, and referrals 24/7.

- The **Mobile Crisis Service** provides assessment, crisis intervention counseling, crisis stabilization, referral and linkage with other services, and assessment of the need for emergency hospitalization at consumers' homes or at other community locations. This service is available from 9AM to 9PM Monday through Saturday, although 302 assessments are available 24/7. Mobile crisis responds to approximately 150-175 calls each month.
- The **Medical Mobile Crisis Intervention Service** provides a registered nurse and a mental health professional that, in collaboration with a licensed psychiatrist, assess crises related to consumers' psychiatric medication. It also provides a **specialized crisis response for older adults**. The team conducts an in-home assessment of the older adult's mental, physical, and social needs and coordinates linkage to needed services.
- The **New Perspective Crisis Residence** is an eight-bed, short-term residential program for adults in Carbon, Monroe and Pike counties. The program provides supervised mental health stabilization services as an alternative to psychiatric hospitalization for individuals who are in psychiatric crisis, or who may need to be removed from a stressful environment while supports are identified to ensure stability. This crisis residence receives approximately 50 admissions each month, with an average individual stay of 4.3 days.

Detox and Substance Abuse Services

Carbon Monroe Pike Drug and Alcohol Commission, Inc. located at 428 South Seventh Street, Suite 1, Lehighton, Pa 18235, provides social rehabilitation services in the Carbon area.

White Deer Run (WDR) and **Pyramid Healthcare** both located outside the county, provide inpatient, detoxification and rehabilitation treatment for Carbon County residents. These facilities will come to Carbon County and pick patients up.

Hospitals

Blue Mountain Health System (<http://www.ghmh.org/content/>):

- **Gnaden Huetten Memorial Hospital**
211 North 12th Street
Lehighton, PA 18235
- **Palmerton Hospital** (ECT Inpatient & Outpatient)
135 Lafayette Avenue
Palmerton, PA 18071

Victim Services

The **Victims Resource Center** of Carbon County is located 616 North Street, 2nd floor, Jim Thorpe, PA 18229. Services include:

- A 24 hour hotline
 - Toll-Free 1-877-279-0415
 - Local Line 1-570-325-9641

- Information about the criminal justice system
- Advocacy for victim's rights
- Accompaniment to hospitals, police stations, and courts
- Assistance in filing for Crime Victims Compensation
- Counseling to handle the fear, anger and depression
- Emotional support
- Referral to community resources and social service agencies for additional help

Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency's Victim Resources for Carbon County:
http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/find_help_in_your_county/14752)

Victim Service Program	Type of Program	Phone Number	City
Domestic Violence Service Center	We help victims of domestic violence	570-823-7312	Wilkes-Barre
MADD - Northeastern Affiliate Office	We help victims of impaired driving crashes	610-372-6233	Reading
Carbon County Victim/Witness Services	We help victims of all crimes	570-325-2718	Jim Thorpe

In addition, Carbon County residents have access to the following resources:

<p>PA Coalition Against Domestic Violence 6400 Flank Drive, Ste. 1300 Harrisburg, PA 17112</p>	<p>daytime: 800-932-4632 website: www.pcadv.org</p>
<p>PA Coalition Against Rape 125 North Enola Drive Enola, PA 17025</p>	<p>daytime: 717-728-9740 24 hour hot line: 888-772-PCAR website: www.pcar.org</p>
<p>PCCD Victims Compensation Program 3101 N. Front Street Harrisburg, PA 17108</p>	<p>daytime: 717-783-5153 800-233-2339 website: www.pccd.state.pa.us</p>
<p>MADD, PA State Office 2323 Patton Road Harrisburg, PA 17112</p>	<p>daytime: 717-657-3911 24 hour hotline: 866-439-6233 (Pittsburgh) 800-848-6233 (Harrisburg) website: www.maddpa.org</p>

➤ **Identified Gaps**

- City commuters and retirees can strain resources
- Not a lot of specialized crisis/behavioral health training for 911 dispatchers
- No formal linkage between 24/7 crisis hotline and 911 call center
- 911 has many frequent users – between 10-15 individuals that call each day
- Law enforcement frustration over 302s being converted to voluntary commitments and individuals checking themselves out of treatment too quickly
- No formal training for law enforcement re legal 302 procedures
- No forum for mental health and law enforcement to regularly discuss 302 and other issues
- 302 petitions often lack the ‘potential danger’ allegation
- Officers are not always properly notified/are not always able attend 302 hearings
- No detoxification services offered within the county
- Large opiate use problem in the county – individuals are often stabilized at the hospital, but substance use issues aren’t addressed
- Hospital sometimes turns individuals away because of intoxication (refer to substance abuse treatment), but actually the person need mental health services

➤ **Identified Opportunities**

- Centralized 911 communication center for entire county
- 911 annual reports provide a detailed breakdown of calls by incident type (MH, etc.)
- Dispatchers receive suicide intervention training
- 4 in-county trainees from the Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) train the instructor program
 - Plan to offer MHFA training shortly
 - A fifth individual will be trained shortly – this will be a law enforcement officer from Monroe County
- HealthChoices has been an excellent funding source for the county -- funded the train the instructor training for MH First Aid
- Next month there will be a MH First Aid overview (1 hour) Webinar
- Monthly CJAB meetings could be utilized for some law enforcement training re: 302 commitment training
- Hospitals are planning to begin referring substance users to treatment & bringing NA and AA into the hospital
- Training on the Mental Health Procedures Act, behavioral health symptoms, and services for adults, adolescents, and children available through MH/MR

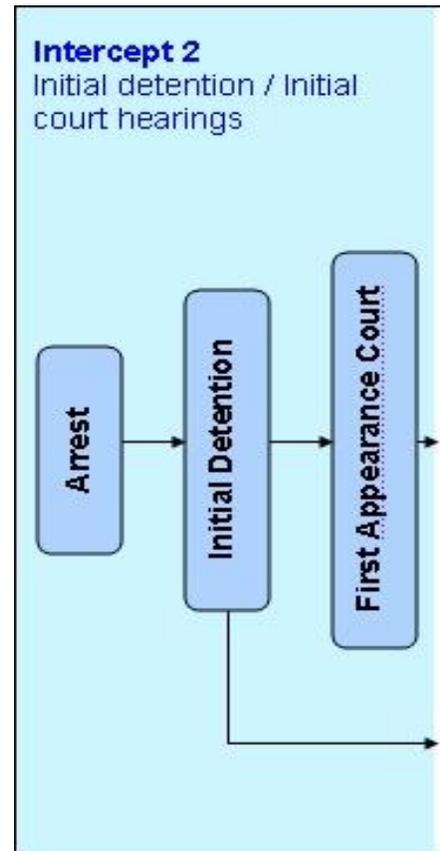
Intercept II: Initial Detention / Initial Court Hearing

Arrest and Initial Detention

When an individual is arrested in Carbon County, he/she is initially detained at the local police department until paperwork has been fully processed.

Carbon County recently began to implement Livescan/CPIN technology, funded through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), during the central booking process.

- The **Livescan Digital Fingerprint Acquisition/Submission Technologies (Livescan)** arrest reporting device technology replaces the process of capturing ink-and-roll fingerprints. Specifically with Livescan, booking agents roll fingerprints across a plate, uploading them into a computer, which then converts them to a digital form and transmits them electronically to the PSP AFIS System for storage and identification.
- **Commonwealth Photo Imaging Network (CPIN)** stations capture and store digital photographs of arrestees. With CPIN, booking officers can take up to eight digital photographs of a suspect's face, tattoos and distinguishing markings, such as scars and birthmarks. These images are then uploaded to the JNET system and are available within minutes to all law enforcement.



Preliminary Arraignment

Carbon County has 4 **Magisterial District Judges (MDJs)** who conduct preliminary arraignments. Individuals are given their rights and an opportunity to post bail.

The current Magisterial District Judges (MDJ) in Carbon County includes the Honorable Edward M. Lewis, the Honorable Bruce F. Appleton, the Honorable Casimir Kosciolk, and the Honorable Joseph Homanko. Magisterial District Judges are authorized to hear the following types of cases:

- Civil Cases:
 - Claims for money up to \$12,000 (not including interest and court costs). Note that a district justice does not have jurisdiction to hear any claim in which legal ownership of real estate is at issue.
 - Claims under the Landlord and Tenant Act.
- Criminal Cases:
 - Summary offenses, including motor vehicle violations.
 - DUI cases if: (a) it is a first offense, (b) there are no personal injuries, and (c) the defendant pleads guilty.
 - Third degree misdemeanors if the defendant pleads guilty.

District justices also preside over arraignments, fix bail, and issue arrest and search warrants. They also issue Emergency Protection from Abuse Orders on nights, weekends and holidays when the Court of Common Pleas is closed.

Currently there are no formal specialty dockets in the Court of Common Pleas, including mental health or specialty drug dockets. The Court of Common Pleas utilizes **Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition** (ARD) to divert first-time DUI offenders (see Intercept 3). No other formal diversion initiatives have been established.

Sheriff's Office

The Carbon County **Sheriff's Department**, overseen by Sherriff Dwight L. Nothstein, provides numerous services and duties to the citizens of both Carbon County and the State of Pennsylvania. Some of these services are listed below:

- Pennsylvania law requires the Sheriff of Carbon County to process all applications for a license to carry firearms.
- The Sheriff is responsible for service of all bench warrants issued by the Court Of Common Pleas. These include warrants for Failure to Appear in Court, Contempt of Court, Parole/Probation violations and civil warrants.
- The Sheriff is responsible for the security of the Court of Common Pleas of Carbon County. The county currently has 2 judges that require security in their respective courtrooms
- Transportation of incarcerated individuals to various court appearances. (See Intercept III)

➤ **Identified Gaps**

- Sometimes the initial processing time (paperwork) can be lengthy
- No systematic mechanisms to identify arrestees with behavioral health challenges

➤ **Identified Opportunities**

- Live Scan/CPin Central processing mechanism is currently being improved

Intercept III: Jails / Courts

Jail

The **Carbon County Correctional Facility** is located at 331 Broad Street Nesquehoning, PA 18240 and has an average daily census of 148 inmates. It is overseen by Warden Joseph G. Gross and Deputy Warden Timothy Fritz.

Carbon County also has an operational Prison Board, comprised of the following members:

- President – Controller Robert M. Crampsie
- Secretary- Commissioner William J. O’Gurek
- Member - Commissioner Wayne Nothstein
- Member - Commissioner Tom Gerhard
- Member - District Attorney Gary Dobias
- Member – Sheriff Dwight Nothstein
- The President Judge recluses himself from being a member

The board is vested with the safe-keeping, discipline, and employment of inmates and the government and management of the institution.

The board meets monthly and keeps regular minutes of their proceedings, and makes rules and regulations as needed in the governing and management of the prison.

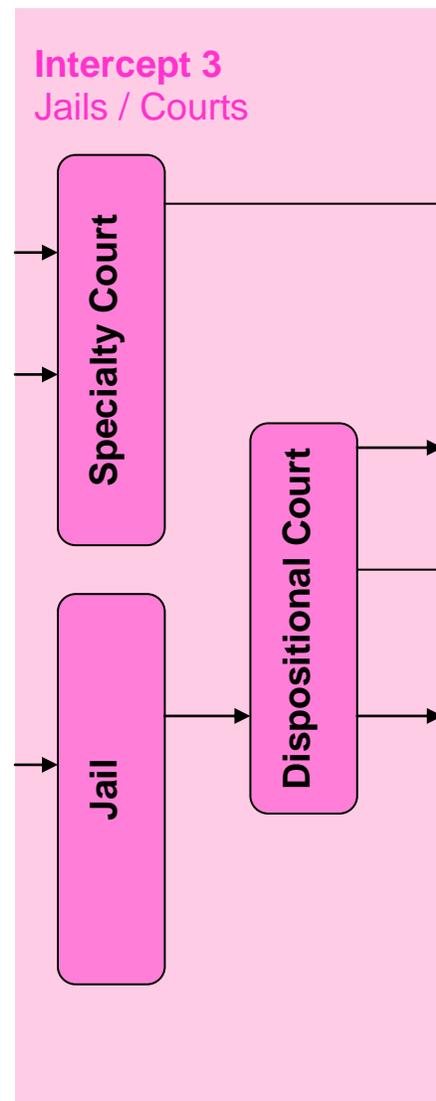
The board appoints a warden of the prison who is subject to the approval of the board appoints such staff as may be required in taking care of the prison.

All expenditures required for the support, maintenance, repairs and improvements of the prison must be approved by a majority of the board.

In addition to a NHS Human Services psychiatrist (3 hours per week), psychologist evaluations when requested, and court ordered drug & alcohol assessments, services within Carbon County Correctional Facility include:

- GED Classes
- Reformer’s Anonymous
- Women’s Group
- Individual Sexual Assault Counseling
- Faith-Based Volunteers (See Intercept IV)

It is estimated that 25% of the jail’s population are on psychotropic medications.



Courts

The 54th Judicial District of Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas covers all of Carbon County and has a compliment of three full-time judges, President Judge Roger N. Nanovic, Honorable Steven R. Serfass, and Senior Judge Richard W. Webb.

Judges of the Court of Common Pleas are elected officials, who serve ten-year terms. Once a judge is elected for his or her first term, the judge may seek an addition ten-year term by way of the retention process, as provided for in the Pennsylvania State Constitution. Judges are state employees.

Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition

The Carbon County Court of Common Pleas utilizes the statewide **Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (ARD)** program specifically for first-time DUI offenders.

ARD is a pre-trial program designed to allow the least-dangerous defendants – first-time, non-violent offenders – to circumvent the usually lengthy trial process. The ARD program suspends the formal criminal prosecution before trial if the defendant agrees to certain conditions, such as completing substance abuse treatment. The district attorney chooses who is accepted into the ARD program, and has considerable discretion when formulating polices or deciding which cases will be referred to the ARD program.

Defendants who are accepted into an ARD program are placed under supervision, typically by the Carbon County Adult Probation & Parole department. The maximum period of supervision for someone on ARD is two years. If the accused successfully completes the ARD program, the underlying criminal charges are dismissed and the defendant's record is expunged of the arrest record and of the ARD disposition.

Carbon County District Attorney's Office

Gary F. Dobias was elected to the Office in 1992. The District Attorney is the chief law enforcement officer in Carbon County. The staff in the District Attorney's Office includes six Assistant District Attorney, County Detective, Victim/Witness Coordinator and clerical staff. Carbon County's District Attorney's Office is responsible for the prosecution of adults and juveniles who are accused of violating the criminal laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The office routinely handles preliminary hearings, conducts pre-trial conferences, attends guilty plea hearings, sentencing and prepares cases for trial. The trial process may continue to the Superior and/or the Supreme Courts of Pennsylvania. In addition to handling summary appeals, they also attend probation and parole revocations, parole hearings, Post Conviction Relief Act hearings. The Office also coordinates and assists the Carbon County Drug Task Force that deals with drug violations throughout the County.

The Victim/Witness Coordinator provides services to victims of criminal acts. They are provided explanations of the judicial system, assistance in completion of Crime Victims Compensation forms, notification of sentence and notification of release of Defendants who are incarcerated.

Sheriff's Office

One of the main responsibilities of the Sheriff's Office is the transportation of incarcerated individuals to various court appearances. The Sheriff becomes responsible for the transportation of incarcerated individuals after their case has been bound over to Common Pleas Court.

After a defendant is sentenced to a term in a State Correctional Facility by the court, it is the responsibility of the Sheriff to transport the defendant to the designated State Correctional Facility to begin serving the sentence imposed. If a defendant in a State Correctional Facility has any type of hearing in the Court of Common Pleas of Carbon County, the Sheriff has the responsibility to transport the defendant from his place of incarceration to attend the hearing and then safely return them.

Incarcerated defendants must also be transported from the Carbon County Correctional Facility to attend any number of court hearings. These may include guilty pleas, pre-trial conferences and sentencing hearings. The Sheriff will also assist the Juvenile Court Office on transporting juvenile offenders to various treatment facilities and detention centers.

➤ **Identified Gaps**

- No mental health staff in the jail
- Difficult to find mental health services for inmates within the county
- Not a strong relationship with 12 Step programs
- No funding available to pursue problem solving courts, although there is interest
- Difficulty with high numbers of DUI charges, particularly during tourist attraction times
- MH/MR doesn't currently check prison intake lists against current/past MH client rosters

➤ **Identified Opportunities**

- Inmates are sometimes able to seek outside mental health treatment while incarcerated
- ARD is well utilized – several classes are ongoing
- MH/MR case manager can go into the jail
- Considering a Veterans Court

Intercept IV: Re-Entry

Re-Entry Services from Carbon County Correctional Facility

Residents returning to the community from Carbon County Correctional Facility are given three days of aftercare psychotropic medication.

The jail reports a recidivism rate of 94% for the general population.

The **MH/MR Medical Mobile Team**, run by New Perspectives and Resources for Human Development, includes a nurse and social worker goes to meet with consumers, many who were recently released from jail, to assess what medication and/or prescription is needed. On a weekly basis, a MH/MR case manager goes into the jail to provide re-entry services. She typically sees six to eight inmates with behavioral health challenges per week.

Yokefellowship Prison Ministry provides small group sessions in the Carbon County Correctional facility. These weekly one to one and a half hour volunteer lead sessions provide inmates with an opportunity to share prayer, song, bible reading and discussion with other believers in a positive atmosphere.

In addition, **Care Net of Carbon County** is a Christ-centered, non-profit, community resource that provides re-entry services within the prison.

Additional services include a **Work Release Program** for eligible inmates.

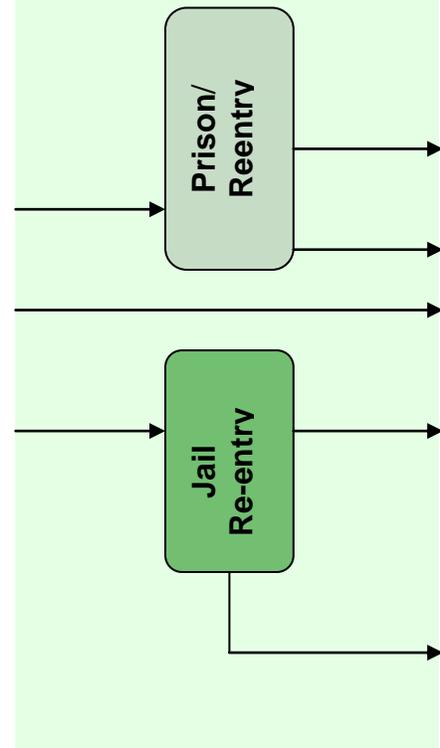
Re-Entry from Pennsylvania Department of Corrections

Carbon County MH/MR receives a monthly list of residents incarcerated in State Correctional Institutions who are receiving mental health treatment in order to assist with reentry planning. MH/MR has a designated case worker assigned to these cases. Residents returning to Carbon County from State Correctional Institutions are given 30 days of aftercare psychotropic medication. A designated MH/MR case worker is currently assigned to the facilitate reentry and transition linkage for state prison cases.

➤ Identified Gaps

- Usually a 3 week lapse between Medical Assistance (MA) benefit application and re-instatement of MA benefits
- Often a large gap between the aftercare medication provided by the jail and the psychiatric appointment to continue psychotropic medications upon release

Intercept 4 Reentry



- D&A tried to do a treatment group for newly released individuals, but no one attended
- No formal way for state prison to alert local D&A system about individuals re-entering and needing services
- Hit or miss for D&A referrals because of screening issues (individuals don't meet criteria for outpatient treatment)
- Jail reports a very high recidivism rate (94%)

➤ **Identified Opportunities**

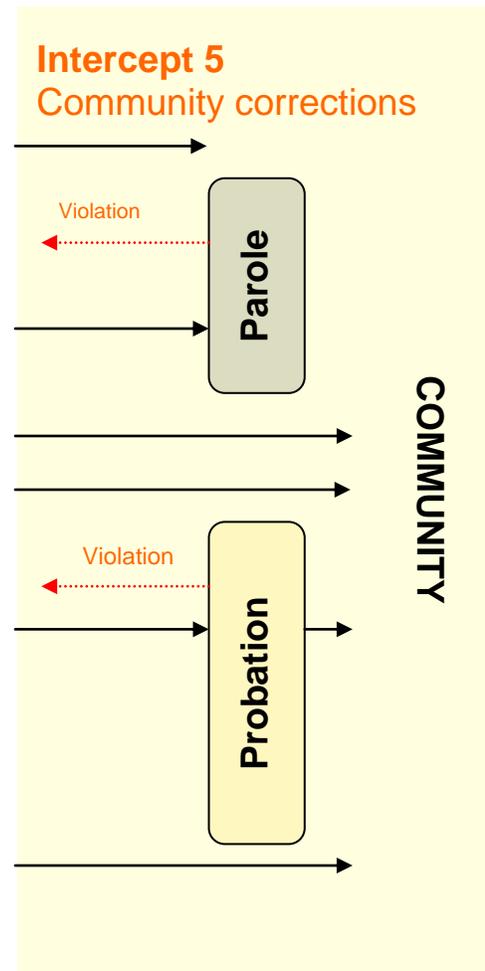
- Case managers apply for MA benefits within the jail 10 days before release
- Case managers also include cover letters with MA benefits applications
- County Assistance Office will expedite high priority applications
- MH/MR case manager will also work with D&A for information and referrals
- D&A case manager will help with non-substance use issues (housing, vocational, referrals, etc.)
- Probation notifies D&A that a person will be in and out of incarceration quickly, D&A will keep a case open for 30 days
- MH/MR recently began being more proactive about state prison re-entry with a designated MH/MR case worker

Intercept V: Community Corrections / Community Support

Carbon County Adult Probation & Parole

Ronald S. Kokinda and a staff of five probation officers provide community supervision of all criminal offenders placed under the jurisdiction of the department by the court. There is an estimated 1,400 on probation in Carbon County and each of the five probation officers has a caseload of 189-200 at a given time. Services through this office include:

- **Intensive Drug/Alcohol Program:** On November 13, 1989, the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole announced that Carbon County was selected to participate in the Comprehensive Drug and Alcohol Abuse Initiative. The department recognized that alcohol and drugs are destroying the very fabric of society and that the fight against substance abuse requires a comprehensive approach. Therefore, a specialized unit was developed that targeted offenders with chronic substance abuse problems or offenders who committed alcohol or drug related offenses. Offenders in this program are required to undergo drug/alcohol treatment, are supervised on an intensive level and are subject to frequent urine screens.
- **Intermediate Punishment Programs:** In March 1992, the department was awarded a grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency to develop intermediate punishment programs. These programs, which include house arrest, home electronic monitoring, intensive supervision and residential inpatient treatment, are designed as an alternative to imprisonment and provide sentencing alternatives for the court. Second-time DUI offenders and low risk, non-violent offenders are targeted for these programs. These sentencing alternatives provides a cost effective approach in the delivery of community correction services and promotes offender accountability through stricter sanctions, education, treatment and counseling.
- **Pretrial Services Project:** On December 5, 1995, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency awarded the department a grant from the Drug Control and System Improvement Program to develop a program to supervise offenders placed on bail release. The court developed standard conditions of bail and all offenders who post bond are referred for supervision. Additionally, the officer is responsible for completing a bail report on all offenders incarcerated in lieu of bail. This report is provided to the Magistrate so that a better-informed bail decision can be made using the information contained in the report.



- **Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (ARD) Program:** This program, which is sponsored by the District Attorney's Office, is only available to defendants recommended by the District Attorney. The adult probation department supervises all defendants placed in this program. This program is designed to divert first-time DUI offenders or minor offense defendants from having a criminal conviction, which allows for the dismissal of criminal charges.
- **Video Conferencing:** In 1999, the department received a grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency for the installation of video conferencing equipment. Equipment was installed in the Adult Probation Office, District Attorney's Office, the Prison and Courthouse conference room. The probation department uses this equipment to conduct Gagnon I Hearings, bail report interviews and presentence interviews. The court utilizes this equipment for parole hearings, Gagnon II Hearings and other court related matters.
- **Bulletproof Vests:** In November 2001, the adult probation office purchased nine bulletproof vests. These vests replaced older models that were out-dated and cumbersome to wear. The department purchased these vests through the Bulletproof Vest Grant Acts of 1998 and 2000, which funds are administered by the United States Department of Justice. Any vests purchased after March 1, 1999, that meets applicable National Institute of Justice standards is eligible for funding, using an electronic, Internet-based application and payment request process. The entire process of obtaining federal funds is completed through the web site.
- **After-Hours Supervision:** In 2002, the department developed an after-hours supervision schedule. Field staff now conducts unannounced field visits to offender's homes in the evening and weekend. Since many violations of release occur after normal business hours, the department designed this supervision strategy to provide better safety and protection for the community and to provide better enforcement of the conditions of release imposed by the court. Typically, offenders placed on home electronic monitoring will be contacted with more frequency and offenders difficult to see during normal business hours will be contacted with more frequency. Also, field staff will be collecting more urine samples from offenders. Finally, the department, in conjunction with local law enforcement officials, will conduct bar raids at local establishments.

Psychiatric Rehabilitation

Program of Wellness, Empowerment, And Recovery (Power/LEAP) - Phone: 610-377-3940 - is a psychiatric rehabilitation program that provides site-based and mobile rehabilitation services to people recovering from serious and persistent mental illness. Staff provide coaching, psycho-education classes and one-to-one follow-up, including skills training in communication, socialization problem-solving, stress management and decision making. The program assists individuals to meet self-determined goals. POWER also conducts group and individual sessions on Illness Management and Recovery, as well as assistance in the development of Wellness Recovery and Action Plans, and Psychiatric Advance Directives.

Housing

Fitzmaurice Community Services, Inc. (FCS) provides a wide variety of housing options that meet the needs of the disabled and the homeless within Carbon-Monroe-Pike Counties. Their housing initiative(s) offer community-based housing with supportive services designed to enable homeless persons with disabilities to live as independently as possible in a permanent setting. FCS housing is financed in part by grants from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development, Department of the United States Housing and Urban Development, Carbon-Monroe-Pike County MHMR, Monroe County Affordable Housing Act, ESSA Bank and Trust Charitable Foundation & other Community Contributions.

Crossroads Community Services began as a **permanent supportive housing program** providing service to people who have serious and persistent mental illness, and who have experienced homelessness. Services include rental subsidy; case management; individual recovery planning; links to community resources; life skills education; coordination of educational and vocational training services; and coordination of medical, dental and mental health services. A permanent supportive housing program serves homeless individuals or families with an adult member who is disabled due to a serious and persistent mental illness. Intensive case management provides recovery-oriented services to people with serious mental illness. Services are provided to persons residing in Carbon, Monroe and Pike counties.

Section 8, or the **Housing Choice Voucher Program**, is a Federal housing program that provides housing assistance to low-income renters and homeowners. This assistance comes in the form of rental subsidies, limiting the monthly rent payment of the assistance recipient. Section 8 is a Federal program administered nationally by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The program is administered locally by the **Carbon County Housing Authority (610-377-9375)**. Currently there are a total of 12 vouchers for Carbon County.

Community Resources

ReDCo Group Behavioral Health Services provides

- The **Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program**, known locally as the New Vision, is committed to assisting individuals with mental illness in connecting with the community. Through participation in this recovery-based model, individuals will develop a sense of accomplishment, competency, and belonging through new and expanded roles in social, employment, and educational opportunities. This program is appropriate for persons 18 years of age and older who present with a history of serious mental illness and functional impairment that has an impact on social, educational, and vocational opportunities. Consumer choice is emphasized, as well as active participation in goal setting. Strategies to acquire skills and develop an individual support network are the cornerstones to this rehabilitative program.
- **Outpatient Services** in the Carbon County area. The Outpatient Unit's primary modalities are group, family and individual counseling. For individuals with long-term mental illness, medication management and supportive counseling will also be provided. In all cases, intervention goals will be individualized through treatment planning with the client.
- **Peer Specialists** teach and support skill development, promote knowledge of available

services and choices, and provide linkage to resources within the community to facilitate a sense of wellness and self-worth.

- **The Family and Child Together (F.A.C.T.) Program** provides family based mental health treatment to children with emotional disturbances and their families. The goal is to assist families in maintaining the child or adolescent in the home. Parents are viewed as essential collaborators in the process of identifying, clarifying, and practicing new behaviors, attitudes, and beliefs that will allow families to remain intact. The family is seen as the means of positive change and thus the goal is to promote competency in the family unit. Professional team members work to assist the families in finding individualized, alternative methods to meet their own family's needs, other than placement of the child.

The model for the Family Based Services (FBS) program focuses on a non-traditional, hands-on approach working with the strengths and resources of the family. FBS is characterized by intensive services driven by the need level of the family.

Family based treatment interventions begin with the family's reality, striving to join positively during times of crisis. A holistic family systems approach begins with listening to the family's own definition of itself and of its problems. It continues with the provision of services in the family's home and community respecting socio-economic, geographic, and cultural differences. It is expected that most services are provided in the family's home. The interdependence of the child, the family, and their environment are incorporated in a systemic view of treatment. With the family systems approach, the child or adolescent becomes the entry into the family unit rather than focus remaining entirely in the identified child.

Carbon County Base Service Unit (BSU) provides mental retardation providers with intake and service coordination in the Lehigh area.

Carbon Monroe Pike Mental Health and Mental Retardation provides intake assessment and referral to services for individuals with mental and/or behavioral health issues or developmental delays.

The **Bo Tkach Foundation** provides funding for youth and young adults to access behavioral health evaluation and treatment services. Individuals must be under the age of 25 to qualify, and will be referred to MHMR if eligible for sliding scale payment.

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) of Carbon County – Phone (610) 826-2070

Assertive Community Treatment Team

Salisbury Behavioral Health

104 Route 611 Suite A
Bartonsville, PA 18321
Phone: 570-422-6670

NHS Human Services

912 Main Street, Second Floor
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
Phone: 570-424-8119

Vocational Services

C-M-P MH/MR provides:

- **Facility-Based Vocational Rehabilitation Services** consist of programs which develop vocational skills in workshops and provide employment for mentally disabled consumers. Types of service include vocational evaluation, personal work adjustment training, work activities, and sheltered employment, primarily in industrial-type jobs.
- **Community-Integrated Employment (CIE)** and Related Services combine vocational evaluation, training, and employment in business or industrial settings or other community work sites. Included are competitive employment, supported/supportive employment, and industry-integrated programs such as work stations in industry, mobile work forces, enclaves, affirmative industries, and placement and follow-up services.

Substance Abuse Services

NHS Human Services provides the following services to an estimated 160 clients:

- Drug & Alcohol Level of Care Assessments
- Drug & Alcohol Outpatient Services
 - Treatment plan development
 - Individual sessions (45 minutes weekly)
 - Group sessions (Wednesdays 12-2pm and 5-7pm)
- DUI Services
- Drug & alcohol Targeted Case Management
- Suboxone Clinic
 - 1st month medication is dispense week by week to monitor administration, efficiency, and possible side effects
- Funding for uninsured individuals
 - County funding for Suboxone prescription assistance
 - If an individual qualifies, he/she is only responsible for 3% of prescription payment amount
 - Case management determines eligibility based on income
 - Sliding scale based on income
 - If the individual has no income, there is the possibility of abatement

Individuals seeking services through NHS must be in active withdrawal and maintain a minimum of 2.5 counseling/therapy hours per month. NHS cannot currently assess inmates inside the correctional facility

PA Treatment & Healing (PATH) is a private, non-profit provider of licensed treatment, who provides an array of services in Carbon County that include:

- Intensive Adolescent Day Treatment (Medical Assistance Approved)
- After School Evening Day Treatment (Admissions is capped at 35)
- Specialized Foster Care
- Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth
- Outpatient Drug & Alcohol Counseling (Medical Assistance Approved)
- Community Services

Mental Retardation Service Providers

Blue Mountain Health Systems – www.ghmh.org

Adult Day Services Center
217 Franklin Avenue
Palmerton, PA 18071
Phone: (610) 826-1160

CTC Manufacturing, Inc. – www.carbontc.com

Rose & Hazle Streets
P.O. Box 67
Beaver Meadows, PA 18216
Phone: (570) 454-3754

The ReDCo Group - www.redcogrp.com

Developmental Support Services
616 North Street
Lehighton, PA 18235
Phone: (610) 377-6730

Spectrum Community Services -

www.spectrumcommunityservices.org

301 S. Third Street
Lehighton, PA 18235
Phone: (610) 372-0776

Veterans Services

Carbon County is served by the **Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center**, located at 1111 East End Blvd., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711 with business hours Monday through Friday 8:00am - 4:30pm (Phone: 570-824-3521 or Toll Free: 1-877-928-2621).

The **Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center** (<http://www.wilkes-barre.va.gov/about/>) has a **Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) Specialist**, Keather Likins (keather.likins@va.gov), to coordinate forensic services for veterans in the criminal justice system in Carbon County.

For more information on the Veterans Justice Outreach Initiative and the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), please see Guide 7 – “Information Sheet on Justice-Involved Veterans for Judicial System” located in the Resource Guide Document.

➤ **Identified Gaps**

- Very high caseloads for probation officers
- Problems with continuity of care at the VA (often see a different clinician every time)

- Not many local veterans resources
- No formal mechanism between Probation and D&A or MH Services
- Probationers have issues finding housing
- Large problem with young individuals with opiate addictions
- Criminal justice staff see children of incarcerated individuals grow up to be incarcerated themselves --- Intergenerational issues from one generation to the next
- Uninsured individuals have trouble seeing a doctor

➤ **Identified Opportunities**

- Probation keeps data on veteran status
- VJO Specialist is available to help with training, diversion, etc.
- Strong County VA Director
- Drug and Alcohol & probation have a 'reciprocal referral process'
- Also a general release of information in the probation office
- Mental Health can provide probation with a release of information form
- Strong Childrens Coalition in the county
 - Childrens Service Initiative is working to address some of the familial cycle issues
- Newly hired therapist will be starting in an at risk school
- Carbon County is rich in service providers (e.g. it houses the most service providers of the Carbon-Pike-Monroe joinder counties)
- County Assistance Office indicates that Medical Assistance can now pay for inpatient hospitalizations of incarcerated individuals

Carbon County Priorities

Subsequent to the completion of the *Cross-Systems Mapping* exercise, the assembled stakeholders began to define specific areas of activity that could be mobilized to address the gaps and opportunities identified in the group discussion about the cross-systems map. Listed below are the priority areas identified by the workshop participants and the votes received for each proposed priority.

Top Priorities

1. Cross Systems Training (26 votes)
 - a. Inclusion of hospitals
 - b. MH First Aid
 - c. Include County Assistance Office (CAO)
2. More Formalized Communication of needs and options (15)
 - a. Info sharing
 - b. Monthly police chiefs meeting
 - c. CJAB's role
3. Education to Intervene at the Children's Level (15)
 - a. Prevent on the community level
 - b. Subcommittee of Children's Coalition
4. Re-entry - Reduce Recidivism (14)
 - a. Tracking at the prison
 - b. Drug related
 - c. Address future of 211

Additional Priorities

- Expand mobile crisis (10 votes)
 - Adding on-call is in the works now
- Addressing Veterans (4)
 - Training/education for judges
- Expand Diversion Options between first Contact and Jail (3)
- Expand Community support options (3)
 - AA, Alanon, 12 step
 - Coalition to sustain and link community members

Carbon County Action Plan

Priority: Moving Forward			
Objective	Action Step	Who	When
Report Summarizing the Work of the Cross Systems Workshop	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First report of the draft to Jennifer & Robyn 2. Review by county and send feedback to CoE 3. Finalize the report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CoE ○ Carbon ○ CoE 	10/28/2011
CJAB	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Next meeting 2. Consider including this Action Plan in existing CJAB Strategic Plan 	CJAB CJAB	3 rd Monday in November

Priority Area 1: Cross Systems Training			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Inclusion of hospitals b. MH First Aid c. Include County Assistance Office (CAO) 			
Work Group: Alex, Tina, Sheriff Nothstein, Ken B, Joseph			
Objective	Action Step	Who	When
1.1 Develop an understanding of the County Services – Law Enforcement, 911, Jail, MH, D&A, Developmental Services, DPW	Develop policy for ER drop-off for 302's	CIS, Taskforce (Alex, Kathy)	1 month
	Provide Carbon Crisis System Training	Jim, Alex, Tina	Police Chiefs Meetings
	Provide MH First Aid Training (Using the new module of MH First Aid for Police)	Police->Trainers	Ongoing and within 2 months
1.2 Develop CIT Training	Create a Task Force	Alex	
	Train the Trainer	Alex & Police Partner	November 14-18 Bucks Co.
	Integrate Children/Adolescent Model		When Available

Priority Area 2: More Formalized Communication of needs and options				
a. Info sharing b. Monthly police chiefs meeting c. CJAB's role				
Objective	Action Step	Who	When	
2.1	Understanding each part of the criminal justice system (e.g. roles, limitations, needs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIS (Crisis) Meeting bimonthly • Invites to all chiefs • CJAB- MH/hospital/crisis representation (separate subcommittee) • CJAB every other meeting – alternate with CIS 	Jim	November
2.2	Forum to discuss specific cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular part of CIS or CJAB subcommittee • Create permission for informal discussions • Review hearing notification 		
2.3	Quick process to pass on changing rules and processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chiefs Meeting Monthly • Email list 		

Priority Area 3: Education to Intervene at the Children's Level				
a. Prevent on the community level b. Subcommittee of Children's Coalition				
Work Group: Tammy, Phil, and Glen				
Objective	Action Step	Who	When	
3.1	Prevent children with MH issues coming into the juvenile justice system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education at the school level • Use available resources • Diversion team with representatives from D&A, MH/MR, and JPD- assess children • Include "right from the start" home teachers in CJAB 		
3.2	Preventing children with family member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate an increased focus on MH issues and 		

	in criminal justice system from entering the CJS	correlation to the JJS or CJS • Identify possible funding sources		
3.3	Other Next Steps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find funding for DARE • Lehighton HS doing monthly prevention forums – include them • Explore possibility of a community prevention forum • Integrates services planning – bring them in • Reach out to faith based group focusing on children of incarcerated parents (Contact Ingletree Ministries) 		

Priority Area 4: Re-entry - Reduce Recidivism

- a. Tracking at the prison
- b. Drug related
- c. Address future of 211

Work Group: Jenn, Jamie, Angelique, Zaadya

Objective		Action Step	Who	When
4.1	Expand communication/collaboration between cross systems	Expand/invite providers, probation, SCA, Public Defender under DA, Judiciary to Quarterly Meeting at County /Jail	CMP MH Diversionary Service inviting	Will try November 4 th , continue attempts for next one
		At request of Commissioner, explore data collection	Participants of meeting	Ongoing
4.2	Increase <u>active</u> participation of cross-systems in CJAB	Propose sub-committee re: re-entry, recidivism	Cross-systems stakeholders	Nov. 23 rd noon
		Re-examine strategic plan in order to explore alternative funding sources – identify “issues” that need to be addressed	CJAB participants	Ongoing
4.3	Increase resources in the jail	• Explore additions/alternate	Cross-system	Quarterly meetings

		<p>resources for inmates (i.e. Video education, tele-psychiatry)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Perspectives has a vast library of DVDs that could be used • Explore Forensic Peer Supports • Monroe County CJAB just applied for a grant for a Forensic Peer Support Specialist 	stakeholders	
4.4	Continue to advocate for benefits at re-entry	Explore use of computers with Internet access to expedite applications for benefits	Cross-systems stakeholders	Quarterly Meetings

Conclusion

Participants in the *Cross-Systems Mapping* workshop showed much enthusiasm in working together to improve the continuum of resources available for people with severe mental illness and often co-occurring substance use disorders involved in the Carbon County criminal justice system. Carbon County is poised to tackle a number of critical issues that will greatly improve services for this group. The assembled stakeholders spent time gaining a greater understanding of their shared systems, especially at the intersection of law enforcement and crisis services, as well as crafting strategies related to improving the collaborative infrastructure for the group and addressing the gaps and opportunities at each intercept.

Considerable work has already been undertaken to improve services for people with severe mental illness and often co-occurring substance use disorders involved in the Carbon County criminal justice system. Specialized case management, faith-based re-entry in-reach into the jail, Livescan/CPIN technology at centralized booking, and crisis services are some examples of current Carbon County initiatives. Carbon County has also developed some thoughtful data to begin to provide a better understanding of the issues being discussed, especially the data provided in the annual 911 report. In addition, Mental Health First Aid and Crisis Intervention Team Training are promising community efforts that generated a good deal of interest during the workshop. Local stakeholders participating in the *Cross-Systems Mapping* were clearly interested in building on current successes to better serve this population.

The expansion of the planning group to tackle the priorities established during the *Cross-Systems Mapping* workshop is an essential next step in a true systems change process. It will be important to create effective working relationships with other groups that did not attend the workshop, including other police jurisdictions, the Department of Veterans Affairs, local Magisterial District Judges, judges, the jail, consumers, and family representation. Regular meetings should be held by this larger group to facilitate information sharing, planning, networking, development and coordination of resources, and problem solving.

Closing

Carbon County is fortunate to have a wide range of stakeholders across the mental health, substance abuse and criminal justice systems that have made significant efforts to understand and support the challenging issues discussed in this workshop. The *Cross-Systems Mapping* workshop gave these stakeholders a chance to develop a coordinated strategy to move forward with the identified priorities. The involvement of a county commissioner, Sheriff, District Attorney, several chiefs of police, State Police, Public Defenders Office, Chief of Probation, Emergency Management, 911, County Assistance Office, victims services, and others along with a wide range of behavioral health services, including hospital staff on the second day, indicates much support in the county for this effort.

By reconvening and supporting the work of the group in coming months and working closely with the Criminal Justice Advisory Board, it will be possible to maintain the momentum created during the *Cross-Systems Mapping* workshop and build on the creativity and drive of key local stakeholders. The Pennsylvania Mental Health and Justice Center of Excellence hopes to continue its relationship with Carbon County and to observe its progress. Please visit the Pennsylvania Mental Health and Justice Center of Excellence website for more information, www.pacenterofexcellence.pitt.edu.

Appendix A: Participant List

<p>Sajeda Bhallo Assistant Operations Director Salisbury Behavioral Health 570-422-6670 sajeda@salisb.com</p>	<p>Tammy Burke Victim Resource Center 570-325-9641 tburke@vrcnepa.org</p>
<p>Brian Cawley Sergeant PA State Police - Lehighton 610-377-4270 brcawley@pa.gov</p>	<p>Tina Clymer MH Deputy Administrator C-M-P MH/MR Program 570-420-1900 x3438 tclymer@cmpmhm.org</p>
<p>Angelique Cortez Supervisor, Admin. Case Mgmt. Carbon-Monroe-Pike MH/MR 570-420-1900 x3446 acortez@cmpmhm.org</p>	<p>Jamie Drake Treatment Program Manager Carbon-Monroe-Pike D&A Commission 610-377-5177 x105 jdrake@cmpda.cog.pa.us</p>
<p>Gary F. Dobias District Attorney Carbon County District Attorney's Office 570-325-2718 garydobias@carboncounty.net</p>	<p>Robert Ems Clinic Director NHS (Northwestern Human Services) 570-839-3097 x202 rems@nhsonline.org</p>
<p>Phillip Duah Quality Improvement Director Carbon-Monroe-Pike HealthChoices 570-420-1900 x3712 pduah@cmphealthchoices.com</p>	<p>Joseph Fittos, Jr. Chief of Police Summit Hill Police Dept. 570-645-7429 joepd@ptd.net</p>
<p>Patty Fascio Associate Regional Director Community Care Behavioral Health 570-243-4706 fasciop@ccbh.com</p>	<p>Jim Fouts Director New Perspectives Crisis Services 570-992-7590 jfouts@newperspectives-rhd.org</p>

<p>Kay George House Manager Fitzmaurice Community Services 610-379-9546 prog21@fcsstaff.com</p>	<p>Jason Helmer 9-1-1 Dispatcher Carbon County 9-1-1 570-325-9123 cc911dir@ptd.net</p>
<p>Ronald S. Kokinda Chief Adult Probation Officer Carbon County Adult Probation 570-325-4226 x3000 rkokinda@carboncourts.com</p>	<p>Matthew Kuzma Chief of Police Kidder Township Police Dept. 570-722-0192 kidder_chief@pa.metrocast.net</p>
<p>Joseph Lawrence Sergeant Lehighon Police Dept. 610-377-4003 sergeantlawrence@lehighonborough.com</p>	<p>Justin Markel Dispatcher Carbon County 911 Jmark524@live.com</p>
<p>Zaadya Martinez Director, Case Management C-M-P MH/MR Program 570-420-1900 x3424 zmartine@cmpmhm.org</p>	<p>Robyn Martini Administrative Asst. C-M-P HealthChoices 570-420-1900 x3710 rmartini@cmphealthchoices.com</p>
<p>Jenn McConnell CJAB Specialist PCCD (PA Commission on Crime & Delinquency) 570-753-2659 c-jemconn@pa.gov</p>	<p>Jillian McGinley Adult Probation Officer Carbon County Adult Probation jmcginley@carboncourts.com</p>
<p>Mark S. Nalesnik Director Carbon County Emergency Mgmt. 570-325-3097 ccema@ptd.net</p>	<p>Tammy Neyer Certified Counselor Advocate Victim Resource Center 570-325-9641 tsneyer@vrcnepa.org</p>
<p>Tim Nothstein Detective Carbon County District Attorney's Office 570-325-2718 timnothstein@carboncounty.net</p>	<p>Dwight Nothstein Sheriff Carbon County Sheriff's Office 570-325-2821</p>

<p>Wayne E. Nothstein Commissioner Carbon County Commissioner's Office 570-325-3611 cocommis@ptd.net</p>	<p>Len Ogozalek Director, Partial Program BHA (Behavioral Health Associates) 610-379-0067</p>
<p>Joseph D. Perilli, Esq. Assistant Public Defender Carbon County Public Defender's Office 570-325-2343 sheilarehriq@carboncounty.net</p>	<p>Susan Perry Executive Dir., Outpatient Services The ReDCo Group Behavioral Health Serv. 570-420-8070 x3018 sperry@redcogrp.com</p>
<p>Rayann Rohrer Corporate Assistant Director RHD (Resources for Human Development) 484-893-6100 rayannr@rhd.org</p>	<p>Glenn Salata Program Coordinator Northeast Counseling 610-377-9146</p>
<p>Pat Sasserath Executive Director Carbon County Assistance Office 610-577-9026 psasserath@pa.gov</p>	<p>Joseph Schatz Chief of Police Jim Thorpe Police Dept. 570-325-4995 chief@jtpolice.org</p>
<p>Alexandra Sguera CIT Coordinator New Perspectives Crisis Services 570-992-7590</p>	<p>Sheila Theodorou Administrator C-M-P MH/MR Program 570-420-1900 x3322 stheodorou@cmpmhm.org</p>
<p>Donna Trimmel Director, BHRS BHA (Behavioral Health Associates) 610-379-0067 donna43@ptd.net</p>	<p>Cathy Troyano Blue Mountain 610-377- 7954 ctroyano@blmtn.org</p>
<p>Jennifer Williams Director, Consumer Supports C-M-P MH/MR Program 570-420-1900 x3417 jwilliam@cmpmhm.org</p>	<p>Lynn Wright-Frisk Team Leader OMHSAS 570-963-4941 lwright-fr@pa.gov</p>

<p>Neil Yurchak Detective Kidder Township Police Dept. 570-722-0192</p>	
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<p>Patty Griffin, Ph.D. Senior Consultant Pennsylvania Mental Health and Justice Center of Excellence 8503 Flourtown Avenue Wyndmoor, PA 19038 pgriffin@navpoint.com Phone: 215-836-0570</p>	<p>Sarah Filone, MA Project Coordinator Pennsylvania Mental Health and Justice Center of Excellence Department of Psychology Drexel University MS 626, 245 N. 15th Street Philadelphia, PA 19102-1192 saf@drexel.edu Phone: 215- 762-4257 Fax: 215-762-8825</p>
<p>Katy Winckworth-Prejsnar Research Associate Pennsylvania Mental Health Justice Center of Excellence Department of Psychology Drexel University MS 626, 245 N. 15th Street Philadelphia, PA 19102-1192 kw494@drexel.edu Phone: 215-762-4257</p>	