

# Jail Facility Processes and Policies for COVID-19 and Beyond

Zooming in on Public Health



Community of Practice





# Mitigating COVID-19 in County Jails

Presented by the Wayne State University School of Social Work  
Center for Behavioral Health and Justice

## Jail Facility Processes and Policies for COVID-19 and Beyond

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Welcome



# Agenda



## Welcome & Zoom Housekeeping

## Jail Facility Structures and Processes: An Overview

### Peoria County, IL- *One Mission*



## COVID-19 in Jails: A Physician's Experience Learning to Speak Several Languages

### Panel Discussion

**Brian Asbell, BA MBA:** Sheriff, Peoria County Sheriff's Office

**Alysse Wurcel, MD MS:** Infectious Diseases Physician, Tufts Medical Center

Assistant Professor, Tufts School of Medicine

Infectious Diseases Liaison, Massachusetts Sheriffs Association

**Matt Costello, LMSW:** Project Manager, Center for Behavioral Health and Justice



## Questions & Answers



## Conclusion and Next Steps



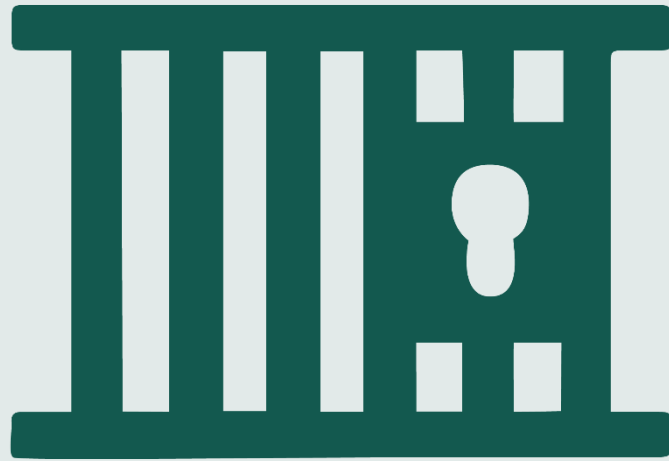
# Zoom Housekeeping

Slides will be made available on the CBHJ Website after today's webinar

This session will be recorded and made publicly available

We will answer content related questions as we go along, but also at the end of the presentation during the Q&A discussion with panelist

Please, don't forget to fill out the **post-webinar survey** 😊



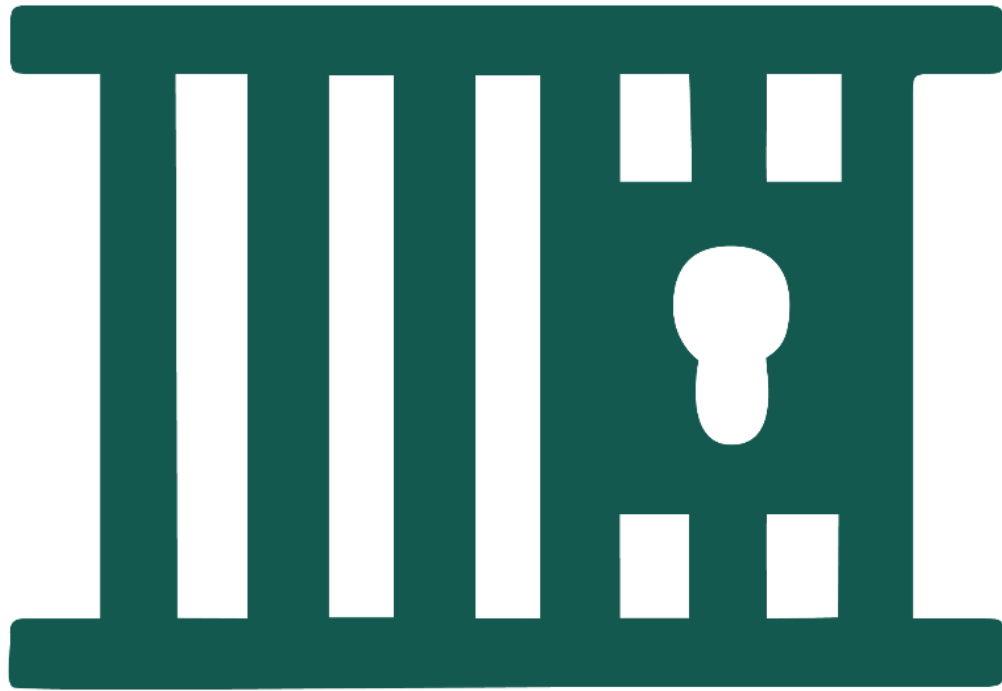
# Jail Facility Structures and Processes: An Overview

Presented by Matt Costello, LMSW  
Project Manager, Center for Behavioral Health and Justice





# Types of Jail Stays



Local Lock-ups

Detention Centers

County Jails

State Prisons

# County Jails



Misdemeanors

Felony Charges



# Custody Status



Custody Pre-trial

Custody Mixed

Custody Sentenced

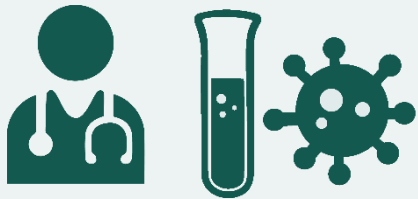


# Jail Structure & Booking Process

## Booking Process

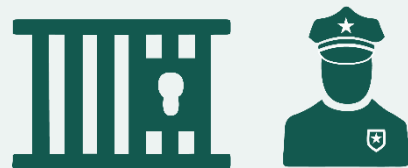


Assessment and questions about physical, mental health, and substance use/abuse



Due to COVID-19 jails have enhanced the booking medical processes. These enhanced services typically conducted by the jails medical provider

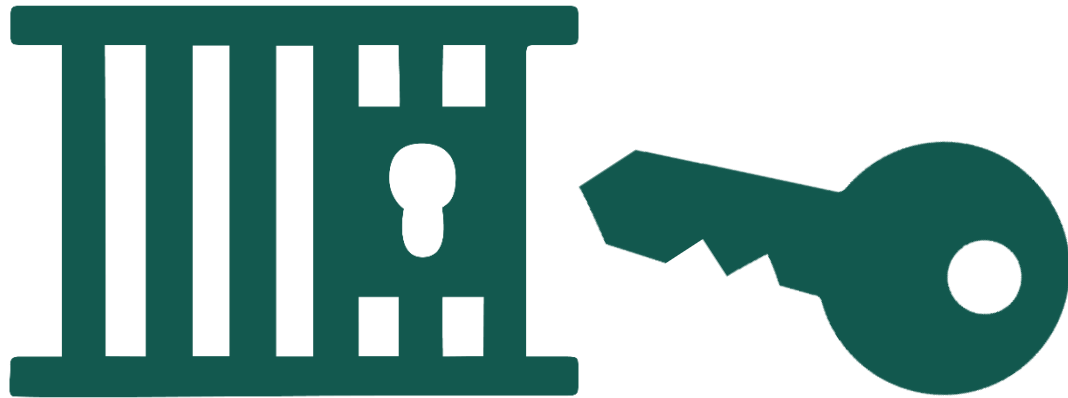
## Jail Structure



Direct and Indirect supervision housing styles



# Release



- Inmates May be provided a bill from the county for jail stay upon release
- Sliding scale fee based on income disclosure form completed at the time of booking
- At release all stakeholders involved in discharge planning are notified prior to the individual walking out the door

# Peoria County, IL One Mission...



Presented by Brian Asbell, BA MBA  
Sheriff, Peoria County Sheriff's Office



# Background



Population 183,011



85% residents live in urban setting



Median household income \$47,552



Jail is 492 bed facility



Population demographics

- 53.7% African American
- 44.3% white
- County demographics  
44.3% white, 18.5% African American

## Peoria “lists”

- 2016 was identified by 24/7 wall street report as being the worst city for AA to live in entire nation
  - 2018 moved “up” to 5<sup>th</sup> worst
- 2019 report identified Peoria as having most racially segregated schools in the nation
- Peoria came in as the 18th-deadliest city in the country, with a murder rate of 19.5 per 100,000 residents in 2018. Meanwhile, Chicago was ranked at 16, with the murder rate at 20.7 per 100,000.

# Pre-COVID Collaboration

- Monica and I both became department heads at the same time (Summer 2017)
- Shared belief public safety and public health have same goal
- Created a bridge between criminal justice and public health providers
  - Formed Criminal Justice- Behavioral Health System Review Committee
    - Review of existing policies, practices, procedures
    - Assessed strengths & identified gaps
    - Focused on recidivism and lowering healthcare admissions
    - \*\*\*Stakeholders- relationships
- EMA (Emergency Management) transfer of management



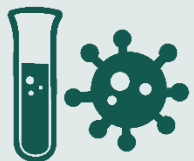
# Created Jail Programs & Services

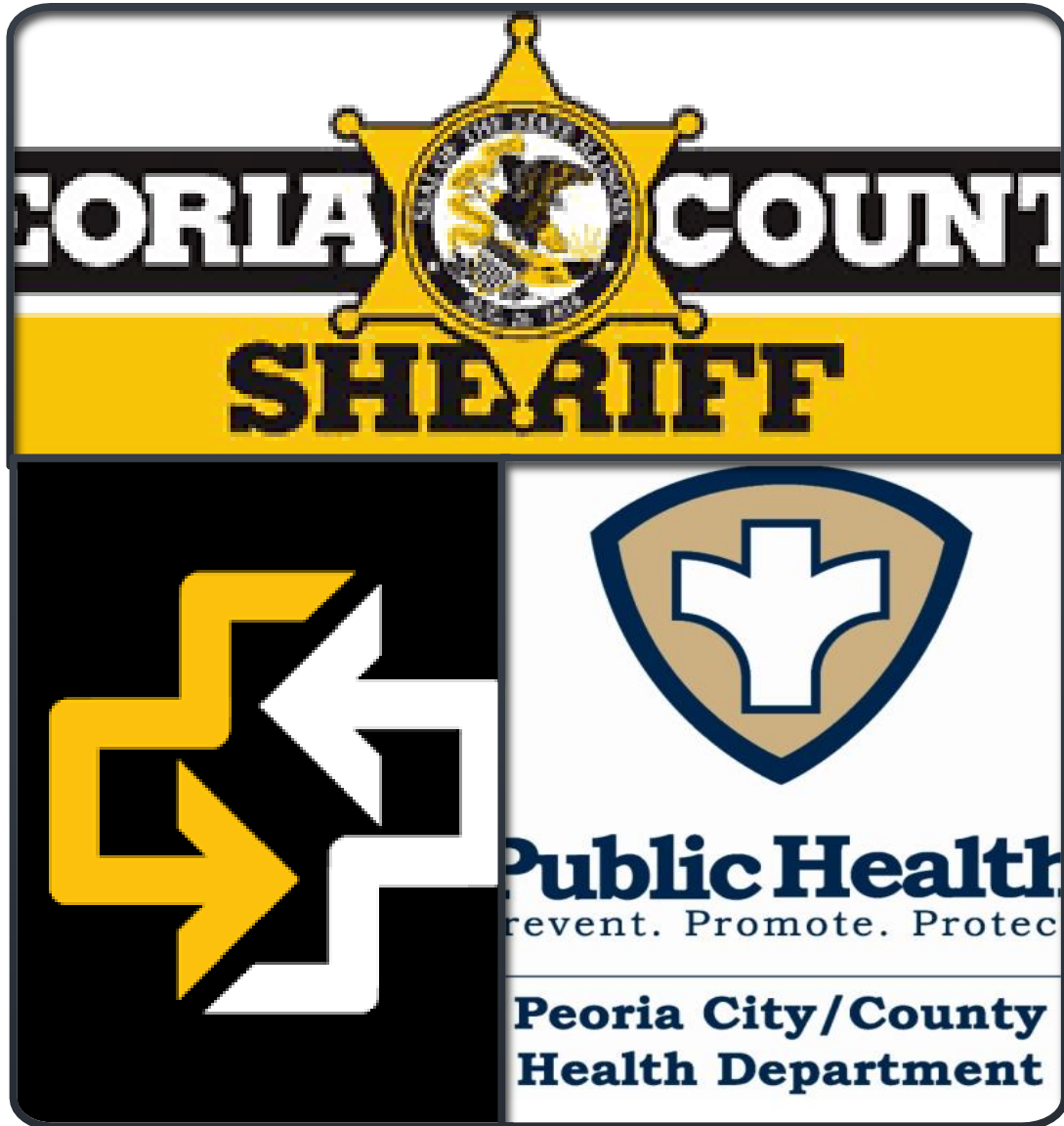


- Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT)
- Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT)
- Job's Partnership Re-entry
- Increased jail medical & mental health hours
- Addiction counseling
- Medication-assisted treatment (MAT)
- Created full-time case management positions (used ex-offenders)
- Social worker
- Internships with local colleges (Nursing, Mental Health, Social Work)

# COVID-19 Response

- Immediately opened Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
- Public communications
  - Daily press conference (now weekly)
  - Unified message
- Political/Community “fallout”
- Budget impacts
- Contact Tracing
- Weekly Meetings
- Jail Outbreak(s)
  - July 2020
  - January 2021
- Vaccination



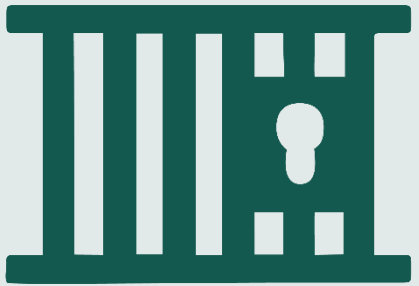
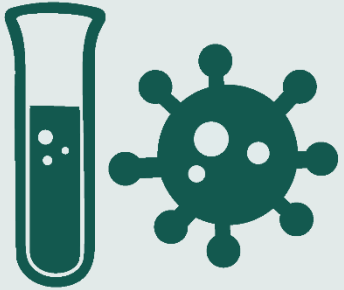


## One Mission...

*“Yes, I took an oath to uphold and protect the constitution, but I also swore to protect life and liberty of our citizens...today we live in a world where one individual's liberty can directly influence another person's life...”*

*-Sheriff Brian Asbell*





# COVID-19 in Jails: A Physician's Experience Learning to Speak Several Languages

Presented by Alysse Wurcel, MD MS  
Infectious Diseases Physician, Tufts Medical Center  
Assistant Professor, Tufts School of Medicine  
Infectious Diseases Liaison, Massachusetts Sheriffs Association



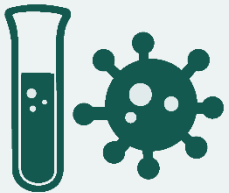
# Who Am I?



I am an ID physician and NIH-funded health disparities researcher



ID doctor in 6 county jails

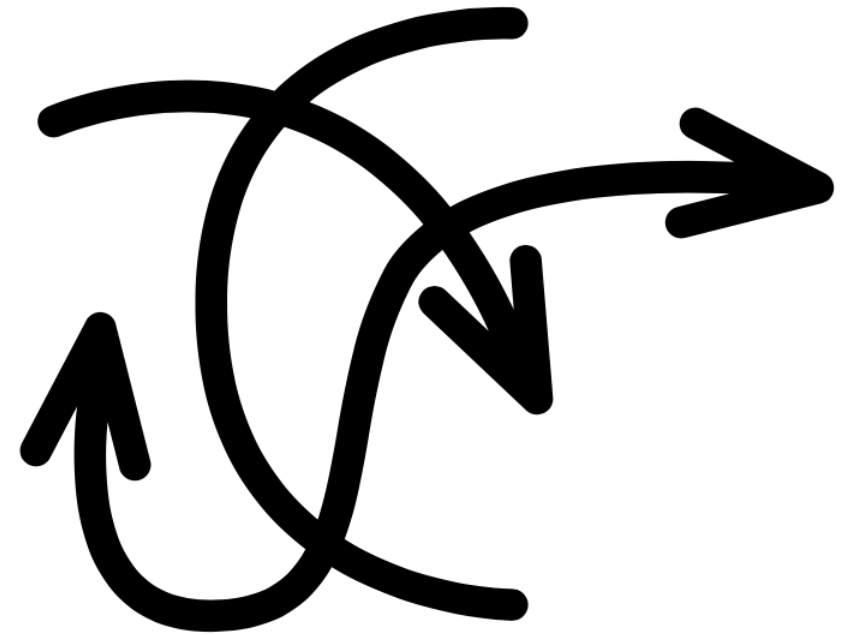


In March 2020, I was hired by the Massachusetts Sheriffs Association as a consultant for COVID19 prevention, mitigation, treatment and vaccination protocols.





Healthcare  
delivery for  
people  
incarcerated  
in jail is  
complicated



# Many stakeholders, many different languages

- Clinicians
- Custodial Staff
- Payer
- Public Health



# Many stakeholders, many different languages

## Clinicians

- Outside the jails vs. Inside the jail
  - Barriers: HIPAA, EMR, fax machines
  - MD/DO, NP, PA, RN, LPN, PharmD
- Mental Health vs. Medical

## Custodial Staff

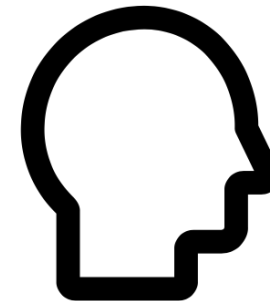
- Sherriff, Superintendents, COs

## Payer

- Jail healthcare organization  
vs.  
state/Medicaid

## Public Health

- City vs. State
- CDC vs Local government



First case  
of COVID  
in US

Jan 20, 2020

*Clinical Infectious Diseases*

## Spotlight on Jails: COVID-19 Mitigation Policies Needed Now FREE

Alyse G Wurcel ✉, Emily Dauria, Nicholas Zaller, Ank Nijhawan, Curt Beckwith, Kathryn Nowotny, Lauren Brinkley-Rubinstein

March 28, 2020

March 21, 2020

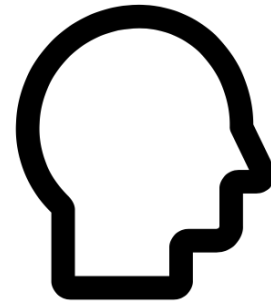
First case of  
COVID-19 in  
MA Prisons

April 2020

Clusters of COVID-19 infection in the MA jails emerge

March 23, 2020

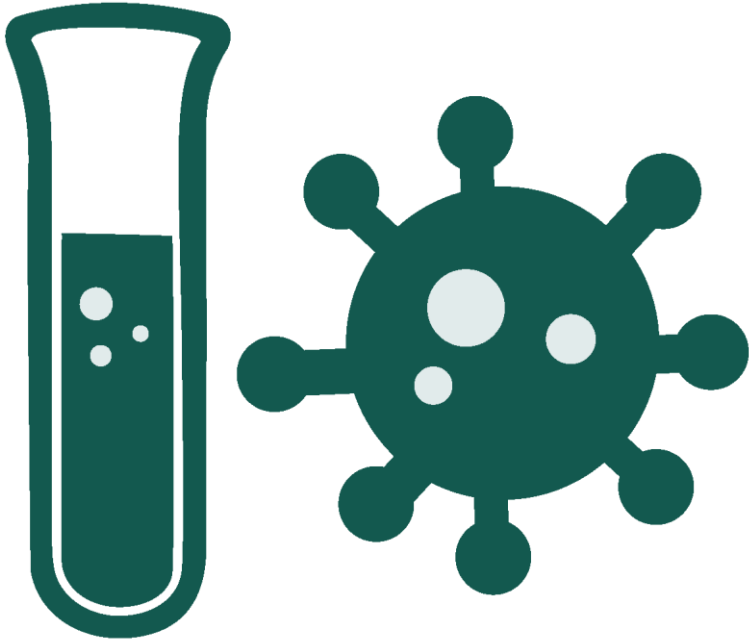
Interim Guidance for  
Management of COVID in  
Correctional Facilities



Now (January 2021)

- All of the jails have experienced clusters
- 2 deaths
- Vaccines rolled out to HCW, COs, and inmates

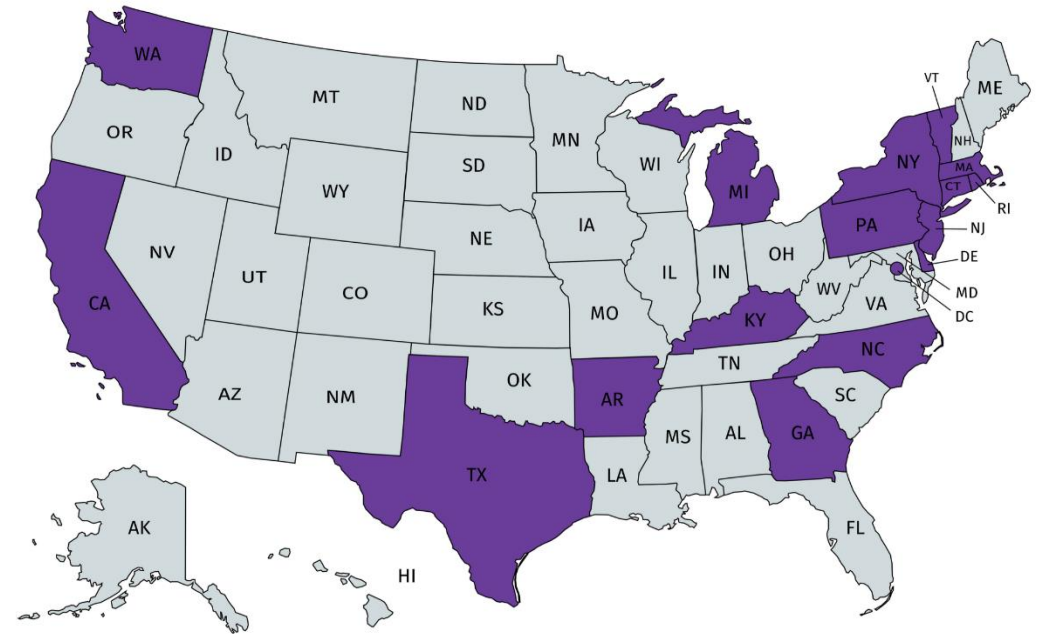
# Lessons (Languages) Learned Throughout COVID19: A Doctor's View



- Honor the hierarchy
- Your services may not be wanted or welcome
- Respect human resources
- Public Health Experts may not know about jails → Jail 101
- People who work in different jails talk to each other
- Don't let perfect be the enemy of good.
- Hard to make everyone happy.
- There will be Monday morning quarterbacking.
- Tread lightly when working with journalists and media

# If You Don't Know, Ask Someone Who Might Know

- In April, I created a COVID Prison/Jail Interest group which met every week through June, and then moved to monthly
- Topics discussed:
  - Employee and detainee testing
  - Provisions of PPE
  - Mitigations polices/procedures
  - Re-Entry issues
  - Vaccine hesitancy
- Great research and advocacy collaborations initiated
- **I got by with help from my friends.**





# Thank you for your time! Always excited to collaborate!

In Memory Of



Tamsin A. Knox MD MPH



Ioana Bica MD

**Contact Info:**

[awurcel@tuftsmedicalcenter.org](mailto:awurcel@tuftsmedicalcenter.org)  
@IDDoc78

**Wurcel Lab Team:**

Rubeen Guardado MPH

Emma Smyth

Julia Zubiago MPH

NIH Funding: K08 HS026008-01-A1



# Panel Discussion



**Brian Asbell, BA MBA**  
Sheriff, Peoria County  
Sheriff's Office



**Alysse Wurcel, MD MS**  
Infectious Diseases Physician, Tufts  
Medical Center  
Assistant Professor, Tufts School of  
Medicine  
Infectious Diseases Liaison,  
Massachusetts Sheriffs Association



**Matt Costello, LMSW**  
Project Manager, Center for  
Behavioral Health and Justice

# Conclusion & Next Steps

February 25<sup>th</sup> at 1PM (EST)

***Ask an Expert: Q & A Discussion***

Feedback

Toolkit Updates

Peer Facilitation

Post-webinar survey



[behaviorhealthjustice.wayne.edu/coronavirus](https://behaviorhealthjustice.wayne.edu/coronavirus)



# Questions?



*Thank you*

## **Brad Ray**

*Program Director*

*Center for Behavioral Health and  
Justice*

*Wayne State University*

*[BradRay@wayne.edu](mailto:BradRay@wayne.edu)*

## **Sheryl Kubiak**

*Dean, School of Social Work*

*Center for Behavioral Health and  
Justice*

*Wayne State University*

*[Spk@wayne.edu](mailto:Spk@wayne.edu)*



## **Tyler Logan**

*Project Coordinator*

*Center for Behavioral Health and  
Justice*

*Wayne State University*

*[Tyler.Logan1@wayne.edu](mailto:Tyler.Logan1@wayne.edu)*

## **Stacey Campbell**

*Program Assistant*

*Center for Behavioral Health and  
Justice*

*Wayne State University*

*[Stacey.Campbell@wayne.edu](mailto:Stacey.Campbell@wayne.edu)*

## **Bianca Burch**

*Project Coordinator*

*Center for Behavioral Health and  
Justice*

*Wayne State University*

*[Bianca.Burch@wayne.edu](mailto:Bianca.Burch@wayne.edu)*