

# FACT SHEET

## Forensic Services in Beaver County

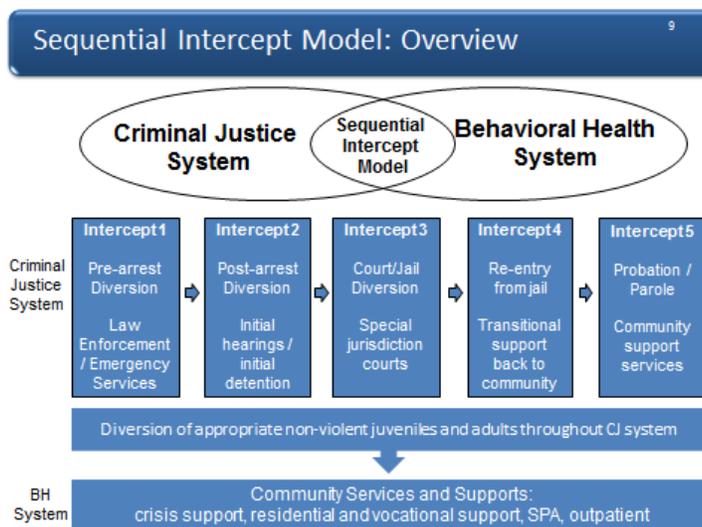
June 2014

### BACKGROUND

The behavioral health and criminal justice systems in Beaver County have worked closely together for 12 years. This collaboration started in 2001 when Beaver County was one of the first pilot programs and the only forensic program funded by the Pennsylvania Office of Mental Health Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) to provide co-occurring mental health and substance use disorder (COD) assessment and treatment. Jail based treatment continues, it has expanded into the community through the provision of re-entry services, COD assessments in the courthouse, Global Appraisal of Individual Need (GAIN) screens at the regional booking center and implementation of evidence based practices that include Supported Employment, Seeking Safety and Thinking for Change (T4C).

With funding from a Bureau of Justice Assistance Mental Health and Criminal Justice Planning grant, BCBH worked with the county's Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB)<sup>1</sup> to conduct a process analysis of the intercept points identified in the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM). (Munetz and Griffin, 2006)<sup>2</sup>

Figure 1

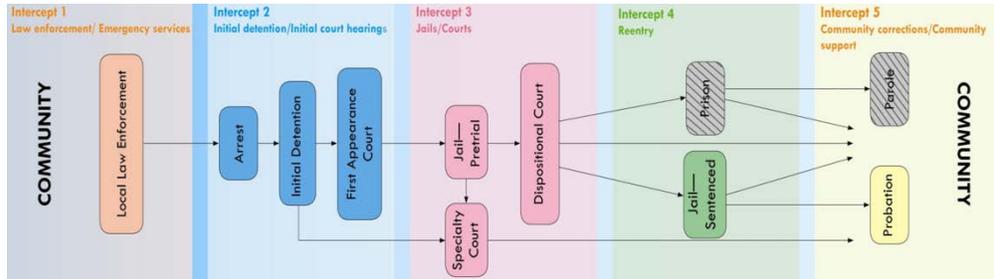


<sup>1</sup> Criminal Justice Advisory Boards (CJABs) in Pennsylvania are groups of top-level county officials which address criminal justice issues from a systemic and policy level perspective. A CJAB's membership is comprised of individuals with the authority and credibility to affect the delivery of criminal justice/public safety and service on the county and local levels. Membership includes high-level representatives of the courts, corrections, law enforcement, community-based organizations, executive branch of government, health and human service agencies, victims' services agencies, and the business and faith communities.

<sup>2</sup> Mark R. Munetz, M.D. and Patricia A. Griffin, Ph.D. Use of the Sequential Intercept Model as an Approach to Decriminalization of People With Serious Mental Illness. *Psychiatric Services*, 2006.

Results indicated that services and supports were not adequately provided at earlier points. Consequently, SIM efforts were expanded to focus on each intercept by increasing the capacity for providing behavioral health assessments, adding other diversion options, and providing behavioral health training to criminal justice personnel.

**Figure 2**



**ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE**

**Intercept 1 – Law Enforcement and Emergency Services**

- Training of 124 individuals in Mental Health First Aid, an education program that introduces participants to the unique risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems in adults, builds understanding of the importance of early intervention, and teaches individuals how to help someone in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge.

**Figure 3 Profile of Attendees**  
(N=124)

Organization Type	#	%
Community Based	38	30.7
Behavioral Health	36	29.0
Justice	35	28.2
Emergency	4	3.2
Other	11	8.9%

- **Intercept 2 – Arrest and Booking**
  - NHS Human Services received 36 requests through March 2014 for Global Appraisal of Individual Needs (GAIN) which are requested by District Magistrates and staff at the Regional Booking Center (RBC)
  - 35 assessed for COD and 19 were recommended for treatment
- **Intercept 3- Courthouse Evaluations**
  - NHS Human Services offers Co-occurring disorder (COD) evaluations at the at the Beaver County Courthouse. The results are used by members of the judiciary in developing orders such as participation in treatment.
  - Between July 2011 and May 2014, 587 evaluations have been conducted.

- **Intercept 4 – Jail Based Treatment<sup>3, 4</sup>**

Currently funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance under the Second Chance Act, services include GAIN screen, assessment and treatment to individuals in the Beaver County Jail, Seeking Safety groups to address trauma, referral to vocational education, other support services, sponsor program and reentry services in the community.

- 738 individuals enrolled in Chances R since October 2012
- 77% male and 23% female
- 24.4% are African American
- 550 participated in jail based groups

- **Intercept 5 – Community based services or reentry services**

- 124 individuals released from jail based services received reentry and/or community based behavioral health services between October 2012 and December 2013
- Examples of factors that effect follow through with community based services include, but may not be limited to whether:
  - it is included transition plans,
  - it is included orders from the judicial system,
  - it is included probation terms,
  - if an individual is transferred to another correctional facility,
  - if individual interest in participating in community based,
  - an individual has health insurance or is ineligible for Medical Assistance.

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<sup>3</sup> Between March 2002 and October 2012, enrollment in COD jail based treatment services in previous averaged 151 individuals per year.

<sup>4</sup> Jail based treatment services have been in place for the past 12 years. Funding for in-jail services continue to be a challenge, as it is not reimbursable through Medicaid. The jail based services data in this fact sheet was supported through BJA funding.