

# Addressing Justice System Inequities Head-On

Thomas Eberly, Kristy Danford, Michael Daniels,  
Tiffany Iheanacho | August 2020

# Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Polling Questions
- Panel Discussion
- Questions and Answers

# Section 1

- Welcome and Introductions

THE  
**STEPPINGUP**  
INITIATIVE





Webinar Moderator:  
Thomas Eberly, Program  
Director, Justice  
Management Institute



Featured Panelist:  
Kristy Danford, Project  
Director, Criminal  
Justice Coordinating  
Committee, Charleston  
County, SC



Featured Panelist:  
Michael Daniels,  
Director, Justice Policies  
and Programs, Franklin  
County, OH



Featured Panelist:  
Tiffany Iheanacho,  
Justice Services Director,  
Buncombe County, NC

# Stepping Up Overview

**STEPPINGUP**  
INITIATIVE

**519**  
COUNTIES  
AND COUNTING

Hundreds of counties across **43** states have joined Stepping Up to reduce the prevalence of mental illness in jails.



**47%**  
of the U.S. population lives in a Stepping Up county.



Approximately **2 million** individuals who have serious mental illnesses are admitted into jail each year.



**21** Innovator Counties are blazing the trail in data collection.



**3** states have launched statewide Stepping Up initiatives.



[www.Stepuptogether.org](http://www.Stepuptogether.org)



# JMHCP Technical Assistance Center—Coming Soon!

- Offers training, resources, and TA to jurisdictions to improve their approaches for people in their criminal justice systems who have mental illnesses or co-occurring substance use disorders
- TA will be tailored based on intensity of request and could include: consultations with CSG Justice Center staff, connections with subject matter experts and peers, virtual events and meetings, curated online resources
- Jurisdictions can request TA through a request form on the CSG Justice Center website

# Justice Management Institute

Arlington, VA non-profit organization

Provides cutting edge research, education and training programs, and technical assistance in justice policy, planning, and operations

NNCJCC was created in 2010 to provide a forum for CJCCs to learn from each other and to build capacity for local system improvement.



# The Role of Criminal Justice Coordinating Committees

- Buncombe County, North Carolina, [buncombecounty.org/jrac](https://www.buncombecounty.org/jrac)
- Charleston County, South Carolina, [cjcc.charlestoncounty.org/](https://www.cjcc.charlestoncounty.org/)
- Franklin County, Ohio, [jpp.franklincountyohio.gov/](https://www.jpp.franklincountyohio.gov/)

# Section 2

- Polling Questions



# Section 3

- Panel Discussion

THE  
**STEPPINGUP**  
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# Approaching Disparities in the Justice and Public Health Systems

- As a leader in your system, how do you approach conversations that others may want to avoid or may cause unintended conflict?
- How do you use data to elevate the issue and frame conversations about disparities?
  - E.g., Data on overrepresentation of serious mental illness (SMI) in jails compared to general population; percentage of SMI in jail remains flat even with reductions in overall jail population; racial disparities along justice system decision points
- Recently, racism was declared a public health crisis in Buncombe and Franklin Counties. What does this mean and why was this action taken?

# Facilitating Difficult Conversations as a Change Agent

- How do you identify potential partners and bring people together to have difficult conversations?
- What role does the community play in addressing disparities in the justice and behavioral health systems?
- What are some guiding principles that you feel are necessary when addressing system inequalities?

# Developing Strategies and Implementing Change

- What strategies has your jurisdiction undertaken to address racial inequities in the justice and behavioral health systems?
- What obstacles have you faced in implementing changes and what unexpected opportunities have you seen?
- How can you keep the work moving forward and prevent factions from emerging?



# Section 4

- Questions and Answers



# Contact Information

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