



**Justice Center**

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

# Reentry Planning during the COVID-19 Pandemic

April 29, 2020

# Presentation Outline

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- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Checklist for Reentry Planning during COVID-19
- III. Reentry During COVID-19: Challenges and Considerations from the Field
  - i. Middlesex County, Massachusetts
  - ii. Franklin County, Ohio
  - iii. Bernalillo County, New Mexico
- IV. Dr. Marc Stern
- V. Questions and Answers

# Welcome and Introductions

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# Panelists

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- *Risö Haneberg, Deputy Division Director, Behavioral Health, The Council of State Governments Justice Center*
- *Carrie Hill, Chief Jail Advisor, National Sheriffs' Association and Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association*
- *Sheriff Peter Koutoujian, Middlesex County Sheriff's Office, Massachusetts*
- *Michael Daniels, Director, Justice Policy and Programs, Franklin County Board of Commissioners, Ohio*
- *Dr. Sam Howarth, Behavioral Health Services Administrator, Bernalillo County Department of Behavioral Health Services*
- *Dr. Marc Stern, Affiliate Assistant Professor, School of Public Health, University of Washington*

# Panelists

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*Carrie Hill, Esq., Chief Jail Advisor,  
National Sheriffs' Association and  
Massachusetts Sheriffs'  
Association*



*Sheriff Peter Koutoujian,  
Middlesex County Sheriff's  
Office, Massachusetts*



*Dr. Marc Stern, Affiliate Assistant Professor,  
School of Public Health, University of  
Washington*

# Panelists

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*Risë Haneberg, Deputy Division  
Director, The Council of State  
Governments Justice Center*



*Michael Daniels, Director,  
Justice Policy and Programs,  
Franklin County, Ohio*



*Dr. Sam Howarth, Behavioral Health  
Services Administrator, Bernalillo County  
Department of Behavioral Health Services*

# The Council of State Governments Justice Center

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We are a national nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that combines the power of a membership association, representing state officials in all three branches of government, with policy and research expertise to develop strategies that increase public safety and strengthen communities.



# The National Sheriffs' Association

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Dedicated to serving the Office of the Sheriff and its affiliates through law enforcement education and training, and through the provision of general law enforcement informational resources. NSA represents thousands of sheriffs, deputies and other law enforcement, public safety professionals, and concerned citizens nationwide.



# Checklist for Jail Reentry Planning during COVID-19

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# Overview of Checklist

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- Checklist items
  - COVID-19 considerations
  - Legal discharge considerations
  - Basic needs
  - Health and treatment means

# Guidance for People who have Health and Treatment Needs

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- Considerations
  - Assessment
  - Intake appointment with a treatment provider
  - Relapse prevention plan for people who have addiction
  - Supply of medication
  - Federal or state benefits reinstatement or enrollment, including Medicaid

# COVID-19 and People who are High Utilizers

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- Frequent cycling between systems that are charged with ensuring public health and safety:
  - Police and EMS encounters
  - Jails
  - Emergency rooms and hospitals
  - Homeless shelters
- Preventing and identifying cases of COVID-19 can be even more challenging in addition to the challenges involved with tracking this population.

# Reentry During COVID-19: Challenges and Considerations from the Field

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# Middlesex County, Massachusetts

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# COVID-19 and Reentry

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- Re-entry begins on day one.
- Having to adapt to the new reality.
- Decarceration – Accelerated Planning
  - 417 individuals released in less than seven weeks
  - 19 – Massachusetts Bail Fund
  - ≈50 – Middlesex DA
  - Efforts to safely reduce population
    - Reduced our population by 25% since March 11
    - Facility Census: 605 – April 28th



# COVID-19 and Reentry

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- Challenges
  - Re-entry planning moves from months to days.
  - Post-release navigation is now done remotely.
  - Majority of releases are pre-trial – sickest & most in need of care.
  - Difficult to access services in the community due to social distancing & stay-at-home advisory.
  - Housing & transportation options are limited.

# COVID-19 and Reentry

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- 80% SUD – 51% MI – 76% COD
- Continuity of care is the primary focus.
- Scheduling appointments with providers prior to release.
- Enrollment in Medicaid.
- PAARI – Survival Kits w/Narcan, list of recovery support services, Medicaid ID number & contact information for Navigator.
- Family Resources & Outreach Coordinator – facilitates reintegration to the home.

# COVID-19 and Reentry

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## Litigation Challenges and Considerations with Re-Entry:

- Petitioners wanting mass release of inmates due to COVID-19;
- Presumption of eligibility;
- No finding of deliberate indifference;
- Challenges with COVID-19 and lack of safety net for those released;
- Balancing of Public Safety and Public Health for successful re-entry;

# COVID-19 and Reentry

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## Litigation Challenges and Considerations with Re-Entry Continued...

- Work closely with CJ Partners (i.e. Court, Parole, Probation, DA..)
  - Timing of Court Orders;
  - Tele-conferencing and Zoom Hearings/Conferencing;
  - Attorneys-Protocols for counsel to request calls with their clients;
  - Families and Shelters refusing to accept individuals upon release;
  - Release packages; (CDC guidelines, masks, gloves, soap, ID's...)
  - Track your releases (rearrests, overdoses, petitions....);

# COVID-19 and Reentry

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## Litigation Challenges and Considerations with Re-Entry Continued...

- Consider the use navigators: are individuals released getting MAT, mental health treatment etc...;
- Considerations for telehealth and other virtual service provisions;
- Consider the use of partners to assist with transportation;
- Work closely with public health partners on housing and transportation challenges.

# Franklin County, OH

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# Franklin County, OH and COVID-19

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- COVID-19 overview in Franklin County, OH
- Biggest challenge so far in the county
- Tracking the “high utilizer” population



# Bernalillo County, NM

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# Bernalillo County, NM and COVID-19

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- COVID-19 overview in Bernalillo County, NM
- Biggest challenge so far in the county
- Tracking the “high utilizer” population

# Questions and Answers

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# Thank You!

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