



COLORADO
Office of Behavioral Health
Department of Human Services

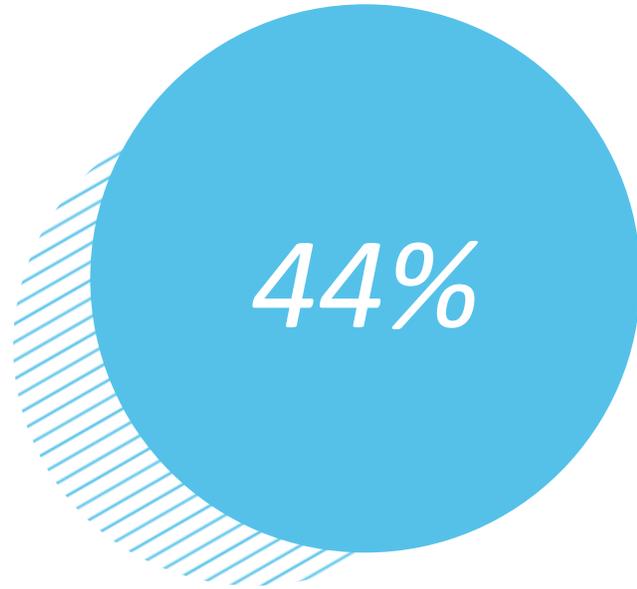
Criminal Justice Transition and HIE: A Colorado Success Story

Health Current Annual Summit

Heather Culwell
Director, State Health Initiatives

Danielle Culp
Criminal Justice HIE Coordinator

The Problem



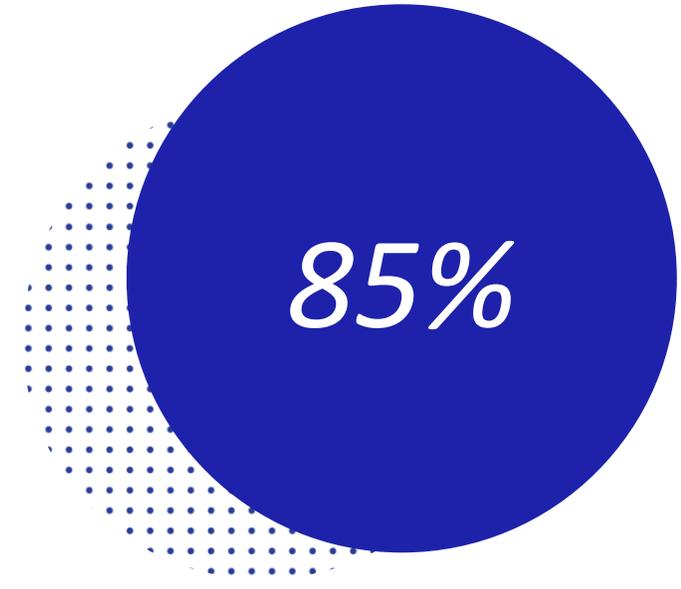
MENTAL ILLNESS

nearly half the people held in local jails suffer from mental illness¹



SEVERE MENTAL ILLNESS

At least 20% have a severe condition, such as bipolar disorder²



ADDICTION

85% of the population has an active substance use disorder or were incarcerated for a crime involving drugs³

Sources: 1 https://www.prisonpolicy.org/research/mental_health/

2 <https://www.treatmentadvocacycenter.org/evidence-and-research/learn-more-about/3695#:~:text=Overall%2C%20approximately%20%25%20of%20inmates,have%20a%20serious%20mental%20illness.>

3 <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/criminal-justice#:~:text=There%20are%20high%20rates%20of,overdose%20following%20release%20from%20incarceration.>

The Problem



Individuals within the criminal justice system are frequently transferred between community treatment providers and criminal justice settings resulting in:

- Lack of standardized screening
- Inadequate access to medications and other clinical history
- Potential for gaps in medication consistency and treatment coordination upon community release

Because medication management for inmates in the criminal justice system is inconsistent, this creates multiple problems not only within the jails but in our communities as inmates transition back to their lives.



1. Senate Bill

Goals: medication consistency and decrease in overall state costs through a medication formulary and a cooperative purchasing program

2. Year One: Pilot

- CORHIO and Quality Health Network
- Small group of jails

4. Beyond

- Continued training
- Expanded utilization
- Bidirectional exchange
 - Sustainability

3: Year Two:

Pilot Becomes Program

Expanding funding to onboard additional jails

Program Partners

- Colorado County Jails
- Colorado Health Foundation
- CORHIO
- CU School of Pharmacy
- Dept of Health Care Policy and Financing
- Health Care Partners Foundation
- Office of eHealth Innovation
- Office of Information Technology
- Quality Health Network
- Statewide Internet Portal Authority
- Steadman Group
- Wellstone Strategies

Program Goals

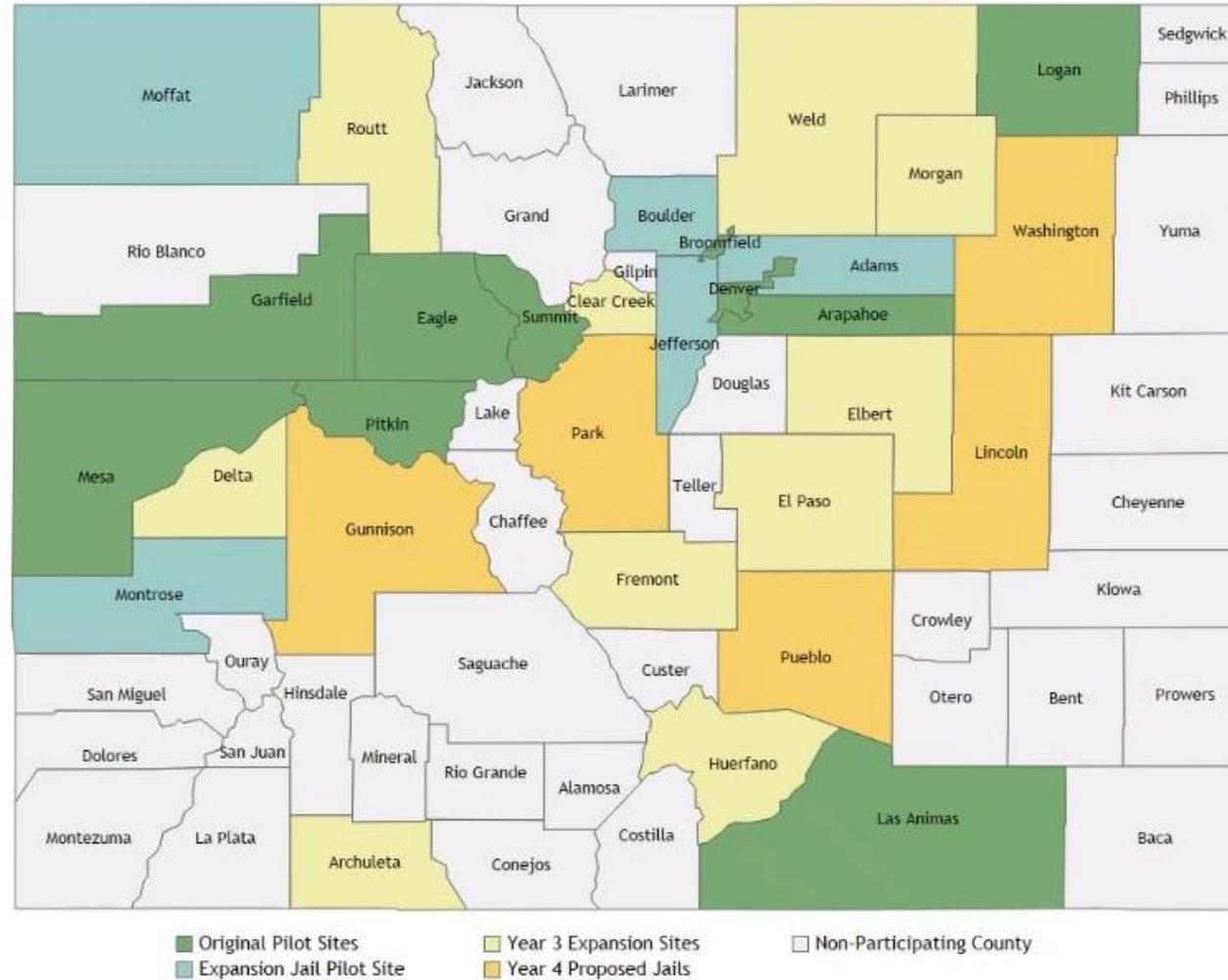
Goals of Medication Consistency Program:

- Reduce recidivism rate
- Strengthen re-entry into community
- Ensure all patients have access to medication they need
- Save costs related to staff time spent searching for records or calling providers for health history/data
- Ease the burden on jail staff to allow for more efficient data access and improved delivery of care

Challenges

- Unique HIPAA considerations for prison healthcare/private companies
- Covered entity confusion
- EHR variances – 4 of our jails are still on paper records
- Limited availability of medications data; expense; adoption of standard formulary
- Training all over state; different counties have different policies
- Skepticism to adopt new system
- Jail system requirements for changing internal processes; turnover
- Ownership of data
- Sustainability

Results – Onboarding Throughout State



CORHIO Results

22

Onboarded

16 jails in several areas of Colorado are integrated with CORHIO's PatientCare 360 secure Web portal to help coordinate care for inmates and learn their patient histories at intake.

4

Additional

Results have been so promising that OBH contracted with CORHIO to bring more jails online in 2021-2022 using funding earmarked for mental health expansion.

2

Bidirectional

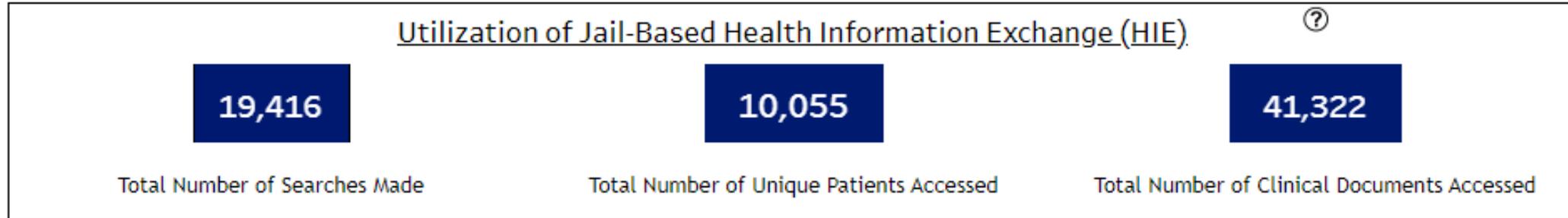
Two sites are bidirectional – so both sending and receiving HIE data and an additional facilities are underway to become bidirectional.

Details – Monthly Utilization of CORHIO

		Count of Total Searches	Count of Unique Patients	Count of Accessed Data
August 2021	Adams County Sheriff's Office	186	41	199
	Arapahoe County Jail	476	84	449
	Boulder County Jail	151	30	136
	Clear Creek County Sheriff's Office	2		
	Denver County Jail	23	4	18
	El Paso County Jail	22	5	40
	Elbert County Jail	5	1	6
	Huerfano County Jail	65	15	57
	Jefferson County Sheriff Office	68	19	106
	Las Animas County Sheriffs Department	30	7	34
	Summit County Jail	6	2	11
	Turn Key Health - Logan County Sheriffs Office	110	33	155
	Turn Key Health - Weld County Jail	119	29	118
	Turn Key Health Clinics - Fremont County Jail	23	6	35

Data as of October 1, 2021

Results – Total Statewide Utilization



Additionally: Colorado Department of Corrections is now contributing Continuity of Care Documents to the CORHIO platform from 25 facilities. In process to connect on Western Slope.

Data as of October 1, 2021

Medication Research/Cost Savings

Cost-saving activities from the Medications Consistency Program:

- Less staff time tracking down medications and outreach to providers
- User-friendly portal for real-time access to health information
- Standardized, jail-appropriate psychotropic formulary for jails to utilize. Designed and maintained by key providers and state partners
- Soon: OpiSafe platform for enhanced medication data access, including filled medications

Discharge Planning/Care Coordination

The outcomes of the Medications Consistency Program include:

- Beyond intake, HIE access is valuable throughout incarceration and for discharge planning - facilities report using PatientCare 360 to determine if an inmate has a primary care provider and to help coordinate care after discharge
- Program participants have cited significant improvements in workflow and time savings having the HIE
- These all add up to better care coordination for inmates and a release of healthier citizens into our communities

“Many people in jail have serious health problems. We’ve seen people with Stage 5 liver cancer, renal failure, and many other critical issues. CORHIO has given us a better picture of what we’re dealing with. It has shortened the time to get critical medical and medication records to our provider to effect a more rapid treatment plan.”

Dena Strick, Regional Supervisor for Health Care Partners Foundation

Lessons Learned

CORHIO and the Colorado Office of Behavioral Health have gleaned the following lessons learned that will assist other organizations wishing to replicate this project in other communities.



Legal and gap analysis should be done up front - broader care purpose gap in the law (solely for medications)



HIE policy changes required – make sure to match program against existing HIE policies



Funding struggles and cultural barriers in the counties



Contracting complexities with both state agencies and pharmacies



Make the time for up-front education and more thorough analysis of workflow and needs assessment



Find a champion and utilize their enthusiasm to help other organizations understand

Next Steps for the Project

New PDMP Legislation in Colorado – HB21-1012, passed June 7, 2021, expanded the prescription drug monitoring program to track information regarding all prescription drugs prescribed in Colorado

Scaling Up – additional funding so all Colorado jails have HIE access in the future

Mutual Projects – additional groups coming together to carry the torch:

- Trusted Interoperability Platform Advisory Committee
- Jail-based Behavioral Health Services Transformation, Innovation and Improvement pilot
- OpiSafe platform for single sign-on to PDMP data

Next Steps for the Project

Customized Training - monthly usage reports inform individualized outreach and training to ensure jail staff is getting the most out of the HIE; contracted with the University of Colorado to help jails with technical assistance related to workflow, training and identifying funding needs

Bidirectional Exchange - increasing bidirectional exchange of medical information between jails and providers

Data Enhancement - adding filled medication information to the data exchange so jail staff can more easily track down an individual's treatment history; PDMP legislation

Questions?



COLORADO
Office of Behavioral Health
Department of Human Services