Lorain County Adult Probation Department
Probation Officers Working Smarter to Facilitate Wellness/Compliance

The Stepping Up Initiative
The Ohio Project

Stepping Up Origins
- Each year there are an estimated two million people with serious mental illnesses that are admitted to U.S. jails.
- Jails have become the de facto inpatient psychiatric facilities across the nation with little impact on public safety.
- The toll incarceration takes on these individuals and their families, as well as the costs assumed by taxpayers, is staggering.
- In response to this crisis, the national initiative Stepping Up, was launched by the Council of State Governments' Justice Center, the National Association of Counties, and the National Psychiatric Association Foundation.

Stepping Up Origins cont.
- Initially, Stepping Up chose six counties throughout the country to analyze which practices were best in how to move offenders with severe mental illnesses (SMI) out of jail more quickly.
- Due to the success that Stepping Up achieved in these six counties, the national partners decided to develop statewide Stepping Up initiatives in three states: California, Ohio, and Texas.

Ohio Stepping Up Initiative
- In Ohio, 30% or more of individuals in county jails have a SMI.
- Stepping Up Ohio began in May of 2015 as a statewide initiative led by Retired Ohio Supreme Court Justice Evelyn Lundberg Stratton, who serves as the Project Director, and Attorney Melissa Knopp, who serves as Project Manager.
- To become a registered Stepping Up Ohio county, the county commissioners must adopt a resolution demonstrating their commitment to reducing the number of people with SMI in the county jail.

Ohio Stepping Up Initiative cont.
- Once a county is registered, the Stepping Up Ohio Team hosts a county town hall meetings and works with the county to organize a local steering committee to guide their activities.
- In addition, the county becomes eligible to attend the annual Stepping Up Ohio Summit, where they receive the Stepping Up Toolkit, and they receive free technical assistance from statewide subject-matter experts on criminal justice, housing, and treatment issues.
County Stepping Up Ohio Efforts

- As of August 2019, 47 of Ohio's 88 counties have registered for the project, which represents over half of Ohio's counties and over 80% of the Ohio population.
- Stepping Up Ohio has achieved many accomplishments, such as:
  - Serving millions of dollars in mental health funding to the state budget to support treatment, the crisis continuum, and to reimburse county jails for the expense of psychiatric hold.
  - Serving funding to expand housing for persons with SMI.
  - Work with counties to implement Medical supervision over an offender with SMI leaving jail, instead of releasing them.
  - Developing and implementing a Universal Health of Information Form that clarifies the necessary providers that must accept to exchange HIPPA protected medical information.
  - Develop and implement standardized definitions for severe mental illness and recidivism to improve data collection and evaluation efforts in Ohio.

County Stepping Up Ohio Efforts cont.

- Some examples of Stepping Up Ohio accomplishments at the county level include:
  - Franklin County Sheriff's Department created the Crisis Intervention and Diversion (CID) Program in which officers return to houses that they have been called to several days after a crisis event for a follow-up visit to ensure compliance they made during the event with behavioral health services are still in place and to make sure that the situation has stabilized.
  - Athens County developed the Adams Arianda Mental Health Reimbursement Center, which is a 10-bed mental health facility for individuals that are being discharged from psychiatric hospitals and require a transitional program to assist with their return to the community. The facility also accepts jail inmates.
  - Lorain County Adult Probation Department CIT....

Lorain County Adult Probation Department

Crisis Intervention and Prevention Team

Mentally Ill Defendants on Probation

- Due to past interactions with law enforcement officers that were likely not trained in Crisis Intervention, many defendants have negative perceptions of officers upon being placed on supervision.
- Responsibility is on the CIT officer to mend that relationship and show what benefits can be offered to the defendant.
- Trust must be built between probationer and probation officer so that in the event that there is a crisis, the officer already has good rapport with the defendant, thus making them more likely to follow instruction from their officer.

Changes in Supervision

In recent years:
- Agent of change.
- Larger focus on treatment.

In the past:
- Stress compliance monitoring (less opportunities to regain compliance)
- More "law-enforcement" based.
- Increased sanctions - less problem solving.
LCAPD Crisis Prevention and Intervention Team

Our Mission:
- Community Safety
- Overall Wellness of Offender
- Reduce Recidivism

LCAPD Crisis Prevention and Intervention Team

Community Safety
- Enforcement
- Compliance
- Background Information
- Law Enforcement Rapport

LCAPD Crisis Prevention and Intervention Team

Overall Wellness of Offender
- Crisis Prevention
- Medication Compliance
- Appointment Compliance
- Coordination of Services
- Address Barriers
- Rapport with Family and Friends
- Treatment Referrals

LCAPD Crisis Prevention and Intervention Team

Reduce Recidivism
- Crisis Intervention
- Get people out of jail and linked with services
- Longer/More in depth contact

LCAPD Crisis Prevention and Intervention Team

Behind the Scenes:
- Communication with Agencies
- Training
- Statistics/Data Collection

LCAPD Crisis Prevention and Intervention Team

Standard Home Visit
- Verify address
- Search for contraband
- Drug test
- Potential for arrest
- Two officers not required to be CIT trained

CIT Home Visit
- Verify address
- Check for medication compliance
- Verify appointments with mental health treatment providers
- Obtain input from family on the subject's well-being
- Rewards/incentives given
- Three officers—minimum of two must be CIT trained
LCAPD Crisis Prevention and Intervention Team

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outreach Statistics June '17-July '19</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Citizen Retired:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Positive Contact:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Citizen Seen Once:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Citizen Seen Multiple Times:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attended Visits/Direct in Contact:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency Outreach:</td>
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</tbody>
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The Chronicle

Stepping Up for change: initiative aids mentally ill

Community Safety: General Welfare, Willpower, Resolve, Rectitude
LCAPD Crisis Prevention and Intervention Team

Future Plans:

- Training
- Additions to the program
- More police departments
- Recovery Court

"The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty."

Winston Churchill