

# Community Empowerment through COSSUP: Innovative Initiatives to Combat the Opioid Epidemic in Pennsylvania

Presenters:

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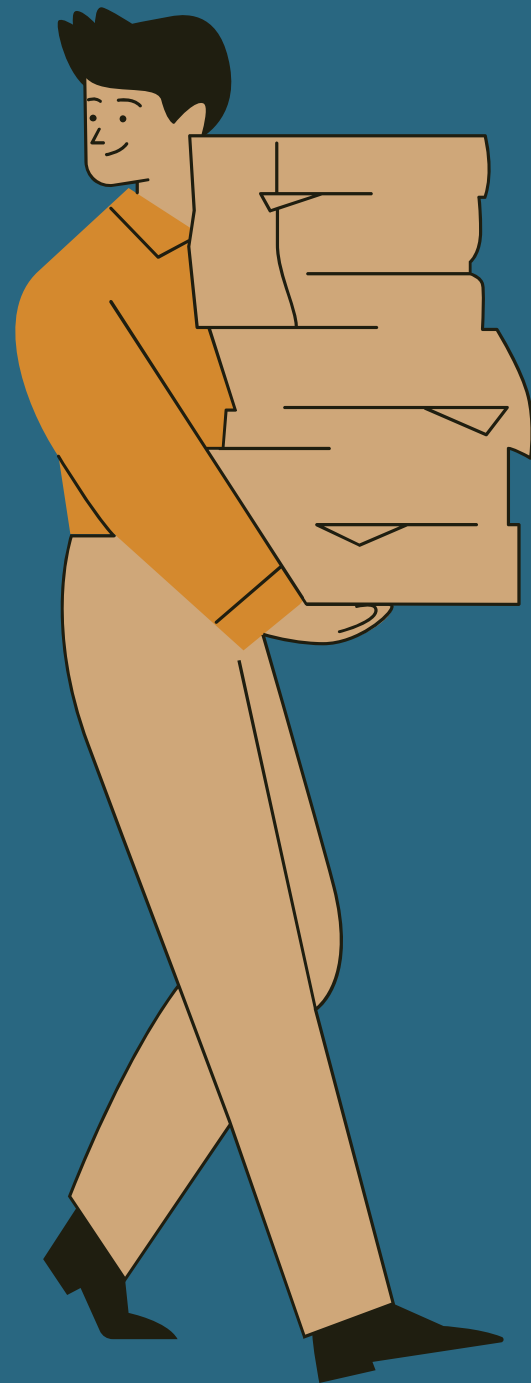
Dr. Jennifer Lerch



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Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

# Agenda



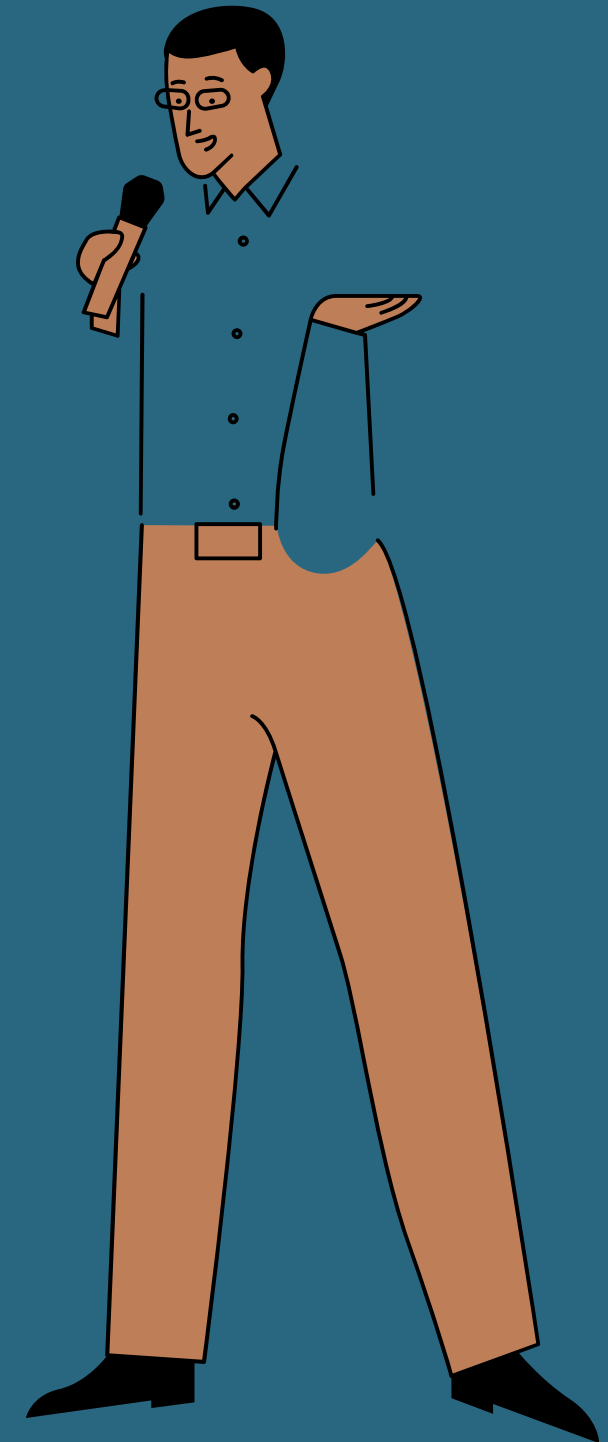
Introductions & Objectives

Overview of CAREES

Strategies, Challenges, &  
Solutions

Activity

Closure



# Meet the JSP COSSUP CAREES Team



**Dr. Jennifer Lerch**  
**Project Lead**  
Senior Associate



**Dr. Tameka V. Williams**  
**Project Advisor**  
Director of Staff Investment & Curiosity



**Hallie Allen**  
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**Dr. Sarah Jensen**  
Research Associate



**Becky Lockner**  
Subject Matter Expert



**Dr. Thom Elmore**  
Subject Matter Expert



**Darrell Boyles**  
Subject Matter Expert

JSP is a non-profit, multidisciplinary team committed to assisting criminal and juvenile legal systems and community partners with transforming their systems to be more equitable, effective, and humane.

# Workshop Objectives

Highlight the Impact of Substance Use Disorder (SUD)

Present COSSUP's Innovative Community Partnerships

Share Effective Strategies and Outcomes

Engage Participants in Solution-Building

Share an Action-Oriented Toolkit





**What one word comes  
to mind when you  
think about substance  
use disorders,  
specifically opioid use  
disorders?**



# Introduction to COSSUP PROJECT

**Goal: reduce overdoses among probation and reentry populations in Pennsylvania (PA).**

**Funding provided: \$600,000 per COSSUP Site**

*Through the COSSUP Project, BJA and the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) aim to:*

- Advance racial equity
- Increase access to medication-assisted treatment
- Expand evidence-based harm reduction efforts
- Expand access to recovery support services for probation and reentry populations

With a focus on implementing strategies such as:

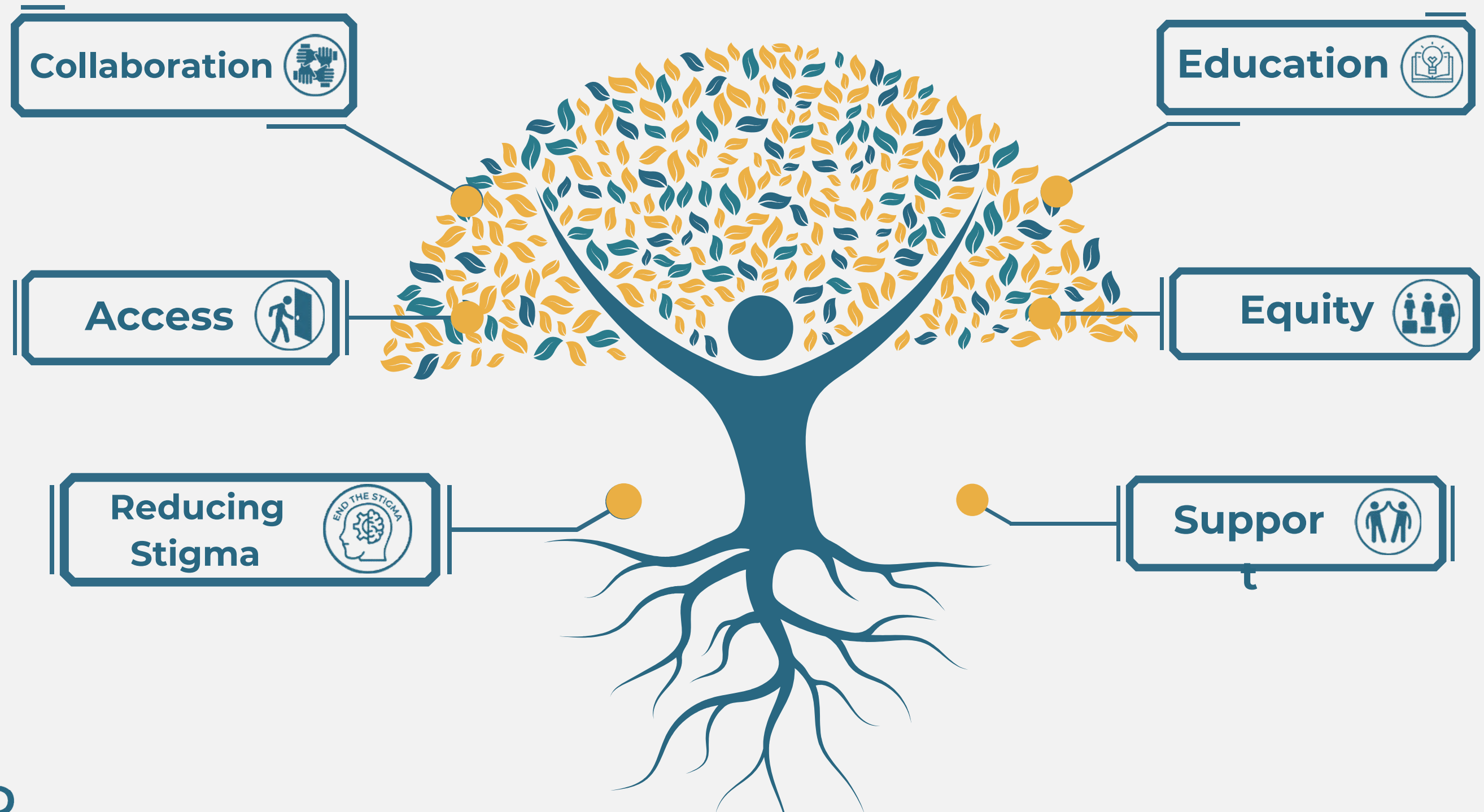
- Hiring Peer Support Specialists or Certified Recovery Specialists
- Providing trauma-informed care training to internal stakeholders
- Disseminating Naloxone, testing strips, and lock boxes to Black and Brown communities
- Implementing MAT in correctional settings

## **COSSUP PA Sites**

- Allegheny
- Chester
- Dauphin
- Franklin
- York
- Fulton



# Introduction to COSSUP CAREES



# COSSUP Goals and Objectives

- **Goal 1:** Expand implementation of effective policies and practices designed to reduce overdose among people on probation and those reentering the community.
- **Goal 2:** Reduce the number of people incarcerated for substance-related technical violations and increase availability of non-coercive supports and resources.
- **Goal 3:** Increase access to evidence-based treatment, services, and supports for people under probation supervision, incarcerated individuals, and those returning to the community post-incarceration.
- **Goal 4:** Amplify racial equity principles within substance use-related policies, practices, programming, and services at the local and state levels.
- **Goal 5:** Elevate the voices of people with lived experience within program and policy development and decision-making.



# INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES



Storytelling  
Initiative



Community of  
Practice



Community Anchor  
Initiative



Crisis SIM  
Mapping

# Storytelling Initiative



- Share real stories from people who have been affected by substance use disorder (SUD)
- Give hope and inspire others
- Break down negative beliefs
- Help more people understand recovery better
- Show that recovery is possible and everyone's journey is different

# Collaborating through the COSSUP Community of Practice

**A virtual hub of shared knowledge, support, and innovation**

- Bringing together individuals and organizations working to reduce opioid overdose deaths
- Providing access to unique events and tailored trainings featuring local and national subject matter experts
- Celebrating achievements
- Sharing valuable resources
- Fostering connections



# Black and Brown Community Anchor Initiative

*Harnessing the power of community spaces*  
to promote wellness and combat the devastating effects of SUD and overdose

- Black and Brown Barbershops and Beauty salons not only serve as centers for self-care but also as vital hubs for social interaction and support within Black and Brown neighborhoods.
- These establishments hold a unique position of influence and should be invited into the decision-making processes for building culturally tailored programs, interventions, and initiatives.
- The COSSUP CAREES Team is partnering with community anchors to establish trusted channels for vital information and services related to substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery.

Beauty salons in Pennsylvania can

## HELP FIGHT AGAINST THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

In Dauphin County, **Black and Brown residents** are disproportionately impacted by opioid overdoses and substance use disorders.

We want to partner with you to save lives!  
For more information:

**SIGN UP NOW!**

JSP COSSUP C.A.R.E.E.S.



# Crisis SIM Mapping



## Purpose

- Identify ways to divert individuals from the criminal legal system into treatment and support services.
- Focus on Intercept 0 – early intervention through community services, crisis response, and treatment options.

## What We Did

- Two-day mapping exercise led by JSP.
- 3 Meetings
- 31 participants including:
  - Criminal legal system representatives
  - Health professionals
  - Community organizations
  - Individuals with lived experience
- Case study discussions – participants mapped how individuals with SUD & legal involvement navigate the system.

# SIM Mapping Recommendations

**Recommendation 1:** Review hypothetical case studies during task force and community meetings on a quarterly or annual basis.

**Recommendation 2:** Expand awareness and partnership with Black and Brown organizations and community anchors to reduce racial disparities in overdose deaths.

**Recommendation 3:** Leverage and elevate the expertise of certified recovery specialists or certified peer support specialists.

**Recommendation 4:** Identify how either an existing or new position can coordinate the updating and navigation of county resource guides.

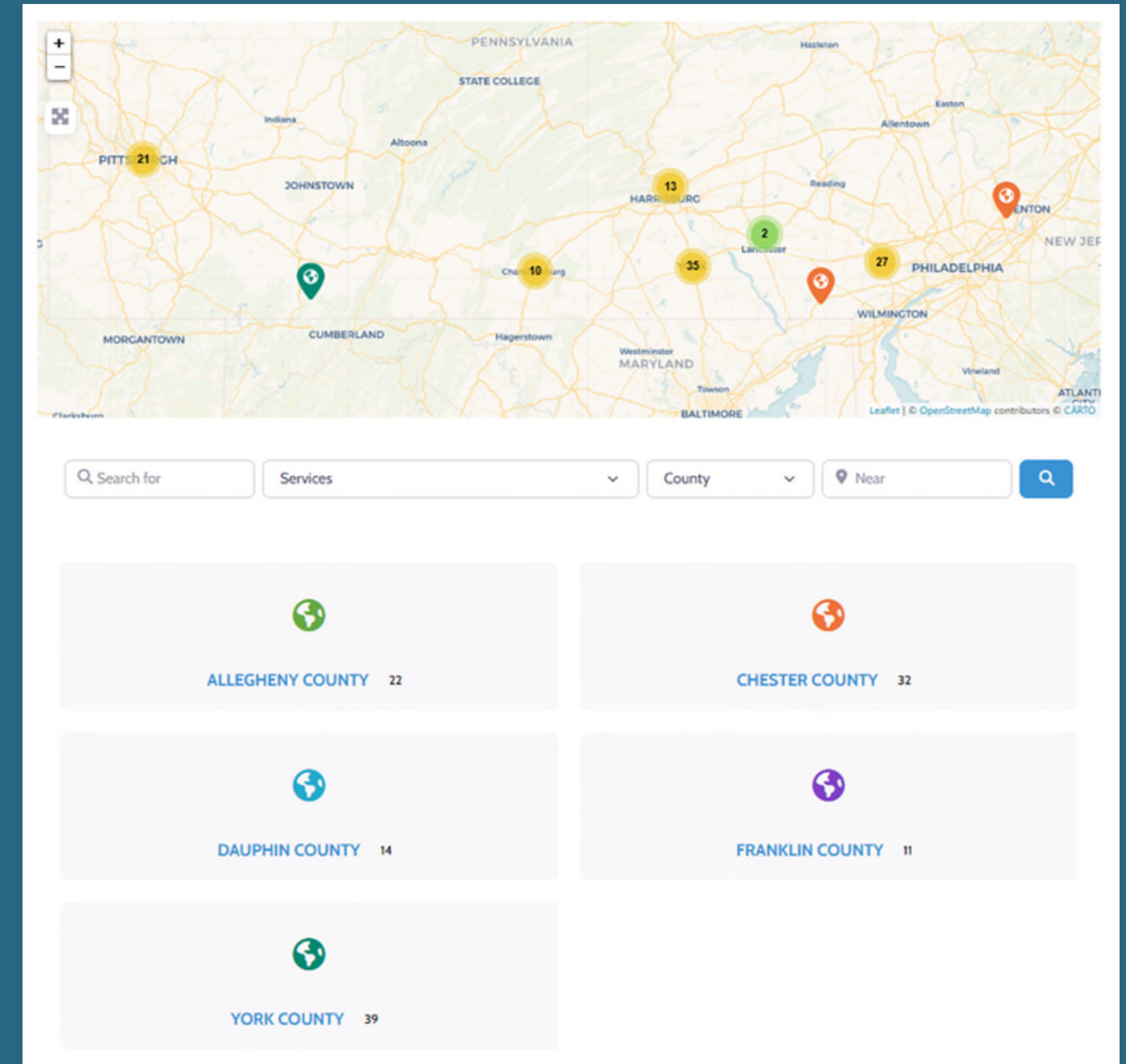
**Recommendation 5:** Create and maintain updated system navigation flow charts to tailor services to individual needs and circumstances, such as available treatment options for different types of health insurance.

# Group Activity



# COSSUP Resource Directory

- Centralized Resource Directory for COSSUP Pennsylvania sites
- Helps individuals access critical support services related to substance use, recovery, and reentry
  - Children & Family Services
  - Dental Services
  - Education Assistance/Training Programs
  - Employment Assistance/Training
  - Faith-based Organizations
  - Food Pantry Resources and Meal Services
  - Housing Assistance/Emergency Shelter
  - Intellectual/Developmental Disability Services
  - Mental/Behavioral Health Services
  - Physical Healthcare Services
  - Reentry Support Resources
  - Substance Use/Recovery/Harm Reduction Services
  - Transportation Assistance
  - Utility/Energy/Weatherization Assistance
  - Veteran Services



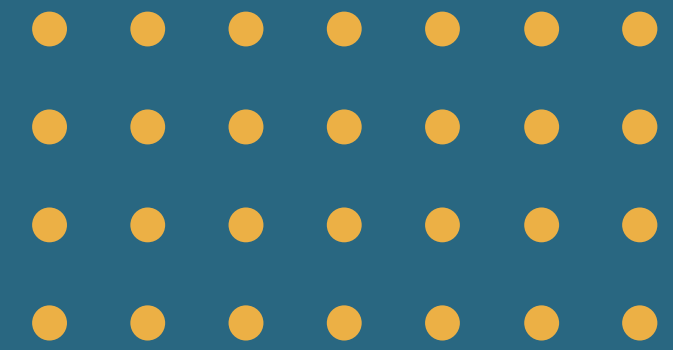


# The Storytelling Library



- Sharing stories of Recovery and Supporting individuals in Recovery





# Questions?



# Connect with us

**JSP COSSUP Team**



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