



# Bucks County

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Administrator

**TO:** MH/DP Advisory Board  
**FROM:** Donna D. Duffy-Bell, Administrator  
**SUBJECT:** ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT  
**DATE:** November 7, 2022

## 1. Follow-up/Updates

**PRA Plan Updates:** The Department continues to monitor the expansion and enhancement of services funded by the PRA plan. The Forensic Diversion, Treatment, and Rehabilitation Center planning and design stage were completed, USA Architects assisted BH/DP, General Services, and the GEO Group, Inc. in finalizing plans for the new facility, which will be erected on the site of the current Women's Correctional Facility after demolition. Cost estimates were reviewed by the County Purchasing Department. While a temporary structure was being considered as an interim facility, the supply chain issues and escalating costs resulted in a decision by County Leadership to utilize resources for the permanent structure. The facility is expected to be completed and operational in late 2024 and will house a 16 bed Forensic RTFA, 8 bed Short-Term Observation Unit and a 4 bed Competency Restoration Program.

**RTF-A Relocation Update:** The new Residential Treatment Facility for Adults (RTF-A) program through Eagleville opened in June and successfully transferred individuals from Bucks/Delaware/ Montgomery Counties who were residing at the now closed Elwyn RTF-A program in Norristown. Bucks County is allocated six beds in this Program and is working with Eagleville and Magellan to process referrals for one remaining opening.

### **MH Residential Housing Updates:**

- Bucks County was awarded funding from OMHSAS to support up to 15 individuals in Assisted Living settings. The MH Unit is partnering with Allegria at Oaks for this service and continues to identify appropriate referrals from our MH residential programs to support increased flow within our residential services. To date, seven (7) individuals have transitioned into the Program.

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### **2. Surveys/Site Reviews**

The BH/DP Department had a Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (CMHSBG) monitoring on 10/26/22. OMHSAS conducted this monitoring to meet federal compliance requirements. A formal review report will be forthcoming, but the monitoring seemed to go fairly well. No indication was given any corrective action plan would be needed, although recommendations are typical of site visits.

### **3. Vision Work/Initiatives**

**Mental Health Court:** The first participant began Mental Health Court on October 20, 2021, and a year later, there are nine (9) participants. Four mental health participants were sworn in since August. Four of the Mental Health Participants are living at the Wellness House.

Plans are beginning to establish a Wellness House for up to six (6) women with priority being given to women participating in MH Court. A service provider has been identified and is purchasing a property with a settlement date of November 30, 2022. The County is providing 300K in down payment monies.

**Co-Responder Initiative:** Over the first three quarters of 2022, the Co-Responders who serve Bensalem, Falls, Middletown, Bristol Township and Borough and Tullytown Police Departments have provided support for 467 cases, assisting with 42 jail diversions, and assisting directly in the facilitation of 16 psychiatric hospitalizations, including 4 voluntary hospitalizations, and 12 Involuntary hospitalizations.

### **4. Retained Earnings/Budget/Fiscal NOS**

**FY 2022-23:** We are waiting for our Primary Allocation letters for both the Human Service Block Grant and Early Intervention Allocation. We do not anticipate any increases in the Block Grant outside of the CHIPP start-up items approved in March. We are hopeful that the Early Intervention Allocation will include increases for the Service Coordination entities to be able to increase starting salaries to help with staff retention.

**County Budget 2023:** Preliminary meetings were held with the Finance Department and line items were discussed. Increases were removed and included in a list for the Commissioners' to decide what will be put back in the budget. This is the usual process, and we anticipate that most items will be included in the final budget. The final budget is expected to be approved by the end of the December.

### **5. Workforce Competency Building**

**CIT:** Bucks County CIT held its 25<sup>th</sup> CIT class in October. Over 600 local law enforcement officers and supervisors have completed Bucks CIT training. This includes officers from every one of the 42 police municipalities in Bucks County, the Sheriff's

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Department, Probation & Parole, PA State Police – Dublin & Trevoise Barracks, as well as some non-Bucks County law enforcement entities, including the FBI.

### **6. Community Education/Awareness**

**Suicide Prevention Task Force:** The Fall #HoldOnYouMatter Suicide Prevention Walk was held November 5, 2022 at the Bucks County Community College Upper Bucks Campus. Lisa Harden is the new Coordinator for the Task Force. Her background in education will be an asset in working with our school communities.

The Suicide Prevention Task Force, in partnership with NAMI, St. Luke's Penn Foundation and Grand View Hospital, presented a film screening and panel discussion for the film, "My Ascension", on October 27, 2022 at Penridge High School.

### **7. Grant Proposals/Updates**

Bucks County officially opted into AOT on August 1, 2022. The Bucks County Crisis Centers, inpatient facilities, Mobile Crisis and the Forensic Response Team have received information about AOT requirements and the process to file a petition. A potential petition is being processed. The individual refused to participate in an evaluation that is required prior to court, so a court order is being secured to continue the process.

The Suicide Prevention Task Force was awarded over \$19,000 in grant monies on 11/2/22 to enhance CIT trainer competencies and municipality scholarships to send officers to CIT training.

BH/DP will be applying for grant monies through OMHSAS to enhance Crisis Services, specifically to help support the Crisis Stabilization Urgent Care Center being developed in partnership with Doylestown Hospital. The application is due November 9<sup>th</sup> and will award single county grants up to 650K.

### **8. Policy/Regulation Updates**

**Increased ID/A Waiver Capacity:** Our capacity in the Community Living Waiver (CLW) was recently increased through an initiative from the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP). Through the initiative, we were able to offer CLW capacity to an additional 21 individuals.

### **9. Current Challenges/Updates NOS**

**Extended Acute Care (EAC) Unit:** The Southeast Region continues to work toward identifying a provider for an additional Extended Acute Care (EAC) program. Multiple RFPs were issued by Magellan, but did not result in any proposals. The Region is working with our partners in Philadelphia to engage with a hospital network provider directly.

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**New Early Intervention Staff:** The Department welcomed Jennifer Crossland to the position of EI Coordinator in September. Jennifer brings with her many years of experience in EI and has been a great addition to the EI Unit.