

# Stepping Up Technical Assistance

## *Reducing the number of people with mental illness in county jails*

In 2015, the National Association of Counties, the American Psychiatric Association Foundation, and The Council of State Governments Justice Center introduced **Stepping Up**, a national initiative focused on reducing the number of individuals with mental illness and co-occurring disorders in county jails. The Stepping Up initiative is executed at the county level and involves a commitment from community systems and stakeholders, including the board of commissioners, the county jail, and behavioral health providers.

To help counties engage in Stepping Up, the Wayne State University School of Social Work **Center for Behavioral Health and Justice** (CBHJ) provides a wide range of free technical assistance and consulting services. This assistance is provided to Michigan counties through a grant from the Mental Health Diversion Council and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

## Stepping Up goals:

Reduce prevalence of persons with SMI in jails

Increase connections to treatment

Shorten length of jail stays

Reduce recidivism to county jail

Technical assistance provided by the CBHJ lasts 9-15 months and comprises a series of interdisciplinary meetings, a temporary jail-based data collection, and a variety of supportive services. Services are tailored to each county, but can include:

- Creation of an advisory board that develops the community's unique Stepping Up mission, goals, and objectives
- Review and mapping of current jail processes
- Development of behavioral health prevalence and jail-based services baseline data
- Collaborative review of findings and identification of next steps
- Consultation on jail diversion opportunities
- Recommendations on best practices, evidenced-based screening tools, and training opportunities
- Development of a process for ongoing, sustained data collection and analysis
- Ongoing access to CBHJ trainings, information, and initiative opportunities



Technical assistance plan



Prevalence & baseline data



Comprehensive analysis



Integrated report



Short- and long-term goals

If you are interested in learning more about how technical assistance can support your community's jail diversion efforts, please [contact](#) or [email](#) us.

The Center for Behavioral Health and Justice envisions communities in which **Research, Data, and Best Practices** are used by multiple stakeholders to enhance the optimal well-being of individuals with mental illness and/or substance use disorders who come in contact with the criminal/legal system.

