
MEDINA COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

TCAP TESTIMONY

HB 49
SUBMITTED TO THE
OHIO SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
By: Judge Joyce V. Kimbler
May 31, 2017

Chairman Oelslager, Vice-Chairwoman Manning, Ranking Member Skindell and members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am Judge Joyce V. Kimbler, Judge of the Medina Court of Common Pleas.

I would like to tell you what the Targeted Community Alternatives to Prison (TCAP) grant has done for citizens of Medina County.

Medina County was awarded one of the five TCAP pilot grants approximately seven months ago, and since that time, we have been able to use the funding to directly address our local heroin epidemic.

The funding provided us the opportunity to collaborate with our local Sheriff to re-open one of our closed jail pods. We now use this pod to house low-level, non-violent, felony 4 & 5 offender who typically have a severe drug addiction.

During their time in the jail and because of the TCAP grant, we were able to hire an additional clinician and simultaneously implement a Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program. This MAT program has been extremely helpful in stabilizing opiate addiction for the inmates. The clinician also connects them with services in the community upon their release to help them continue their road to recovery.

Through collaboration with Alternative Paths, we are screening and engaging inmate's right after the booking process when we get drug test results or mental health items are positive on the booking screening.

Once needs are identified we have mental health and chemical dependency clinicians, as well as a case manager, looking at current treatment needs as well as what will be needed for successful community re-entry.

Community re-entry plans are developed to address not only treatment needs but also housing, vocational, transportation and psychosocial supports needed for the individual to be successful once released.

We connect with a wide variety of regional resources for treatment, housing, etc. and have strong collaborative relationships with surrounding counties when resources are not available within Medina County. We also do re-entry planning in a person's home county if they are not from Medina.

Many times on the day of release our clinicians are transporting people to treatment centers, etc. to ensure a smooth transition. Clinicians remain in contact for at least 90 days, sometimes more to give continued case management and supportive services to the person.

This ongoing involvement post release which bridges a person from incarceration to community has been a huge factor in helping to keep people focused on their reentry plan and less likely to recidivate. If things start to backslide the person has our staff as a resource to help them get back on track before they end up with new sanctions or committing a new crime.

Numbers of inmate's receiving services:

Substance Abuse Services **averages 275** inmates per month.

Mental Health Services **averages 360** inmates per month.

Vivitrol (Data since 1/1/2017) :

17 inmates have been given the injection prior to leaving the jail and set up with community based chemical dependency treatment.

10 inmates were released to a sober residence such as Switzer/ Bianco House, Beacon House, VOA, or VA with outpatient treatment.

7 inmates were released home to live with family and were set up with outpatient treatment.

1 inmate has relapsed and is back in the jail. We are not aware of any other people who have relapsed since getting the Vivitrol injection. This is an approximately 95% success rate since January 1, 2017.

It is our intention to restore as many of our citizens to sobriety and give them the necessary tools to maintain recovery upon their release. The extra resources TCAP has afforded us will ultimately impact not only the opioid epidemic in Medina County but also the recidivism rate in our community.

As a court we work with our criminal justice partners to provide the most cost effective and impactful evidence based programming and we believe the continuation of TCAP funding is crucial to achieve these goals.

We consistently strive to improve upon outcomes of safer communities. As leaders, and with your support, we will continue making positive changes in our courts and in our communities.

We appreciate the TCAP initiative and we are grateful for all that you do. With your assistance, we will continue finding successful community control alternatives to prison while reducing the costs associated with recidivism and addiction.

This budget expands Ohio's capacity to provide services to individuals locally to help those struggling with the opiate addiction epidemic.

Thank you for your time.

Joyce V. Kimbler