



# The Alamance County Stepping Up Initiative

**Justice Advisory Council**

**December 5, 2023**

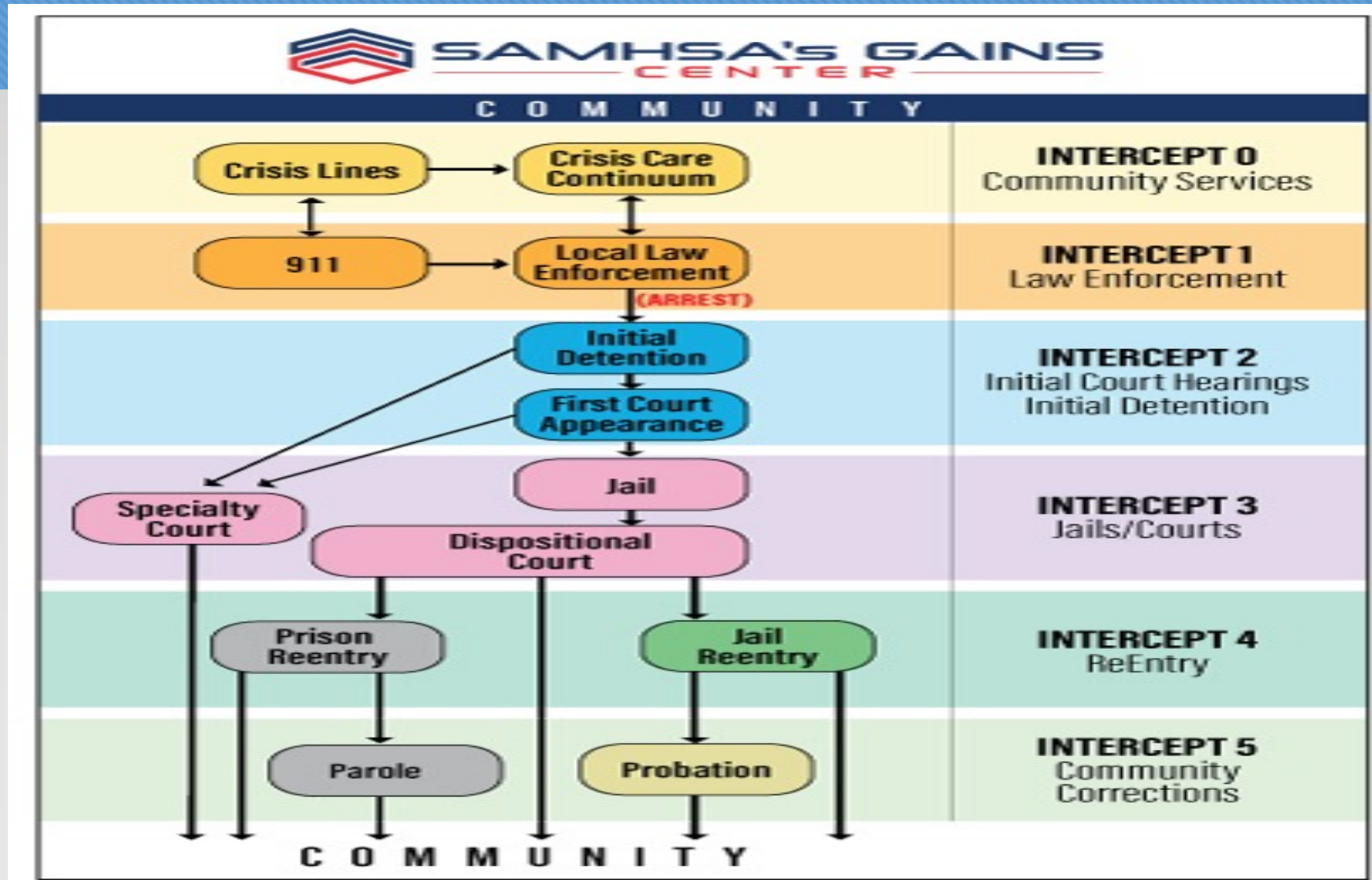
# Stepping Up Initiative is supported by:

- National Association of Counties (NACo), American Psychiatric Association and Council of State Government Justice Center
- 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 573 counties
- In NC there are 48 counties participating in various aspects of SUI

# In this county our focus has been on:

- Reducing the number of jail bookings for people with SMI
- Bolstering cross-system collaboration around behavioral health
- Building broad community based services and supports that reduce likelihood for incarceration/re-incarceration
- Improved response to people in crisis, ultimately reducing involvement within the criminal justice system

# SAMHSA'S Gains Center Community



# Questions we must ask:

**Have we been effective as a community and are our efforts making a difference?**

**What has changed over the course of the last seven to eight years?**

# Six Questions County Leaders “Need to Ask”

## **1. Is our leadership committed?**

- Justice Advisory Council
- Support of county, LE Chiefs, Judiciary and other key partners

## **2. Do we conduct timely screening and assessments (on those booked into jail)?**

- Brief MH Jail Screen completed at booking by nursing staff

## **3. Do we have baseline data?**

- 2017 First Baseline Data
- Ongoing tracking and trouble shooting for relevant data

# Six Questions County Leaders “Need to Ask”

## **4. Have we conducted a comprehensive process analysis and inventory of services?**

- Community Dialogue 2016
- Sequential Intercept Mapping Exercise 2019
- Opioid Summits
- Ongoing evaluation by the Crisis Continuum Committee

## **5. Have we prioritized policy, practice and funding improvements?**

- County more aware of the issues of Mental Illness and substance use & its direct link to recidivism—financial impact for county
- View decisions through this lens & consideration given when allocating funds: County Opioid Settlement, grant funding and other appropriations in recent years

# Six Questions County Leaders “Need to Ask”

## 6. Do we track progress?

- Jail & ACSO Data
- RHA Crisis Data
- Opioid County Data
- BJA Grant Data
- PSS survey, other consumer input
- Participated in 2021 in CSG Set, Measure, Achieve



# Stepping Up: Local Strategies

## GOAL 1

**Reduce  
the  
number of  
MI  
booked  
into jail.**

**Robust and Ongoing  
Local CIT Training for LE  
& First Responders**

**Mobile Crisis Response  
Team Active and  
Engaged**

**Developed baseline  
data for MH positive  
screens in Detention**

**CORE Co-Responder  
Program expanded to  
all LE jurisdictions**

**MH Crisis Response  
Team at ACSO**

**Crisis Continuum  
Committee active and  
meeting bimonthly—  
evaluating gaps/needs**

# Stepping Up: Local Strategies

## GOAL 2

Reduce  
the days  
MI spend  
in jail.

Early  
Screening and  
Identification—  
enhanced  
Brief MH Jail  
Screen used

Administration of  
medications as  
prescribed and  
early  
identification/  
evaluation for  
others

Addition of  
pretrial release  
program (2018)

First  
appearance for  
misdemeanant  
defendants  
(2018)

Funding for court  
ordered MH/SA  
assessments  
(2023)

# Stepping Up: Local Reentry Strategies

## GOAL 3

Improve services they receive while in jail and upon release from jail

Refined the early screening and identification by BH staff

Increase number receiving on site MH treatment/evaluation

Implemented mental health referral form

CIT Training for Detention Officers and MHFA in Public Safety Training

Peer Support Services added in 2021

# Stepping Up: Local Reentry Strategies

## GOAL 3

Improve services they receive while in jail and upon release from jail

Enhanced Programming and Support Groups

Proposed Critical Time Intervention Program (2023)

BH Jail Team Meetings bimonthly

Sustainable Alamance Reentry, Pathways Home II & expanded partnership with ACC

# Stepping Up: Local Strategies

## GOAL 4

**Reduce  
Jail  
Recidivism**

**Reentry Plan for  
those identified  
as MH/SA and  
others as  
determined**

**Coordinated  
Reentry Model  
within county  
including  
referrals upon  
release**

**Peer Support  
Follow Up post  
release**

**Enhanced  
relationships  
w/community  
treatment  
providers**

**MDT's held as  
needed with  
treatment  
providers**

# A quick look at some data:

- ACSO Mental Health Unit
- Jail Data
- Peer Support Specialist Data & Success Stories
- Pretrial Release Program Data & Success Stories
- MH & Overdose Based Reporting

# ACSO Mental Health Calls for Service

Mental Health Unit 2023	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Average
Mental Health IVC	8	4	6	1	-	-	5	11	8	9	5
Mental Health VC	7	8	10	1	-	1	2	4	4	4	4
MH UNIT: Follow-Ups	63	49	52	10	27	14	28	35	32	49	36
MH UNIT: Patrol Assist	26	31	29	9	-	7	26	34	25	27	21
MH UNIT: RHA to ARMC Transport	3	4	1	1	-	-	3	6	2	5	2.5
MH UNIT: 10-73 Calls	22	23	24	5	-	3	11	20	17	20	14

# Monthly Averages YTD Mental Health Data in Detention (January-October 2023)

<b>Average Daily Jail Population</b>	<b>348</b>
Monthly Average on Suicide Watch (14)	4%
Monthly Average on Detox Protocol (12)	3%
Monthly Average on Psychotropic Meds (43)	12%
Average # seen by on-site MH Professional	52



# Peer Support Specialist in Detention (BJA Grant Funded)

- Average Caseload Size—around 40
- Primary Source of Referral: Pretrial Release Program, Release Book, Admin/Other
- Recidivism Rate for PSS cases—Current Rate = 36%

\*36% or 48 of 132 individuals returned to jail within 12 months of release (clients served October '21-September '22). **84 of 132 did not return to jail within 12 months** of release.

# 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 life of a PSS clients leaving jail:*

**Alamance County  
Pretrial Supervision Program  
(January 1, 2023—October 31, 2023)**

<b>METRIC</b>	<b>MIN</b>	<b>MAX</b>	<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Appearance Rate</b>	0.0%	100.0%	97.1%%	99 of 102
<b>Detainee Length of Stay</b>	0.0	845.0	*29.8	2,708 of 91
<b>Safety Rate</b>	0.0%	100.0%	92.2%	94 of 102
<b>Success Rate</b>	0.0%	100.0%	50.0%	50 of 100
<b>Check-In Rate</b>			90%	3,289 of 3,671

\*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.

# Mental Health & Overdose Web Based Reporting Module

January 1, 2023-October 31, 2023

Total Reports Entered: **981**

Incident Time of Day = **76% occurred between 8am-6pm**

Officers responding to call who are CIT Trained: 649/981 or **66%**

Resolved on the scene (no further action necessary): 440/981 or **45%**

Resolved by arrest: 18/981 or **2%**

Referral/connection to Behavioral Health Services: 304/981 or **31%**

Involuntarily Committed: 171/981 or **17%**

Resolved by transport to offsite agency/facility: 446/981 or **45%**

- Hospital or ED—395
- MH Facility/RHA Crisis—46
- Non-medical/non-MH facility—1
- Left blank--4

# Mental Health & Overdose Web Based Reporting Module

January 1, 2023-October 31, 2023

Overdoses: 121/981 reports were for overdose (12%\*)

Narcan Administered: 59/121 reports of overdoses (48.7%)

Quick Response Team (QRT) Notification: 38/121 reports (31%\*)

\*Quick Response Team is no longer in place due to loss of grant funding

# The work is ongoing

- Work to expand pretrial release programming
- Exploring and evaluating pre-arrest diversion models for the county
- Exploring specialty courts like MH, Drug or Veteran Court
- Improving and expanding treatment options for substance abusers—MAT programs, Inpatient programs
- Transitional housing needs for those leaving jail and inpatient treatment

# Areas of Opportunity

- More robust data tracking
- Full implementing the clearinghouse model for reentry services
- Overdose prevention/response within the county
- Enhanced partnership between hospital, MH crisis providers, EMS, etc.
- More Peer Support Specialist at work within the county ( Health, 911, etc.)
- Solidify partnership and collaboration with local probation and parole office

# Additional accomplishments since 2016:

1. Pretrial Services Committee formed and meeting quarterly-Judiciary, LE, Detention
2. Local Reentry Council convened and in place—executive committee meeting monthly and planning. State DOC funding pending
3. Enhanced jail programming and partnerships beyond pre-pandemic levels- Bridge Builders & Finding Me Parenting Programs (2023), Pathways Home II, CTI, etc.
4. Enhanced BH screening (nurse) and more expedient assessment/treatment (CBH)
5. County Behavioral Health Center set to open Spring 2024
6. Pretrial Release Program Expansion—added Electronic Monitoring component. Average 105 cases (21 are Electronic Monitoring)
7. CJIN State DV Monitoring and Notification Program for Alamance County
8. Jail Navigator position for reentry services/jail programming (formerly LCSW)



# Continued:

9. County Health Coordinator overseeing county MH Crisis Continuum, MOE contracting, Overdose Response and Diversion Center Planning
10. Expanded Crisis Center Hours (2022) in preparation for 24/7 Diversion Center (2024)
11. Locally engaged CIT Steering Committee overseeing training & planning with inclusion of EMS, 911 operators and Detention Officers
12. CIT Commitment from local LE Chiefs and Sheriff for 100% participation (2016)
13. Justice Advisory Council that is in place and engaged (2017)
14. Utilization of County MH Discretionary Funding in jail to fund long-lasting psychotic injectables and court ordered MH/Sub Abuse Assessments (when no other resource)
15. Implementation of Web-based reporting for MH/Overdose Call Report (all jurisdictions)

# So what really works?

- Peer Support Services—recidivism data, success stories
- Reentry Planning—warm handoffs, programming/partnerships starting in jail
- Pretrial Release Program w/supervision- many success stories
- BH Intervention in Jail—early identification, treatment & suicide watch protocol
- CIT Training—building confidence & resource ready LE, EMS, 911, Detention Officers
- Co-Responder Program providing LE with BH professionals in the field
- Committed and Informed County Leaders aware of the needs
- Enhanced communication across disciplines (JAC): county management, LE executives, Court Staff, providers, non-profits, consumers, etc.
- Other best practices and system reforms continually being explored

# Stepping Up Initiative in Alamance County

Thank you Alamance County for helping us achieve so much!

- Comments?
- Questions?