

November 2015

## Connecting Criminal Justice with Health Care Initiative

The Connecting Criminal Justice with Health Care Initiative (CCJH) brings together state and local corrections and health care officials to develop and implement strategies for connecting justice-involved individuals with health care. It sits at the intersection of broad debates in this country about mass incarceration, the opiate epidemic, and the crisis in our country's mental health system, but it is designed to be a highly practical project. It will allow states and localities to design, test, implement and evaluate solutions, drawing on opportunities embedded in federal law that too often sit untapped or that fail at the implementation stage. By bringing to life promising strategies, CCJH will help to create models that can be replicated on a national scale and, in so doing, contribute to public safety, reduced crime, and reductions in unnecessary incarceration, particularly for people with mental health and substance use disorders who can live safely in the community with appropriate care.

### OBJECTIVES

Participants in CCJH will develop, test, and implement innovative strategies in three key areas:

- **Enrolling the justice-involved population into Medicaid** and other forms of health coverage using strategies that focus on key intercept points within the justice system and impose the least possible burden on state and local resources;
- **Establishing systems of health care tailored to meet the distinctive needs of the justice-involved population**, including comprehensive coverage of mental health and substance use disorders (M/SUD) and care coordinated between community and justice settings; and
- **Creating sustainable financing mechanisms** for health care provided to inmates in justice settings without running afoul of federal restrictions or the policies underlying those restrictions.

### APPROACH AND PARTNERSHIPS

The CCJH Initiative is being launched and funded by the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), through a cooperative agreement with the Urban Institute (Urban) and Manatt Health Solutions (Manatt).

- **State/local partnerships.** Chosen based on competitive bids, state and local teams will work intensely with national experts at Urban and Manatt using a "learning collaborative" approach to technical assistance engagements. Each team will include state-level justice agencies, justice agencies from one local jurisdiction (either county or city), the state Medicaid program, and potentially other stakeholders.
- **Learning collaboratives (LCs).** Assisted by expert faculty, the state/local teams will work with their peers in LCs to identify their highest priority problems and develop potential solutions. As they move through the implantation stage, the LC will provide a forum for discussing operational and policy issues and for identifying and implementing mid-course corrections. Experts also will assist in developing tools to monitor and assess the impact of changes.
- **National resources.** The insights, policies, and operational strategies that emerge from the LCs will be incorporated into written resources and webinars for justice and health agencies in other states and localities around the national.