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**2015 Jail Best Practices Award - Official Entry Form**

This form must be attached to all entries. Entrants must complete all sections for the entry to be considered complete. A PDF copy of this official entry is available electronically on the website.

To attach your documentation, click on the **Attach File** prior to submitting your entry. More instructions are below.

**County Name \*** Somerset  
**County Class \*** Sixth Class  
**Address** 127 East Fairview Street Somerset PA 15501  
**City** Somerset PA  
**ZIP/Postal Code** 15501  
**Contact Name** Gregory Briggs  
**Position Title** Warden  
**Department** Somerset County Jail  
**E-Mail** briggs@co.somerset.pa.us  
**Fax Number** (814)445-1504  
**Primary Phone** (814)445-1606

**Project Information**

**Project Title** PREP Class  
**Project Start Date** 2/13/2015

Each application must be submitted with two signatures. Complete the appropriate signatures on two of the lines below. By signing electronically, you are acknowledging the verification of said signatures.

**Chair of the Board of County Commissioners:** John Vatavik  
**Chair of the county Prison Board** Pamela Toikar-Ickes  
**County Chief Executive Office** Sonya Augustine

If you want to print this entry, click **Print this page** below BEFORE submitting your entry. Remember to **email** supporting documentation by clicking the "Email My Attachments" below. We recommend supporting documents are in PDF format.

[Email My Attachments](#)

Cancel

**Program Narrative**

A separate program narrative document must be attached to this form that answers the following questions in the order presented. This must be typed in a Word-document, Times New Roman, 10-point type.

- **Need:** a description of the identified need and the background including what programs were in place before the current project, if any, and how it led to this effort
- **Program/policies:** a description of how the project enhanced general operations programs/policies, treatment, and custody
- **Approach:** a description of the project, including any evidenced-based approaches to jail diversion, community involvement strategies, formation of stakeholder groups, county-wide planning strategies, etc.
- **Evaluation:** a brief description of how the project was evaluated and any lessons learned
- **Stakeholders:** a brief description of the community, including a description of key stakeholders, organizations, and county departments that were involved in the project
- **Processes:** a description of how the activities or processes utilized in this project were altered or will be continued based on experience, including plans for leveraging additional resources
- **Costs:** a description of any costs associated with the project and how it was funded; cost savings, if any and any change in community acceptance, reductions in insurance costs, or inspection improvements that resulted from the program

Scoring will be based on the elements as described above.

Please attach supporting documents, forms or other information that support the award entry. **Entries must be received by close of business on February 13, 2015. Winners will be announced during the CCAP Spring Conference, March 22 - 24 2015. More information: Brinda Carroll Penyak, bpenyak@pacounties.org or (717) 526-1010.**



**SOMERSET COUNTY JAIL**  
127 East Fairview Street, Suite 100  
Somerset, Pennsylvania 15501  
(814) 445-1500

**Best Practices Award Nominee PREP Program**

- We attended a Cross-Systems Mapping exercise administered by the PCCD with all the key criminal justice stakeholders in Somerset County. Re-Entry expansion was viewed as a top priority so Somerset County instituted a new program at the Somerset County Jail at the end of 2012 (Study Attached). The name of the program offered to the inmates is the prepared reenter program (PREP). PREP is a reenter education program that is a product of SDHP and was created in collaboration with the PHEA. The five week program promotes the objectives of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Committee Best Practice Awards program in a five week program covering the following:
    - **Somerset County Jail PREP Sessions**  
Incorporated a 5 week session to all inmates that are nearing their release date  
Week 1—Preparing to Rent (Basic Tenant/Landlord Rights, Budget Preparation)  
Week 2—Housing Search & Placement (Conflict Resolution, Housing Resources)  
Week 3—Portfolio Development & Preparation (Referrals to outside agencies)  
Week 4—Employment & Training Week (Mock Interviews, Employment Resources, Application Techniques, Overcoming Criminal Background)  
Week 5—Community Integration (Provides Counseling options upon release)
  - Due to our success with the program we were invited to speak at the 2013 Housing Alliance Conference. Our workshop titled **Preparing Justice-Involved Folks to be Great Tenants** was viewed as a model for other counties in the state of Pennsylvania.
  - “I was actually going to call you this week because my phone has been ringing off the hook with PREP request from County Corrections folks statewide. I have been trying to track down why and heard there was an article written about Somerset Program that you do?” Mary Penny email
  - Sixty six individuals that have gone through prep within the jail from 1/15/2013-1/6/2015. Of those 66 individuals, 23 claim no disabilities, 12 claim substance abuse, 6 claim physical disabilities, 5 mental health and the remaining 20 have co-occurring disabilities (mental health/substance abuse/physical, etc.). of those 66 individuals, 42 have a diploma and 14 have their GED and 10 never graduated or completed school. As of February 13, 2015 76% of the offenders have not returned to the Somerset County Jail upon completion of the program. The Community Action Partnership for Somerset County and local counselors volunteered their services at no cost to the county.
- Gregory Briggs, Warden Somerset County Jail (814)445-1606

Table with 19 columns: DATE OF BIRTH, NAME, RACE, GED, U.S. CITIZEN, VETERAN, HOMELESS OR EVICTED IN PAST, DIPLOMA OR GED, DISABILITIES, SOURCE OF INCOME, 1ST TIME OFFENDER, CONVICTION.

## Somerset County Priorities

Subsequent to the completion of the *Cross-Systems Mapping* exercise, the assembled stakeholders began to define specific areas of activity that could be mobilized to address the gaps and opportunities identified in the group discussion about the cross-systems map. Listed below are the priority areas identified by the workshop participants and the votes received for each proposed priority. (Please note that some priorities were changed and/or combined after voting on Day 2)

### Top Priorities

1. Diversion prior to incarceration (18 votes)
  - a. Day reporting center (1 vote)
2. Expand upon re-entry (17 votes)
  - a. Identification
  - b. Better connections
  - c. Gap funding for initial re-entry treatment
3. Expanded and coordinated data effort (7 votes)
  - a. Identification of mental health population across intercepts (4 votes)
4. Collaboration across intercepts/ Cross Systems training/ Grant writer
  - a. System cost-effective solutions (4 votes)
    - i. Strategies to blend funding
    - ii. Cross Budgeting

### Additional Priorities

- One person to be ultimately responsible for tracking, coordinating, etc. (6 votes)
- Forensic peer specialists across intercepts (4 votes)
- Adequate physical facilities (3 votes)
  - New jail

## Somerset County Action Plan

<b>Priority: Moving Forward</b>			
Objective	Action Step	Who	When
CoE Report	1. Draft of map and action plan to group by Monday 12/12/11	• CoE Staff	By 12/12
Next CJAB Meeting – Wednesday, December 14 <sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM			Wednesday, December 14 <sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM
Explore a BH Subcommittee under CJAB Chair Tracy Schultz			

<b>Priority Area 1: Diversion prior to incarceration</b>			
<b>a. Day Reporting Center</b>			
<b>Work Group: Brooke M, Justin, Tom, Megan, Joe, Darla, Bonnie, Judge Bell, Nyla, Adele</b>			
Objective	Action Step	Who	When
1.1 Prompt evaluation of MH needs (10 day)	Crisis Intervention (mechanism and funding is in place)	Requests from Judges, CIT, and Nyla (state parole)	Within 10 days
1.2 Develop mechanism to identify an appropriate program	Coordination of agencies	Case manger? One representative from each discipline (DA, MH, SCA, etc.)	Now
	Designate a case manager	?- depending on the team listed above	Following 1 <sup>st</sup> meeting
	Therapy Group (regular basis)	Beal Counseling	6 month
Next Steps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next Tuesday (12.13.11)– Judge Bell will bring up this priority at the MDJs Meeting</li> <li>• Chief Cox will spread the word at the Chief Association Meeting, as well as bring it to the state police</li> <li>• Crisis and MDJ coordination- A more formalized process for crisis collection to give to the MDJs</li> </ul>		

<b>Priority Area 2: Expand upon re-entry</b>
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- a. Identification
- b. Better Conditions
- c. Gap funding for initial re-entry treatment

**Work Group: Vicki, Billie, Nancy, Elisaa, Barb, Warden Greg, Amanda, Debbie**

Objective	Action Step	Who	When
2.1 Identification of SMI inmates in county jail	Procedure with PrimeCare for list	Warden Greg (He will talk to Margo about developing that list)	Weekly (today)
	Weekly list ->MH/MR with highlights	Warden/Nancy	Ongoing
2.2 Better coordination of services through Criminal Justice system	CM assigned as appropriate	Nancy	Weekly
	Obtain ROI for necessary services	Assigned Case Manager	As Needed
	Complete MA application while incarcerated	CM/CAO	As Needed
	Develop re-entry plan (ref)	CM/PO	As Needed
2.3 Expand Jail Population Meeting (monthly)	D/A approach judge to include MH staff and SCA staff to attend meeting		

**Priority Area 3: Expanded data/identification of MH/BH population (broad data across systems)**

**Work Group: Tracy S, Kathy, David, DA, Alison**

Objective	Action Step	Who	When
3.1 Develop workgroup to examine:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Definition of populations</li> <li>• What information is already being collected</li> <li>• What information is being shared</li> <li>• Who needs the information and for what purpose</li> <li>• What information needs to be collected</li> <li>• How to collect the information and where</li> </ul>		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to aggregate and report data</li> </ul>		
3.2	Set up conference call with CoE Western Psychiatric folks re: data definitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CoE will schedule a tele-conference</li> <li>• CoE will connect Tracy with Catherine Kilgore</li> <li>• First draft of Lebanon's data plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CoE</li> </ul>	
3.3	Create a position for an individual to be responsible for coordinating this effort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible AmeriCorps position?</li> </ul>		

<b>Priority Area 4: Collaboration across systems/ cross-systems training (grant writer)</b>				
<b>Work Group: Ronna Y, Chief Fox, Travis, Michelle, Tina</b>				
Objective	Action Step	Who	When	
4.1	Add criminal justice component to Board of Family Services (BFS) – networking and reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attend BFS board meetings</li> <li>• Add CJ individuals to the meetings (PSP and SCCPA)</li> </ul>	PA State Police (PSP)  Somerset County Chief of Police Association (SCCPA)	1/19/12 – meeting at 9:30 in the CYS conference room  Conference room
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schedule Cross-Systems training – identify “who needs to know what”</li> </ul>	Travis	
4.2	Develop relationship via subcommittee with CJAB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce idea/concept to the board</li> <li>• Attend CJAB</li> <li>• Schedule subcommittee meeting – discuss funding/ cross training</li> <li>• Subcommittee could meet after Board of Family Services meeting</li> </ul>	Randy/ Tom  Travis/ Ronna	December 2011 CJAB Meeting (12/13)  Feb 2012
4.3	Research grant writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share grant funding</li> </ul>	Travis	

	opportunities and partner with the data collection group	announcements with group <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Check CoE website for funding announcements</li><li>• Include veterans component</li></ul>		
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