

# Understanding the State of Addiction Treatment in Pennsylvania

Improving Behavioral Health in the Justice System

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# Panelists

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# The State of Addiction Treatment in Pennsylvania

Significant changes have taken place within substance use disorder (SUD) treatment and recovery over the past 10 years.

# What Has Changed?

- ASAM Criteria and a move away from programmatic to individualized services emphasizing co-occurring SUD and mental health treatment
- Recognition of need for treatment and diversion over incarceration
- Focus on trauma as an underlying cause of SUD
- Shift in language used to discuss SUD (e.g., person-first)
- Integration of Certified Recovery Specialists into the treatment and justice systems
- Acceptance of the use of medication as treatment
- Confidentiality laws

# The State of Addiction Treatment in Pennsylvania

Some of these changes have benefitted those involved with the justice system who need addiction treatment. Still, opportunities for additional improvements remain.

# Benefits to Justice-Involved Individuals

- Integration of peers into the justice system has led to improved housing stability, decreased recidivism, and increased access to behavioral health treatment.
- Use of medications to treat opioid use disorder has increased, improving access to evidence-based treatment.
- Changed confidentiality laws have empowered individuals to share their information and improved collaboration between providers and the justice system.

# Challenges That Remain

- Referrals/transition from the justice system to the treatment system and community
- Time-in-treatment and treatment plan expectations versus clinical decision-making
- Care coordination/gaps in transition to the community
- Funding/contracting with the justice system

# Capitalizing on the Opportunities

- Improve communication, coordination and collaboration.
- Educate and train clinicians, peers and justice system professionals.
- Take a new approach to reentry.
- Focus on key intersects in the justice system.