

## Tri-Branch Task Force Action Plan - December 2014

<b>GOAL: NEW AREA: Pre – Intercept Point 1: Prevention/Juvenile Justice:</b>			
Work With Lindy and JJ Group on Their Strategic Plan			
Objectives:	Action Steps	Responsibility	Progress
Prevention & Intervention with younger ages		Juvenile Justice Team	
Creating an evidence-based Juvenile Justice system			
Create consistent truancy response statewide (Address root causes, including mental health, lack of supervision, drug problems, school attendance)	Identify the active truancy dockets and processes that are currently in place		
	Juveniles are part of the Family Division and the Criminal Division (16 & 17 year old youth are being charged in Criminal Division)		

**ISSUE AREA ONE: Evidence-Based System**

**GOAL:** Create a systemic response that prevents individuals from entering the criminal justice system and for those who do, expedite their exit and support successful re-entry. This system is co-occurring capable, focuses on changing behavior, and helps individuals take responsibility and/or be held accountable for their behaviors.

Objectives	Action	Responsible	Progress
1. Develop Interdisciplinary Teams, existing and/or new at the local level that include, criminal justice professionals, service providers, health care providers and representative consumers.	<b>Priority:</b> Create and/or identify local collaborative cross disciplinary criminal justice teams (e.g. expand LIT to include criminal justice professionals, create community justice intervention teams, include children’s services and consumers)		
	<b>Priority:</b> Bring back the original model of the Field Service Directors including staffing, funding and authority.		
	Identify a leader – who calls the meetings and all the necessary parties to the table?		
	Identify roles and responsibilities for team members		

Objectives (Issue Area 1)	Actions	Responsible	Progress
2. Policies, Practices & Funding support using research and best practices.	<b>Priority:</b> Break down funding silos - commitment is needed for funding & sustainability, include reinvestment of savings to support creating key policies and practices among local agencies for working together.		
	Utilize effective cost saving options – investigate no cost / low cost options using RBA	Work with Benchmarks for a Better Vermont & Vermont Accountability Group	
	Develop, solicit, adopt and fund models that increase services & fill gaps in services across agencies and counties. Assure funding for alternative models and create consistency in the delivery of services statewide.		
	Investigate grant funding		
	Create a non-binding policy & best practice guide -Include a policy or agreement on immunity -Include a policy or agreement on confidentiality & information sharing -Provide training regarding permissible “sharings” among system partners		
	Policy issue: in a medical environment behaviors shouldn’t be viewed as criminal by law enforcement – stop treating substance abuse as a crime when it’s a public health issue		

**ISSUE AREA TWO: Integrated Approach**

**Goal 1**

Ensure that programs take into account the connections between law enforcement, the health care system, crisis workers, prosecutors, defense counsel, courts, human services, treatment, public providers, peer supports, DOC, the education system, community partners, and members of the community.

Objective	Action	Responsible	Progress
1. Develop an Integrated Approach to information sharing, assessment, case management and other services and incorporate existing systems including public health (e.g. Blueprint for Health care coordinators).	<b>Priority:</b> identify who can develop/oversee all available social services - develop centralized source of information or a communication plan / one stop shopping to streamline access to appropriate services (food, housing employment ) / tool to help people access resource and services – like 211		
	Build on the hub and spoke model for greater access to services – geographic justice		
	Develop integrated service plans for individuals that require informed consent and follow them and is shared along the sequential intercept model (pre-adjudication – pre-sentence – re-entry)		
	Work with local teams to identify, coordinate & monitor best practices of case management / service coordination and develop a referral process		

Objectives	Actions	Responsible	Progress
<p>2. Evidence-based screening and assessment to identify risk and clinical needs. Use evidence-based, uniform screening and assessment tools for identifying individuals who present with impaired decision-making. The information stays with the individual throughout the process.</p>	<p>Plan for pretrial risk assessment tool with DOC, validate for Vermont / pretrial supervision / learn more about all assessment levels of ORAS – how they are used and how to implement statewide.</p>	<p>Pretrial Services Director Annie Ramniceanu &amp; DOC</p>	
	<p>Change for separating non-appearance vs. risk of flight (statutory)</p>		
	<p>Need to look at conditions of release</p>		
	<p>Need to change perception in community</p>		

**ISSUE AREA THREE: Alternative Strategies**

**GOAL:** Mapping of Community Resources

Increase communication and awareness about available and appropriate strategies at the local level as alternatives to the criminal justice system. Increase communication about how to access services with the courts and the communities in general.

Objectives	Action	Responsible	Progress
1. Inventory current resources and appropriate strategies at the local level. Encourage greater collaboration and cooperation.	<b>Priority:</b> Identify and implement agreed upon minimal level /type of services per geographic region AOD/MH/Medical, other; statewide consistencies & universal assess		
	<b>Priority:</b> Look at the systemic framework, identify priorities and gaps at each intercept point by county / identify resources, treatment options and other services. -Update the SIM Chart and map the current services by county / AHS District. -Conduct a gap analysis – identify effective programs to expand statewide (e.g. rapid referral, rapid intervention, treatment courts) -Include Judiciary and local court staff	CJC Core Team Field Directors & local teams each did their county/district	Charts Updated by County Sub-group of CJC Core Team will review in next month for consistency Final Draft to be done by Feb 1
	Evaluate programs and identify what's working, take it to scale – increase effectiveness		

	<p>Identify and disseminate successful county and regional strategies that allow individuals to receive community based services as an alternative to incarceration.</p> <p>Local teams identify the process for referral, coordinates services and proposes ways for them to work systematically</p>		
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	<p>Invite the Governor's office to initiate a public awareness campaign with others in authority. Tri-Branch leadership can help coordinate. Use to educate communities on community level problems</p>	<p>Governor's Cabinet</p>	<p>A set of recommendations has been developed and delivered to the Governor.</p>
	<p>Continue the VLS/Innovative Practices Conference</p>		

**ISSUE AREA 4: Knowledge, Skills & Attitudes**

**GOAL:** Enhance the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to provide an effective, integrated response to individuals who are involved with or at risk of becoming involved with the criminal justice system.

Objectives	Action	Responsible	Progress
1. Increase acceptance and support of alternatives to the criminal justice system among the <b>general public</b>	Increase knowledge, acceptance and support of alternatives to the criminal justice system among the general public.		
	Increase knowledge on the part of the media		
2. Increase acceptance, support, and use of alternatives to the criminal justice system among professionals <u>and peer systems.</u>	Charge Commissioner of Health (Harry Chen) to train health practitioners (he is already doing this) it shows what he is doing is important and that this group supports him.		
	Invite cross-disciplinary statewide programs to share every 2 years at beginning of the legislative session		
	Need cross disciplinary education – replicate recent VLS conference and continue to invite legislators		
3. Increase the knowledge and skills of <b>law enforcement officers</b> regarding recognizing individuals whose conditions result in impaired decision-making or functioning; using a screening tool and brief intervention; and referring them to available	Reinstate Team Two Training		



services. (SBIRT model). (SBIRT stands for screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment and services.			
	Engage the Training Council in a conversation about policy training		
	Harry Chen – State Medical Dept. Committee		
4. Increase the knowledge and skills of <b>attorneys including state’s attorneys and public defenders</b> regarding recognizing individuals whose conditions result in impaired decision-making or functioning; understanding the ways in which disability may affect an individual’s ability to complete a sentence or program; using a screening tool and brief intervention; and referring them to available services. (SBIRT model)	Ask Vermont Bar Association to do trainings in new system		
	Include alternatives to incarceration/criminal justice system on training agenda for public defenders & state’s attorneys		
	Invite attorneys to county-based system mapping process (SIM)		

	Coordinated use of services/referrals through public defender/state's attorney – provide training and information on what's available		
5. Increase the knowledge and skills of <u>healthcare and human services</u> providers regarding using evidence-based screening and assessment tools and how to interact effectively with those individuals; the ways in which disability may affect an individual's ability to complete a sentence or a program; and the criminal justice system and its alternatives including how to make a proper referral.	Engage designated agencies and preferred providers in discussions about screening and assessment tools for substance abuse, mental health and co-occurring disorders. (Look to SATC – substance abuse treatment collaborative)		
	Engage DAIL in discussion about screening and assessments.		
	Others?		
6. Increase the knowledge and skills of <b>judges and court clerks</b> regarding alternatives to the criminal justice system and other community services to encourage referrals for affected individuals; how to recognize, engage, and interact effectively and appropriately with those individuals; and the ways in	Judicial College Program (or other judicial training) about the value of the use of alternatives – Judges need to know the systems that are already in place in the community.	Court Administrator's Office & Kristin Chandler & Mourning Fox	All Court Clerks and staff have been presented with information on how to interact with individuals with mental health issues.

<p>which disability may affect an individual's ability to complete a sentence or program.</p>			
<p>7. Increase the knowledge and skills of <b>court officers and security personnel</b> regarding recognizing, engaging, and interacting effectively and appropriately with individuals whose conditions result in impaired decision-making or functioning.</p>	<p>Foster participation by decreasing anxiety and making court system more consumer friendly and neutral including the knowledge of reasonable accommodations</p>		
<p>8. Increase the knowledge and skills of <b>hospital emergency departments</b> regarding trauma-informed approaches to individuals who exhibit impaired decision-making or functioning and the importance of expediting cases when individuals are accompanied by first responders.</p>	<p>Harry Chen will work with Vermont Medical Society to train this group</p>		