



Florida  
Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners  
Improving Jail and Prison Reentry Outcomes Through Sequential  
Intercept Mapping

10/01/19 Grant Start → 09/30/22 Grant End

## Overview

Palm Beach County is the third-most populous county in Florida, with a population just under 1.5 million. Its largest city is West Palm Beach. It is the epicenter of the opioid crisis in Florida, with the highest number of overdose deaths in the state two years in a row. Between 2012 and 2016, the number of fatal overdoses in which opioids were identified in a decedent's body increased from 153 to 932 and fatal opioid-caused overdoses rose from 143 to 569. Also alarming is the sharp increase in deaths due to the fentanyl analogue carfentanil: in 2016, 147 instances of these analogues in fatal overdoses were reported in Palm Beach County. The impact on public resources is enormous. The Palm Beach County Fire Rescue increased its purchase of Narcan from 1,330 units (\$18,000) in 2012 to 5,920 (\$205,000) in 2016—a 1,140 percent increase. At the Palm Beach County Jail, the daily population is 1,769; 80 percent of cases are drug-related; and stays average six months. The cost for

housing an inmate averages \$94 per day or \$120 per day for those requiring psychotropic medications, costing as much as \$21,900 per inmate per event. From 2015 to 2016, there were 3,196 treatment admissions in Palm Beach County for heroin (1,733) and other opiates (1,463) and 2,206 alcohol/drug use dependent-related hospital admissions, with an average stay of 2.94 days, resulting in a \$42,719,615 total cost of care that year.

## Grant Focus

- Employ the use of alternatives to incarceration programs for nonviolent drug offenders.
- Expand jail-based treatment and effective reentry programs.
- Expand peer support services and recovery housing.
- Support children and youth affected by the opioid epidemic.

## Program Approach

The project will target individuals at the arrest/court first appearance, jail/courts, reentry, and community corrections intercepts, diverting individuals from jail to pretrial and back into the community, with meaningful supports, reducing burdens on the sheriff, courts, and county to expand services.

- At the arrest/court first appearance intercept, individuals will be screened for substance use disorder (SUD) and offered an option to begin a medication-assisted treatment (MAT) program. Individuals choosing MAT who return to the community will be linked to a treatment provider.
- At the jail/courts intercept, at intake, individuals will be screened for SUD. The program will offer education regarding buprenorphine (Subutex), buprenorphine/naloxone (Suboxone), and naltrexone (Vivitrol) and give individuals who meet criteria the option to enroll in MAT. Individuals who choose MAT and return to the community will be linked with a treatment provider for continuation of services. Certified peer specialists and licensed counselors will have scheduled groups at the jail.
- For those who qualify, specialty court will be offered. Participation is voluntary and is a 12-month (minimum), three-phase approach to substance abuse and/or co-occurring mental health treatment/stabilization. It encompasses didactic education in conjunction with substance abuse and mental health treatment.
- As part of discharge planning, individuals receiving MAT will meet with reentry specialists to schedule an intake appointment with a community treatment provider to establish continuation of medication as appropriate. Certified peer specialists will help engage individuals in treatment and recovery support services. Consideration will be given to allow distribution of naloxone at discharge.

- A housing coordinator will be embedded within the reentry unit at the jail to assist in providing supports for targeted inmates to locate affordable and/or supportive housing opportunities upon release.

Multiagency project partners will convene with the aim of supporting the development of locally driven responses to the opioid epidemic that expand access to supervision, treatment, and recovery support services across the criminal justice system; support law enforcement diversion programs for nonviolent drug offenders; promote education and prevention activities; and address the needs of children impacted by the opioid epidemic.

This group will regularly review data and provide recommendations for adjustments to the response.

## Project Partners

- Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network
- Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Council
- Palm Beach County Community Services Department
- Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
- Fifteenth Judicial Circuit
- Palm Beach County Public Safety Department
- Florida Atlantic University

## Contact Information

**Project Director:** John Hulick

**Email:** [jhulick@pbcgov.org](mailto:jhulick@pbcgov.org)

**Phone:** (561) 355-9915

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