

# Alamance County Stepping Up

## Seven Years of Stepping Up

Justice Advisory Council

December 7, 2022

# Stepping Up Initiative is supported by:

- National Association of Counties (NACo), American Psychiatric Association and Justice Center, Council of State Government
- Alamance County Board of Commissioners signed the Stepping Up Initiative Resolution in August 2015
- A number of those county “champions ”are still around the table
- Nationally there are 558 counties
- In NC there are 47 counties participating in various aspects

# Focus is on:

- Reducing the number of jail bookings of people with SMI
- Increasing connections to care
- Bolstering cross-system collaboration around behavioral health
- Building community based services and supports with focus on reducing incarceration/re-incarceration
- Better response to people in crisis, ultimately limiting involvement for these individuals with the criminal justice system

# Stepping Up: Local Strategies



**Reduce  
the  
number of  
people  
with MI  
in Jail**

**Continue CIT for Law  
Enforcement and First  
Responders**

**CORE Program: Modeled after  
BPD Co-Responder, now  
county-wide**

**Enhance the BH Crisis Care  
Continuum including Crisis,  
Mobile Crisis, Emergency  
Department, School MH,  
etc.**

**Establish 24/7  
Diversion/Restoration Center-  
county commitment and  
groundbreaking**

# Stepping Up: Local Strategies

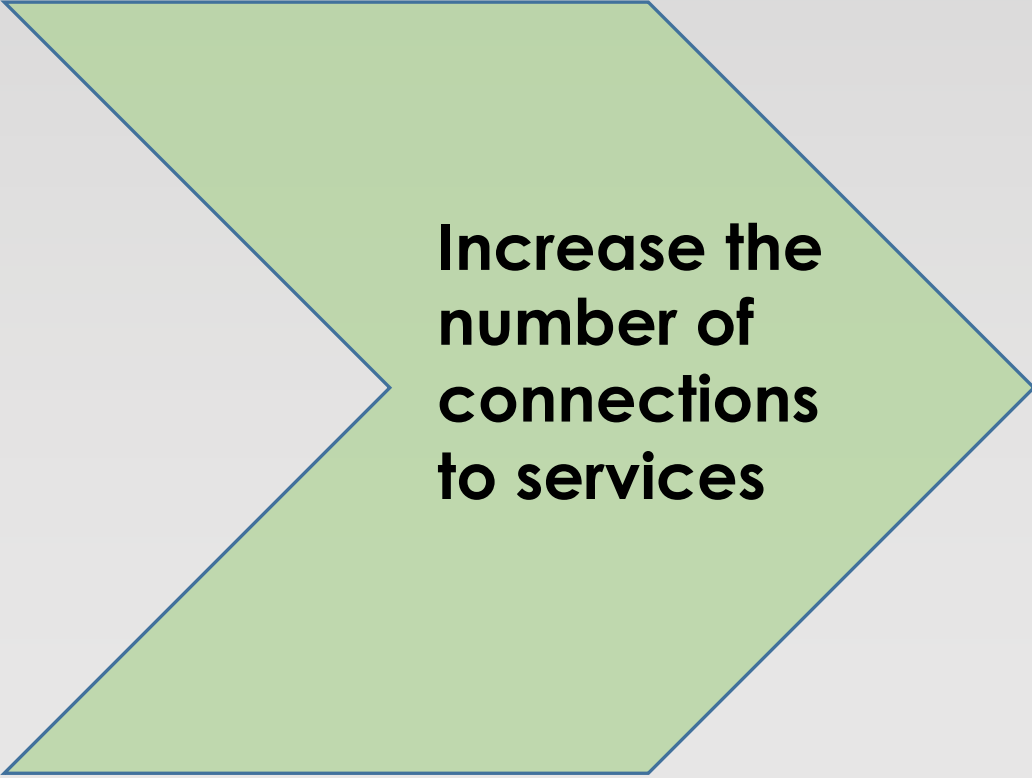


**Shorten  
time  
in Jail**

**Implemented  
First  
Appearances  
for  
Misdemeanors;  
Revise Bond  
Policy**

**Implemented  
and expanded  
Pretrial Release  
and Electronic  
Monitoring**

# Stepping Up: Local Reentry Strategies



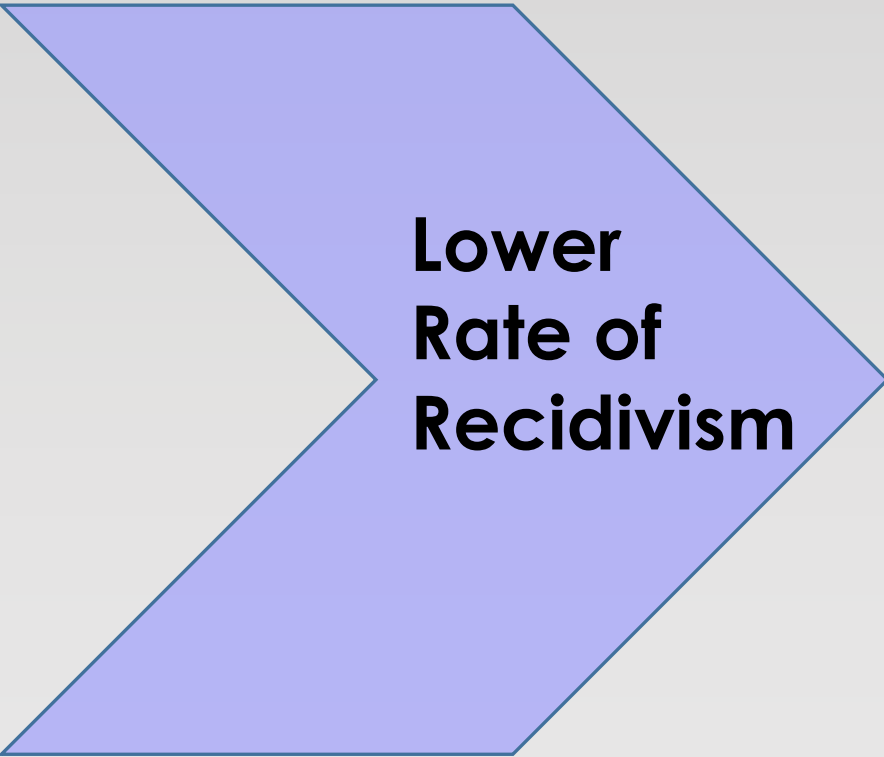
**Increase the number of connections to services**

**Maximization of BH Provider in Detention Center (LCSW, Peer Support Specialist)**

**Develop re-entry plans for detainees with MI/SA and link to community services/supports**

**Increase educational, vocational and support programming in jail**

# Stepping Up: Local Strategies



**Lower  
Rate of  
Recidivism**

**Reentry  
Planning and  
Engagement**

**Post Release  
Case Mgmt.  
by Peer  
Support  
Specialist**

**Maximize  
utilization of  
BH crisis  
services  
within  
community**

**Informal  
convening of  
MDT Staffing on  
MI/SA cases**

**Partnering with  
Re-entry  
supports in our  
county and  
surrounding  
counties**

# Mental Health/Overdose Web-Based Reporting May 1-October 31, 2022 (6 months data)

143 Reports Entered into System	
72% (108)	Occurred between 8 am-midnight
63% (90)	Officers entering reports were CIT trained
26% (37)	Reports were resolved on the scene
1% (2)	Reports resulted in arrest
22% (32)	Connected to Behavioral Health Services
24% (37)	Involuntarily committed
56% (81)	Individuals were transported to an offsite facility: 51% to ED, 5% to RHA Crisis
38% (54)	Overdose reports
27% (39)	Narcan administered
27% (39)	Quick Response Team notification



# ACSO Mental Health Calls for Service

Mental Health Unit 2022	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	Total
Mental Health IVC	5	8	9	9	6	12	13	11	7	11	91
Mental Health VC	5	3	4	3	2	4	5	1	1	3	31
MH UNIT: Follow-Ups	45	25	51	29	33	51	45	44	46	39	408
MH UNIT: Patrol Assist	24	20	31	19	21	37	43	24	23	27	269
MH UNIT: RHA to ARMC Transport	1	4	5	3	2	7	4	2	0	5	33
MH UNIT: 10-73 Calls	12	13	22	9	12	25	34	9	15	16	167

# Monthly Averages YTD Mental Health Data in Detention (January-October 2022)

<b>Average Daily Jail Population</b>	<b>349</b>
Screen Positive Rate for MI (6 months)	30%
Monthly Average on Suicide Watch (13)	4%
Monthly Average on Detox Protocol (11)	3%
Monthly Average on Psychotropic Meds	9%
Average # seen by on-site MH Professional	40*

\*July-September average. Number is increasing with new protocols.

**Alamance County**  
**Pretrial Supervision Program**  
 (January 1, 2022—October 31, 2022)

METRIC	MIN	MAX	AVERAGE	TOTAL
Appearance Rate	0.0%	100.0%	95.2%	60 of 63
Detainee Length of Stay	0.0	1,107.0	*15.5%	418 of 27
Safety Rate	0.0%	100.0%	90.5%	57 of 63
Success Rate	0.0%	100.0%	76.5%	46 of 60
Check-In Rate			89%	2,190 of 2,462

\*Note: some cases come to pretrial program through a motion to release due to medical reason such as disease or hospitalization, mental health concerns, substance abuse in-patient treatment, etc. Typically Pretrial Release Program assignment/release is within 48 hours.

# Peer Support Specialist in Detention (BJA Grant Funded)

- Average Caseload Size—around 36
- Primary Source of Referral: Pretrial Release Program, Release Book, Admin/Other
- Recidivism Rate (initial 12 months of grant) = 42%

\*42% or 8 of 19 individuals returned to jail within 12 months of release (clients served July-August '21). 11 of 19 did not return to jail. Numerous stories of success.

# Peer Support in Detention— Many Stories of Success

*Having someone with “lived experience”*

*walk the journey with an individual suffering from mental illness and/or substance abuse can make all the difference.*

*A look into the lives of two*

*Alamance County PSS detainees leaving jail:*

*RH and JT*

# Opportunities

- Partnering with Cone Health on Crisis Continuum Planning and Diversion Center Implementation. Example: Direct Admit, Medical Clearance, Community Information and Referral
- Enhanced data collection
- Expanding work on “Coordinated Reentry” for county
- Further expansion of Pretrial Release & Electronic Monitoring
- Recovery Court/MH Court (larger vision for County Judicial Programming Division)
- Further exploration of Medication Assisted Treatment in Jail
- Possible Medicaid Expansion in NC in support of service gaps
- Work closer with County EMS on BH intervention and data tracking

# Accomplishments

- Continuing commitment from county and dedicated leadership
- Enhancing the Behavioral Health Unit in the Detention Center
- Coordinating 2<sup>nd</sup> BJA grant in support of expanded crisis hours and Peer Support
- Further expansion of Pretrial Release & Electronic Monitoring
- Development and Rollout of “Mental Health/Overdose Reporting” app
- Group Home Task Force Education, Outreach and Coordination
- Expansion of Crisis Continuum Committee participants and collaboration
- County Overdose Response Initiative of 2022
- Ongoing commitment and work of local CIT Steering Committee

# Data Accomplishments

- Pretrial Release Program Data & Outcomes
- Mental Health/Overdose Reporting county-wide
- System developed for Data Collection in detention
  - Positive MH Screens
  - % on Psychotropic Meds
  - % on Suicide Watch
  - Recidivism
  - BJA Grant 2020- PSS & Expanded Crisis Hour outcomes
  - Process in place for flagging MI/SA detainees ( challenge due to software issues/manpower resources)
  - Overdose Report Tracking



# Stepping Up Initiative in Alamance County

- Questions?
- Thoughts?