

## **MHCJP DataLink Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**

### **August 6, 2013**

**Present:** Marian Bland (MHA), Crista Taylor (BMHS), Dan Martin (MHCJP), Donna Wells (HCMHA), Heather Brown (Wicomico/Somerset CSA), Dr. Jean Smith (MHA), Dr. Zereana Jess-Huff (VO), Sue Diehl (Consultant), Greg Burkhardt (VO), Shanna Bittner-Borrell (BMHS), and Karyn Black (Charles County CSA).

**Absent:** Thomas Martin (DPSCS) and Jennifer Lamade (Worcester County CSA).

#### **Minutes:**

Minutes were reviewed from July 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. – Marian will confirm accuracy of sentence on page one “Ninety percent of those arrested are released within 48 hours” and make correction to minutes if needed.

#### **Agenda Discussion:**

The subcommittee reviewed the following documents prepared by ValueOptions: DataLink history, charter, Jail DataLink Readiness Assessment.

There was discussion about the DataLink history document. The subcommittee requested that information about the local detention centers be added to the DataLink history document and text be made more general rather than specific to Baltimore City. Under the process overview, the subcommittee requested a bullet be added to include the local detention centers. On the process flow diagram, it was suggested that daily incarceration file be changed to arrest file.

On the charter, a bullet will be added to include “pursue grant funding opportunities”. Under responsibilities (the last sentence), it was suggested that we remove the word “consumers” and replace with the word “data”. The subcommittee recommended additional members be added to the subcommittee, which includes a representative from the Maryland Correctional Administrators’ Association (MCAA), ConMed, IT representative from DPSCS, and MHM. Dan will outreach to MCAA and Marian will contact Thomas Martin to see if the DPSCS IT representative and MHM could join the subcommittee. The group discussed the importance of DPSCS being at the meetings. The subcommittee requested the next meeting be held at DPSCS. Marian will contact Thomas Martin to see if DPSCS could host the next meeting.

A draft of the Jail DataLink Assessment was reviewed. The dashboard document provided a quick snapshot of the local county’s readiness for DataLink. The subcommittee suggested that we break out individual counties. For example, Mid-Shore CSA covers five counties. Each county should be listed separately because each county has its own local detention center.

There was discussion about the letterhead on the documents and future correspondence developed through the subcommittee. It was decided that Mental Health Criminal Justice Partnership or DHMH be listed.

Further discussion was held about the toolkit. In previous discussions with MCAA and CSAs, information is needed about the cost associated with developing DataLink. Donna and Crista mentioned there needs to be funds to support the infrastructure and support for the CSAs (staff time). The other cost factors include the IT issues (creation of file to accept data and analyzing the data). Greg will draft a document for review at the next meeting.

Challenges and barriers at various points of the system were discussed in detail. DataLink is completely stalled in Baltimore City at the moment because of the volume of new data and not having proper identifiers in place. Another challenge is ValueOptions is not able to retain data. This data would be helpful with tracking outcomes on repeat consumers, repeat providers, and new authorizations. It was suggested that a letter or memo be drafted and sent to the leadership of DHMH and DPSCS about these issues. The letter should include: Where we are at and the road blocks; information on the type of data that DPSCS is sending. It would also be helpful to know how DPSCS is using the data.

A presentation was provided by Dr. Jess-Huff on best practices in other states. The subcommittee commended Dr. Jess-Huff for the hard work she put in researching the best practices. Marian will forward an electronic copy of the presentation to the group. The subcommittee suggested additional research and work on best practices be addressed as a part of the larger MHCJP work. The DataLink subcommittee doesn't want to take on too much. The subcommittee's charge is to make sure DataLink is working and expanding.

Further discussion of Public Health Outcomes and Re-entry Stat outcomes were tabled for the next meeting.

**Next Meeting Date:** September 10, 2013 at 9 a.m. Location TBD