Project Brief: Maryland DataLink

In 2006, the Mental Hygiene Administration (MHA), the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) and the State's Core Service Agencies developed and implemented a data sharing initiative, known as DataLink, to *promote the continuity of treatment for individuals with serious mental illness who are detained in the detention center.*

Process Overview:

ValueOptions® Maryland, the Administrative Services organization for the Mental Hygiene Administration (MHA), receives a daily file from the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) of all individuals that have been:

- detained and processed at local detention centers in the past 24 hour period;
- incarcerated in one of the State correctional facilities; or
- remanded to the Department of Parole and Probation.

This data is compared against Medicaid eligibility data, utilizing agreed upon data points to identify a detainee as a "match". Once a match is identified, the process looks for mental health authorizations and paid Medicaid pharmacy claims within the past calendar year. This information is then electronically returned to the DPSCS and uploaded into their Electronic Health Record system where it can be viewed by authorized detention center medical staff. Detention center medical staff utilizes this data to address the detainees medical and mental health needs. Simultaneously, the data is also shared with the local Core Service Agency who may assist in providing coordinated care for the individual while detained and upon release.

Implementing DataLink:

In general, the process for implementing DataLink in any jurisdiction will follow the same steps –

1. The Core Service Agency (CSA) and Local Detention Center meet with the Administrative Service Organization (ASO) to discuss the project, review examples of the data being provided and clarify the roles and responsibilities of each in the process.
2. Gain all necessary signatures on the Memorandum of Understanding (utilizing the MOU template provided).
3. Working with the ASO and DPSCS, identify a 'go-live' date when the CSA and Local Detention Center will begin receiving data.
4. The CSA and Local Detention Center should establish on-going meetings in order to discuss and coordinate the use of the data to ensure continuity of care and monitor outcomes for consumers.

Schedule / Frequency:

The DataLink exchange runs daily at 5:00 AM and completes processing (transmitting files) within 30 minutes.

Volume:

Since January 1, 2013, the DataLink exchange processes an average of 476 records per day and identifies a "match" of consumers with mental health and/or pharmacy claims **22%** of the time.

Maryland DataLink
Process Flow Diagram

Daily "Booking" File

Department of Public Safety and
Correctional Services (DPSCS)

ValueOptions
FileConnect

Maryland
Medicaid

Eligibility &
Pharmacy Claims Files

Identify Detainee

ValueOptions
Data Warehouse

Append Detainee
Identifying data to
Input file

Identify Pharmacy
Claims

Identify
Authorizations

Generate
Pharmacy
Extract

Generate
Authorization
Extract

Pharmacy Match
Extract File

Authorization Match
Extract File

Local Detention Center

ValueOptions
FileConnect

Core Service Agency