

HARP

THE HEALTH AND REENTRY PROJECT

Reducing Recidivism: Strengthening Health and Reentry Operations and Practices for Jails and Prisons

May 20, 2025

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Introduction**
- II. Background on the Health and Reentry Project**
- III. Health and Reentry Challenges Facing State and Local Corrections**
- IV. Panelist Conversation**
 - I. Sheriff Greg Champagne**
 - II. Secretary Kellie Wasko**
- V. Technical Assistance**
- VI. Question and Answer**
- VII. Conclusion**

The Health and Reentry Project (HARP)

- HARP was established to improve the **health and safety of people and communities**
- Through education and analysis, HARP **strengthens approaches to ensure health care** for people directly impacted by the justice system
- HARP **advances implementation** to help new strategies become a reality that improves peoples' lives
- HARP **brings together stakeholders** across health care and criminal justice, including people who are directly impacted

Recent HARP Resources for Jails and Prisons

At the request of sheriffs, jails and prison systems, HARP recently produced resources and supported trainings on operations and continuity of care issues to educate the field of correctional leaders about these opportunities. Materials include:

- Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 Youth Requirements: **Frequently Asked Questions For Jails**
- Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 Youth Requirements: **Frequently Asked Questions For State Departments of Correction and/or Prisons**
- **Brief Operational Checklist for Post-Adjudicated Youth:** A two-page resource with quick, concrete considerations to guide initial implementation of new requirements
- **Getting Ready: Key Elements for the Implementation of Section 5121 Youth Requirements in Adult Correctional Facilities:** A deeper dive, highlighting seven key elements jurisdictions need to think about to be ready to implement the new requirements



Introductions to the HARP Team

In the Room from HARP



Vikki Wachino
Executive Director



David Ryan
Senior Director of Criminal
Justice Initiatives



James Pagano
Coordinator of Criminal Justice
Initiatives



Margot Cronin-Furman
Chief of Staff

Other Contributors

- ForHealth Consulting
- Dr. Nneka Jones Tapia

Snapshot of Health and Reentry Landscape

Provision of Pre-Release Services

- Medicaid can cover services when someone is incarcerated, starting up to 90 days pre-release.
- States cover at least three services: case management, medication assisted treatment (MAT) and a 30-day supply of prescription medications at release.
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has approved state reentry waivers to provide these pre-release services in 19 states.

Youth and Young Adults Who are Incarcerated

- Medicaid and CHIP authorized to cover a limited set of services for incarcerated youth who are soon to be released.
- Applies to Medicaid beneficiaries in custody following adjudication who:
 - Are under age 21; or
 - Are former foster youth under age 26.
- This opportunity applies to state, local and tribal facilities where youth are incarcerated post-adjudication.

Health and Reentry Challenges Facing Prisons and Jails

Top Health and Reentry Implementation Challenges Across the Field

Addressing Substance Use Disorder

- Introducing new services that require cross-agency coordination
- Communicating the public safety benefits of providing medications for substance use disorder (SUD) and other SUD treatments

Providing Effective Behavioral Healthcare

- Navigating physical plant constraints
- Hiring health care and behavioral health staff, fields that also face high vacancy rates

Supporting Case Management

- Convening multi-disciplinary teams and consolidating germane information into a single place
- Accommodating unpredictable short stays, especially in jails

Facilitating Care Coordination

- Aligning actors across disparate geographies with competing priorities, while recognizing the operational constraints in corrections
- Monitoring receipt of care

Forming New Partnerships

- Navigating partnerships across Medicaid agencies, correctional health care, behavioral health, pharmacy, community providers, and MCOs
- Strengthening coordination and collaboration protocols

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Panel Discussion

Today's Panelists



Greg Champagne
Sheriff
St. Charles Parish,
Louisiana



Kellie Wasko
Secretary
South Dakota Department of
Corrections

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

HARP aims to support sheriffs, jail administrators, and leaders of state corrections agencies to address health-related factors that contribute to crime for reentering individuals, support the development of operations-responsive reentry partnerships in the health sector, and strengthen continuity of care approaches.

- Technical assistance for jails and prisons on health and reentry issues may include virtual or on-site consultations; peer-to-peer learning; customized resources; and operational planning for health services for jails, prisons, and reentry.
- HARP will work with individual jurisdictions to understand their needs and provide them tailored feedback and resources to help them make progress.
- HARP also plans to continue to host field-wide trainings for jurisdictions beyond just those that receive technical assistance.

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Info@healthandreentryproject.org

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