The STEPPINGUP INITIATIVE

How to Set Targets to Reduce the Number of People with Serious Mental Illness in Jails

Kati Habert, Sheriff Ian Parkinson, Emily Rogers, Jessica Yates| October 21, 2020

COUNTY JAIL

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Overview of Set, Measure, Achieve
- How Sheriffs Support Access to Data
- Tracking Serious Mental Illness Indicators (SMI) in Jail
- How to Set and Measure Reduction Targets
- Questions and Answers

Featured Speaker: Sheriff Ian Parkinson
San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office, California

Featured Speaker:
Jessica Yates
Business Analyst,
San Luis Obispo County
Sheriff's Office,
California

Featured Speaker:
Emily Rogers
Senior Research
Associate, the Council of
State Governments
Justice Center

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

THE STEPPING UP INITIATIVE

Five Years AND COUNTING

More than 520 counties across 43 states have joined Stepping Up to reduce the prevalence of mental illness in jails.

48% of the U.S. population lives in a Stepping Up county.

25 Innovator Counties are blazing the trail in data collection.

Approximately **2 million** times each year, people who have serious mental illnesses are admitted to jails.

COUNTY JAIL

7 states have launched statewide Stepping Up initiatives.
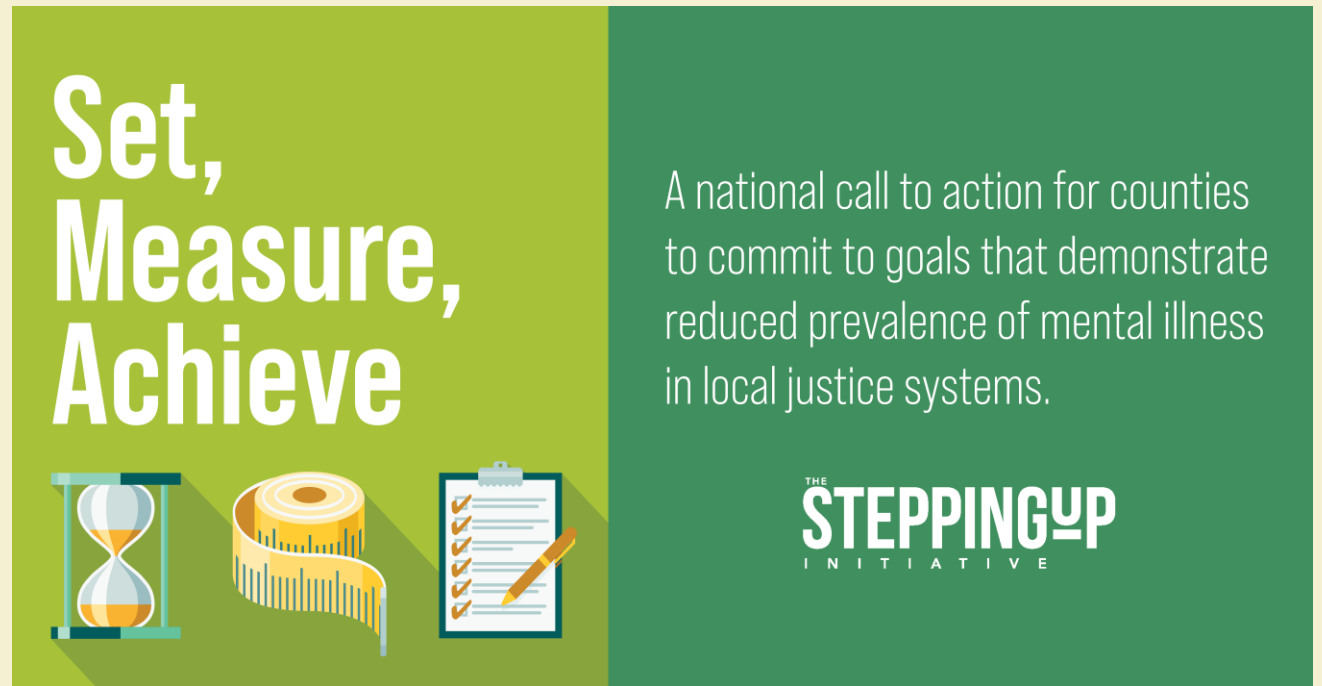
Overview of Set, Measure, Achieve

Set, Measure, Achieve

- Step 1: Set Your Targets
  - Average daily jail population
  - Jail bookings
  - Average length of stay
  - Post-release connections to care
  - Recidivism

- Step 2: Announce Your Participation

- Step 3: Measure and Report Your Progress

Set, Measure, Achieve

A national call to action for counties to commit to goals that demonstrate reduced prevalence of mental illness in local justice systems.

THE STEPPINGUP INITIATIVE

https://stepuptogether.org/set-measure-achieve

How Sheriffs Support Access to Data

Sheriff Ian Parkinson,
San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Office

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Tracking Serious Mental Illness Indicators (SMI) in Jail

Jessica Yates,
San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Office

Jessie Yates, Business Analyst, San Luis Obispo, CA

- How San Luis Obispo Started Tracking the SMI Population:
    1. Agree on definition for target population between local behavioral health partners, jail medical provider, and the Stepping Up team
    2. Implement a Validated Screening Tool – Example: Brief Jail Mental Health Screen (BJMHS)
    3. Create an alert in your system to identify the SMI population
    4. Share information between behavioral health, probation, courts, and jail if possible – May need a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
    5. Specify what indicators you will be tracking

Setting Baselines and Target Reduction Goals

- How to clearly identify population:
  - BJMHS
  - Medications
  - Psych Tech/Nurse/Jail staff referrals
  - Jail to Community Meetings: Probation, Community Partners, Behavioral Health
  - Self Reports
  - Incompetent to Stand Trial

Setting Baselines and Target Reduction Goals

- Facilitating Access to Data
  - Partner with your Jail Medical Provider: County Provider vs. Contracted Provider
  - Identify personnel who will be tracking data, have leadership team support
- Set a Process for Tracking
- Set your Baselines
- Set Your Target Reduction Goals
- Design a Dashboard for Sharing information

Baseline Data and Goals

1. ***Reduce the number of people who have mental illnesses booked into jail***
   - **<u>Bookings:</u>** 2% reduction annually in bookings of those who screen positive on the Brief Jail Mental Health Screen, with the long-term goal of positive screenings at booking making up no more than 22% of all bookings on average.
   - <u>Baseline data:</u> For calendar year 2019, an average of 84% all bookings per month received a Brief Jail Mental Health Screen; 28% on average screened positive per month.
   - **<u>Average Daily Population:</u>** 5% reduction annually in average daily population of those with SMI in the Jail, with the long-term goal of SMI inmates making up no more than 10-12% of the average daily population.
   - <u>Baseline data:</u> In December 2019, individuals with SMI made up 12.3% of the average daily population (61/494). In July 2020, after the implementation of Zero Bail policies due to the COVID-19 pandemic, individuals with SMI made up 22.3% of the average daily population (92/411).
- Not including inmates housed at locations other than the County Jail.

Baseline Data and Goals

2. ***Reduce the length of stay in jail for people with mental illnesses***
   - **<u>Average length of stay:</u>** 5% reduction annually in average length of stay for those with SMI released from the Jail, with the long-term goal being that average length of stay for the SMI population be equal to the population without SMI.
   - <u>Baseline data</u>: As of July 8, 2020 average length of stay for someone released from Jail with SMI was 178 days (median 106). The average length of stay for the population without SMI was 160 days (median 76).

Baseline Data and Goals

3. *Increase the percentage of people with mental illnesses connected to treatment in the community upon release from jail.*

- **Connections to Treatment:**
- 60% in the first year with a 20% increase in the second and third year for individuals with SMI for post-release behavioral health treatment (of those with an assessed need for treatment who do not refuse), with the long term goal that 100% have a referral and appointment set with a community partner or the County Behavioral Health Department before release.
- <u>Baseline data:</u> Tracked in Excel at this time

Baseline Data and Goals

4) Reduce recidivism rates for individuals with mental illnesses

•**<u>Rebooking</u>:** 5% reduction annually for individuals with SMI rebooked into the jail, with the long-term goal of rebooking numbers being equal to those for the non-SMI population.

<u>Baseline data:</u> As of July 8, 2020 the rebooking rates for were as follows.

	SMI	CSMISA	Non-SMI
6 months	58%	79%	48%
1 year	65%	89%	61%
3 years	75%	92%	68%

[1] All data in this section uses a look back method. For example, was someone in the Jail today arrested in the prior 6 months, 1 year or 3 years.

Baseline Data and Goals

- **<u>Technical Violations:</u>** 5% reduction annually from baseline.
- <u>Baseline data:</u> As of July 8, 2020 the technical violation rates were as follows.

	SMI	CSMISA	Non-SMI
6 months	25%	34%	18%
1 year	29%	39%	27%
3 years	49%	61%	39%

Baseline Data and Goals

- **New Charges:** 5% reduction annually from baseline.
- Baseline data: As of July 8, 2020 the new charges rates were as follows.

|	SMI	CSMISA	Non-SMI
6 months	30%	45%	23%
1 year	32%	50%	30%
3 years	52%	71%	41%

How to Set and Measure SMI Reduction Targets

Emily Rogers,

The Council of State Governments

Justice Center

Setting a baseline and preparing to report

- Questions to Answer
  - When did your county start tracking SMI?
  - When were new policies implemented?
  - What time periods will you use as your baseline period and reporting period?
- Select a baseline period after SMI data collection was started but before efforts to reduce the number of people with SMI in jail.
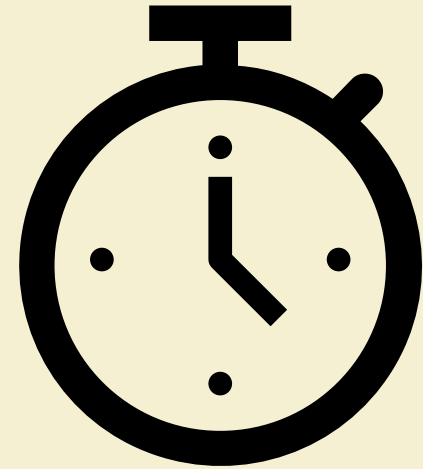
Preparing data for analysis

- Select all bookings and releases during the time periods of interest

- Identify true bookings and releases

- Merge continuous lengths of stay

- Standardize demographic variables into categories useful for analysis
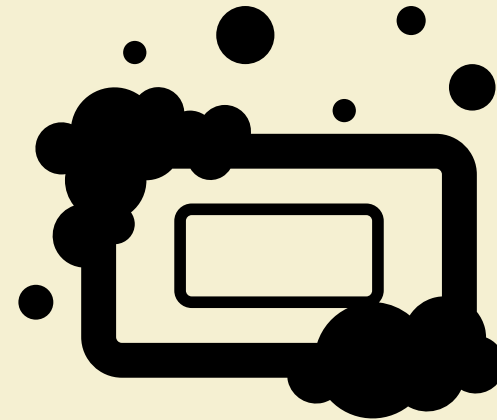
Incorporate SMI information into booking and release files

- Screening
- Assessment
- Confirmed diagnosis
- Connections to care
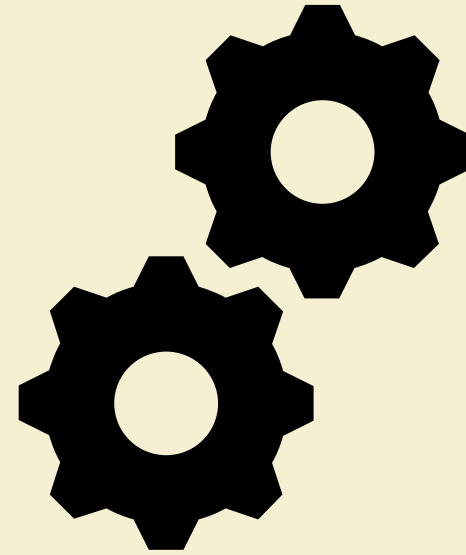
Measuring Progress

Bookings

- Bookings/admissions
  - Total # of admissions in the reporting period
  - Do not count "turn-around admissions" such as trips to court or the hospital

- Recidivism (Re-bookings)
  - = (# admitted who have a prior jail admission in your county jail in the past year) / (total admissions during the reporting period)

Measuring Progress

Releases

- Average length of stay (ALOS)
  - (sum of the total lengths of stay) / (total number of release events during the reporting period)
  - For people who are booked and released on the same day, the length of stay (LOS) is 1. LOS=release date-booking rate+1.

- Connections to care
  - (# identified with SMI who are released and referred to community-based behavioral health treatment at release during the reporting period) / (# of people with SMI released during the reporting period)

Measuring Progress

Use bookings and average length of stay to calculate average daily population

- Average daily population
  - (bookings during reporting period * ALOS during reporting period) / (days in reporting period)

Setting and measuring reduction targets

- Use baseline data and reasonable assumptions about reductions to set reduction targets

- Percent change
  - (target measure – baseline measure) / baseline measure
  - Baseline period and current period are equal time periods

Questions and Answers

Contact Information

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- Emily Rogers, erogers@csg.org
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