

The Community & LME/MCO Role in Reducing the Number of People with Mental Illness in Jail

December 6, 2016 | 1:00 – 4:15 p.m. | Carolina Hotel & Resort, Pinehurst, NC



NORTH CAROLINA
**COUNCIL OF
COMMUNITY
PROGRAMS**



County commissioners, managers and staff are invited to attend this workshop, hosted by the NC Council of Community Programs and co-sponsored by the NCACC.

The number of people with mental illness in jails (three-quarters of them also with substance use problems) has reached crisis levels. Counties across the nation – and North Carolina – now have more people with mental illnesses in jail than in their psychiatric hospitals. The human toll of this problem and its cost to taxpayers is staggering. Jails spend two to three times more money on adults with mental illnesses that require intervention than on those without those needs, yet often do not see improvements to public safety or these individuals' health.

Stepping Up: A National Initiative to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails was launched May 2015 by the National Association of Counties, the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center and the American Psychiatric Foundation. Stepping Up asks counties to an action plan that makes more efficient use of budgets, promotes access to treatment and support services, and encourages research based practices in jails and in the community. At last count, 25 NC counties have passed resolutions to sign onto this effort, and support for **Stepping Up** was included in the Report from the Governor's Task Force on Mental Illness and Substance Use.

Now what? How do public LME/MCOs and providers partner with their local communities to build on this initiative? What are other counties doing to change the culture from incarceration to treatment? This half-day preconference brings together national and state experts, community advocates, providers, LME/MCO staff and board members, and county officials to learn and discuss these challenges and gain an understanding of the national issue and how our state's public MH system can step up to help with the solutions.

Course Objectives: Describe the growing trend of people with mental illnesses and addictions in jail – in terms of the human toll, numbers and costs to society; Discuss how the Stepping Up Initiative is gaining traction and awareness in NC and its place in the Sequential Intercept Model; Describe ways other counties are forging community partnerships and collaborations that are leading to changes in their service array and identify three ideas that could work in their communities.

Speakers: **Richard Cho**, Behavioral Health Director, The Council of State Governments Justice Center; **Dave Peterson**, Central Regional Director, Trillium Health Resources; **Bob Kurtz**, PhD, Program Manager, NC DMHDDSAS, Justice Systems; **Robin Huffman**, Executive Director, NC Psychiatric Association; **Tim Britt**, Chief Deputy Sheriff, Alamance County; **Amy Griffith**, RHA, Buncombe County; **Gudrun Parmer**, Durham County Commissioner; **Duane Holder**, Deputy County Manager/Chief Financial Officer, Pitt County.

Follow [this link](#) to register through the NC Council of Community Programs. The yellow "Register" button is on the right hand side of the page.

*By attending, county commissioners receive credits toward recognition for their commitment to lifelong learning through the **Local Elected Leaders Academy (LELA) Recognition Program**, a partnership between the NC Association of County Commissioners, UNC School of Government and NC League of Municipalities. For more information, visit www.ncacc.org/LELA.*