



Justice Center
THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS



BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice

Aligning Health and Safety

A New Tool for States to Transform
Behavioral Health and Justice Systems

March 7, 2024

Presentation Outline

- I. Welcome and Organization Background
- II. BJA Welcome
- III. Overview: Aligning Health and Safety Initiative
- IV. Lessons from the Field: Texas and Illinois
- V. Demonstration
- VI. Questions and Answers

What is the Office of Justice Programs?



BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice

- The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) provides grant funding, training, research, and statistics to the criminal justice community.
- OJP is one of three grant-making components of the Department of Justice along with the **Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)** and the **Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)**.

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| BJA – Bureau of Justice Assistance | |
| BJS – Bureau of Justice Statistics | |
| NIJ – National Institute of Justice | |
| OVC – Office for Victims of Crime | |
| OJJDP – Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention | |
| SMART – Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking | |

U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance

Mission: BJA's mission is to provide leadership and services in grant administration and criminal justice policy development to support state, local, and tribal justice strategies to achieve safer communities. BJA works with communities, governments, and nonprofit organizations to reduce crime, recidivism, and unnecessary confinement, and promote a safe and fair criminal justice system.

Karhlton F. Moore, BJA Director



www.bja.gov



How BJA Supports the Field



Fund

Invest diverse funding streams to accomplish goals.



Educate

Research, develop, and deliver what works.



Equip

Create tools and products to build capacity and improve outcomes.



Partner

Consult, connect, and convene.

The Council of State Governments Justice Center

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

How We Work

- We bring people together
- We drive the criminal justice field forward with original research
- We build momentum for policy change
- We provide expert assistance

Our Goals

Break the cycle of incarceration

High rates of recidivism increase taxpayer costs, diminish public safety, and tear apart families and communities. We work with partners inside and outside of government to reduce crime and incarceration among youth and adults in contact with the justice system.

Advance health, opportunity, and equity

Efforts to make communities safer and healthier are hampered by insufficient behavioral health services, barriers to economic mobility, homelessness, lack of support for victims, and racial and gender inequity. We bring people from diverse systems and perspectives together to improve policy and practice related to these challenges.

Use data to improve safety and justice

Data holds the power to help us understand and change justice systems for the better. And yet, states and counties still know far too little about how their systems perform. Our work transforms information into meaningful insights for policymakers.

Equity and Inclusion Statement



The Council of State Governments Justice Center is committed to advancing racial equity internally and through our work with states, local communities, and Tribal Nations.



We support efforts to dismantle racial inequities within the criminal and juvenile justice systems by providing rigorous and high-quality research and analysis to decision-makers and helping stakeholders navigate the critical, and at times uncomfortable, issues the data reveal. Beyond empirical data, we rely on stakeholder engagement and other measures to advance equity, provide guidance and technical assistance, and improve outcomes across all touchpoints in the justice, behavioral health, crisis response, and reentry systems.

Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program

The Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCP) promotes innovative cross-system collaboration and provides grants directly to states, local governments, and federally recognized Indian Tribes. It is designed to improve responses to people with mental health conditions and substance use disorders who are involved in the criminal justice system.

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Welcome

Ruby Qazilbash, Deputy Director of Policy, BJA

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Overview: Aligning Health and Safety

Hallie Fader-Towe, Interim Director, Behavioral Health, CSG Justice Center

Katie Holihen, Senior Policy Analyst, Behavioral Health, CSG Justice Center

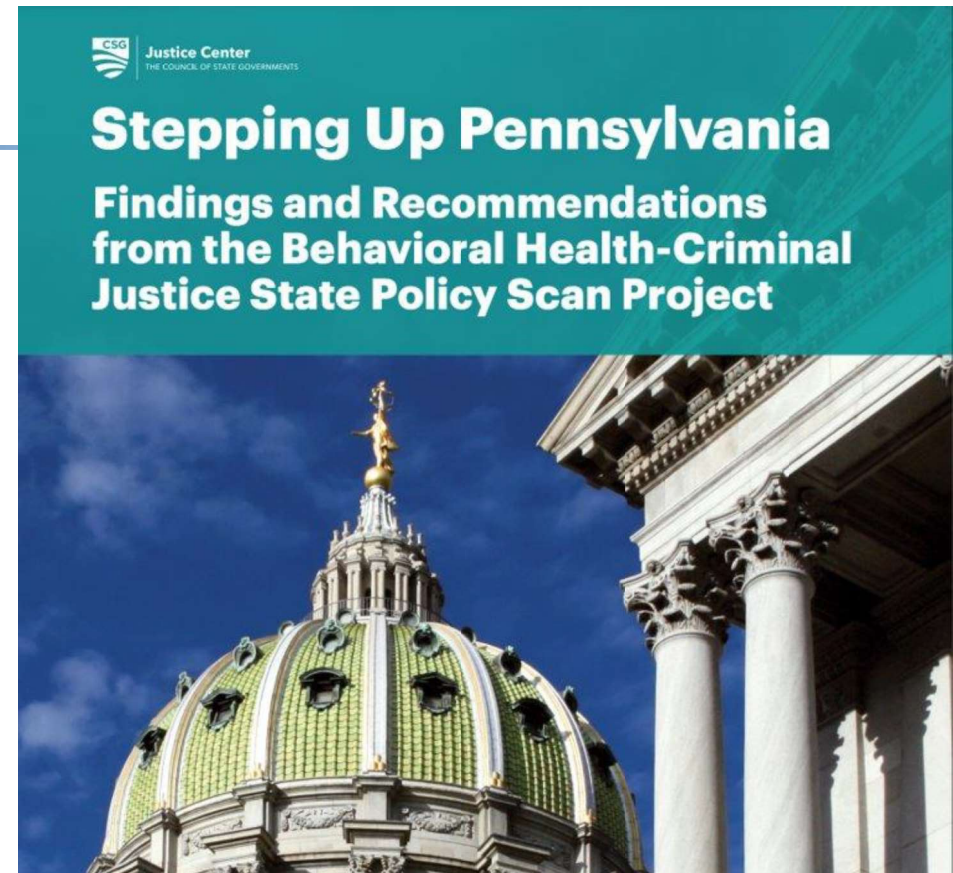
Background

2018: CSG Justice Center convenes meeting of state and local policymakers and federal partners

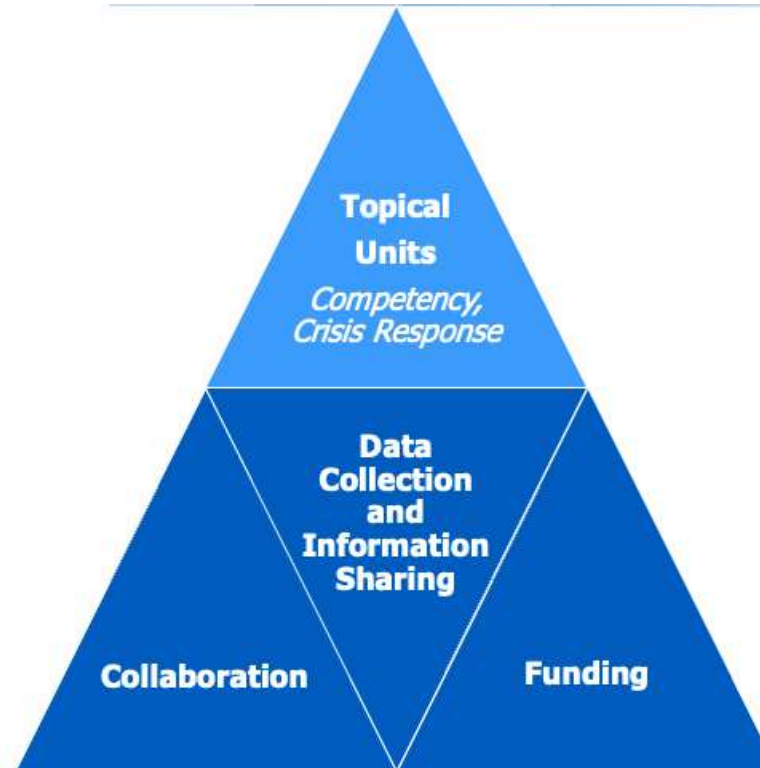
2021: Behavioral Health-Criminal Justice State Policy Scan in PA

2022: Aligning Health and Safety State Policy Community of Practice

2024: Aligning Health and Safety Building Blocks State Policy Tool



The Building Blocks: Laying a Foundation for Effective Policy Work



Three-Branch Partners



Aligning Health and Safety: Building Blocks State Policy Tool

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| WHAT | Policy research tool |
| WHO | State policymakers and high-level staff from all three branches of government |
| WHY | Help states advance policy goals that establish the foundation for robust, lasting cross-system initiatives |
| HOW | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand policy levers across all three branches of state government;• Learn other strategies states have tried;• Gather key resources and best practices to support effective implementation. |

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Lessons from the Field: Texas

Dr. Courtney Harvey, Mental Health Statewide Coordinator & Associate
Commissioner, Office of Mental Health Coordination, Texas Health and Human Services

Kristi Taylor, Executive Director, Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health

Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council



Statewide strategic planning of behavioral health services



Coordinate expenditures among state agencies, judiciary, and education systems



Inventory behavioral health services across the state

The Judiciary Joins the Conversation with a Historic Joint Hearing

The testimony highlighted the following needs:

Relief for overcrowded dockets

Communication, coordination, collaboration

Specialized, multidisciplinary legal training

Technology to manage dockets and caseloads

Voice for people with justice involvement

Community resources for mental health services





Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health

Collaboration

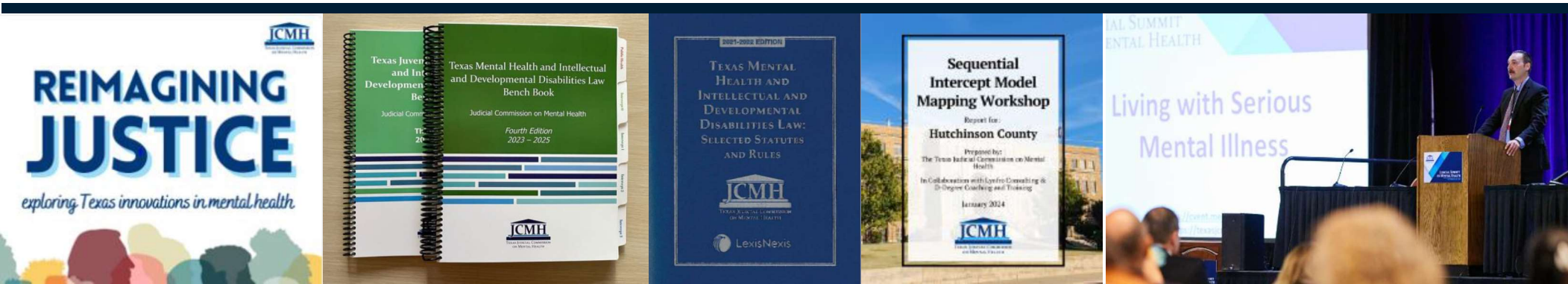
- ❖ Legislative Research Committee
- ❖ SIM Mapping
- ❖ Eliminate the Wait
- ❖ Texas County Mental Health Law Plan
- ❖ MH Court Collaborative

Education

- ❖ Annual Judicial Summit on Mental Health
- ❖ Bench Books, Code Book
- ❖ Forms Bank
- ❖ Legislative Summaries

Leadership

- ❖ Podcast
- ❖ Technical Assistance
- ❖ Community Diversion Coordinator Pilot Program



Lessons from the Field: Illinois

Scott Block, Statewide Behavioral Health Administrator,
Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts



Illinois Courts: Aligning Mental Health and Justice Priorities

| Building Blocks State Policy Tool | IL Mental Health Task Force Goals |
|--|--|
| Effective collaboration structures | “To form strong partnerships that drive cross-system collaboration to develop data-informed strategies...” |
| Cross-system data collection and information sharing capacity | “To regularly and widely share information...” |
| Aligned funding to strengthen care and supports | “To assess, identify, and efficiently utilize available resources, including funding...” |



Illinois Courts: Aligning Funding to Lead Change



State Justice Institute



BJA

Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice

SAMHSA

Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration

**Justice and Mental Health
Collaboration Program**



DIVISION OF
MENTAL HEALTH



DIVISION OF
SUBSTANCE USE
PREVENTION & RECOVERY



Illinois Courts: Aligning Policy and Practice

“Many aspects of the system improvement can be accomplished with changes in practices, reallocation of resources, and rule changes, but some will require statutory amendments. Redirecting legislative policies often takes more than one try, and usually requires collaborative efforts.”

Leading Change Guide for State Court Leaders,
National Center for State Courts, 2022

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Demonstration

Katie Holihen, Senior Policy Analyst, Behavioral Health, CSG
Justice Center

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Questions and Answers

Thank You!

Join our distribution list to receive updates and announcements:

<https://csgjusticecenter.org/resources/newsletters/>

For more information, please contact Katie Holihen at kholihen@csg.org.

This project was supported by Grant No. 5PBJA-22-GK-03573-MENT awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the SMART Office. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice. To learn more about the Bureau of Justice Assistance, please visit bja.gov.

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