

THE
STEPPING
INITIATIVE

UP



THE OHIO
PROJECT

Stepping Up: Practical Solutions for Shutting the Revolving Door of Jail & Mental Illness
Justice Evelyn Lundberg Stratton, Retired, Project Director for Stepping Up Ohio

CCAO Second Wednesday Webinar

September 13, 2017

Stepping Up Webinar

► Topics:

- Background and statistics on the issue of jails and mental illness
- Stepping Up: what is it all about and Ohio's version
- Forming the state and community partnerships to make it work
- Practical tools and solutions, many costing little or no money
- Lessons learned on how to break the cycle
- Challenge to audience to create their own solutions and how to do so

Stepping Up

- ▶ Stepping Up - a national movement to reduce the number of people with mental illness in jails
- ▶ Ohio has joined this movement
- ▶ Launched by the Council of State Governments Justice Center, National Association of Counties and American Psychiatric Association Foundation with support from the U.S. Justice Department Bureau of Justice Assistance.
 - ▶ In Ohio, the initiative is funded by the Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation.
- ▶ For more information: www.mha.ohio.gov/steppingup



Nationally

- ▶ 2 million people with mental illness arrested annually
- ▶ Inmates in jail with mental illness do not get the help they need
- ▶ 75% have co-occurring substance abuse disorder
- ▶ Most released without services



Locally

- ▶ 30% of Ohio's inmates have mental illness
- ▶ All 78 county jails have become de-facto inpatient psychiatric facilities
- ▶ They often stay longer
- ▶ More recidivism



Get Started!

- ▶ Access the Stepping Up Toolkit
- ▶ Receive a visit with your community leaders from the Stepping Up Team
- ▶ Participate in a free readiness assessment with an expert team member
- ▶ Receive free technical assistance



Veterans Justice programs

- ▶ Why are these needed?
 - ▶ Veterans are 9.3% of the incarcerated population in the U.S.
 - ▶ 70% of offenses were for non-violent crimes
 - ▶ Close to 60% of inmates have mental health problems
 - ▶ 82% of incarcerated persons are eligible for VA services on release



What are the Veterans Justice programs?

- ▶ Programs within the Department of Veterans Affairs strive to make sure that justice-involved Veterans get individualized care
- ▶ Link veterans to community services to help homelessness, behavioral health issues and recidivism
- ▶ Two main programs:
 - ▶ Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO): for those entering the local jail or court system
 - ▶ Health Care for Re-entry Veterans (HCRV): for those coming out of the prison system

Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT)

- ▶ CIT model widely adopted in Ohio
- ▶ Partnerships between law enforcement and mental health systems
- ▶ Ohio CIT Technical Assistance Center
- ▶ Assist those with mental illness
- ▶ CIT training improves officer attitude, skills and level of preparedness
- ▶ Voluntary, specialized 40-hour training
- ▶ Ohio has trained over 10,000 law enforcement officers in CIT
- ▶ Goal = CIT trained officers available in all communities 24 hours a day
- ▶ Officers need alternatives other than arrest and jail

Ohio Consortium of Crime Science (OCCS) and the Stepping Up Initiative

- ▶ A group of researchers from colleges and universities across Ohio who are available to work with local criminal justice agencies
- ▶ Available to all local criminal justice entities, from law enforcement and corrections to courts and victim services
- ▶ For more information: www.ocjs.ohio.gov/occs



Ohio Compassion Map: Social Service and Faith-Based Resources in Your Own County

- ▶ The Compassion Map was constructed by researchers at Clay Productions under contract with the Ohio Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives
- ▶ The Ohio Compassion Map assimilates information on faith-based and community nonprofits in all 88 Ohio counties into one easy-to-reference location
- ▶ For more information: www.ohiocompassionmap.org



Ohio Benefit Bank

- ▶ Links people with resources and programs to help meet their basic needs
- ▶ Repository of information for the various aid systems in Ohio (food assistance, veteran benefits, prescription drug costs, etc.)
- ▶ Walks people through the process of finding and accessing aid to help them become more stable and self-sufficient
- ▶ Serves those who have trouble meeting their basic needs
- ▶ For more information: www.ohiobenefits.org



Sequential Intercept Mapping (SIM)

- ▶ What is the Sequential Intercept Model? Within the criminal justice system there are points at which persons can be “intercepted” and diverted to the mental health treatment system
- ▶ Sequential Intercept Mapping is a day and a half exercise during which the resources a community has at each intercept point are identified, as are gaps in services
 - ▶ The gaps are prioritized and then a preliminary action plan to address the priorities begins



Sequential Intercept Mapping (SIM)

- ▶ Why is the Sequential Intercept Model needed?
 - ▶ Brings leaders needed to initiate community change together in a systematic, structured way
 - ▶ Helps foster collaboration among key stakeholders
 - ▶ Provides clear direction on how to approach what otherwise may feel overwhelming
 - ▶ SIM can take the goals of Stepping Up and provide a road map on how they can be achieved
 - ▶ For more information: www.neomed.edu/cjccoe/ or call 330-325-6670



Four Ways you can Benefit from Ohio Stepping Up

- ▶ Access the Stepping Up Toolkit
 - ▶ Sign up to receive Stepping Up announcements at <https://stepuptogether.org/take-action>
 - ▶ Receive a link to the Stepping Up toolkit (written planning guides, training webinars, and relevant publications)
 - ▶ Create actionable plans to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails
- ▶ Participate in a free readiness assessment to determine what you have and what you need
 - ▶ For more information, contact Melissa Knopp, Esq. - knoppm@hocking.edu

Four Ways you can Benefit from Ohio Stepping Up

- ▶ Receive free technical assistance with your county plan
 - ▶ For more information, contact Julie Spohn - Julie.spohn@mha.ohio.gov
- ▶ Ohio Stepping Up Conference - September 28, 2017
 - ▶ One-day conference that brings state and local leaders from across Ohio together with national partners
 - ▶ For more information, contact Melissa Knopp, Esq. - knoppm@hocking.edu



Justice Evelyn Lundberg Stratton retired

- ▶ Retired from the Supreme Court of Ohio after 23 years in the Judiciary to pursue criminal justice reforms, particularly as they relate to mental health, juveniles and veterans.
 - ▶ Born to missionary parents in Bangkok, Thailand, Stratton spent her childhood in Southeast Asia.
 - ▶ She attended boarding school in South Vietnam at the height of the Vietnam War and later in Malaysia, visiting America on occasion with her parents.
 - ▶ At age 18, she returned to America alone with only a few hundred dollars in her pocket. Working her way through school, she earned a Juris Doctor degree from The Ohio State University College of Law.
 - ▶ Stratton's most interesting accomplishment was her first-place finish in a college Stampede Girls Goat Tying Competition—a talent she later put to good use as a trial lawyer.

Acknowledgment

► Funders

- The Stepping Up program is generously supported by the following funders and sponsors.
- Funders are contributing to the 2017 Stepping Up Conference, to be held September 28th in Columbus.
 - Remaining funds are being used to host Stepping Up county visits throughout the course of the year and to provide materials and hand-outs.
 - Sponsors are committed to supporting the general work of the initiative.



State and National Sponsors

▶ State



▶ National

