

Behavioral Health Justice Involved Initiative: A Reentry Program in Massachusetts

Presented to:

Intersections Conference:
Equity and Engagement in
Substance Use Services

*Sponsored by the MA Bureau of
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Learning Objectives

- 1 Describe the effective development of a statewide reentry program.
- 2 Identify new perspectives on reentry to assist with successful integration of returning citizens.
- 3 Learn more about how a statewide reentry program can assist people with lived experience of substance use disorders, mental health and justice system involvement.

Content of Presentation

- Presentation Objectives
- BH-JI Goals and Background
- BH-JI Eligibility and Services
- Contract Requirements
- BH-JI Data and Preliminary Findings
- Outreach and Referrals
- Keys to Success
- Panel Discussion

BH-JI Goals and Background

What is BH-JI

BH-JI is an in-reach, reentry model, with partnership between the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) and the Massachusetts Executive Office of the Trial Court (Trial Court). BH-JI helps people who are “justice-involved,” including:

- people leaving jail or prison within six months,
- people who have recently left jail or prison within a year,
- people on parole, and
- people on probation

To connect with behavioral health services and social supports in the community.

BH-JI began in 2019 in Middlesex and Worcester counties with Advocates, Inc and Open Sky Community Services for a demonstration period of two years. On February 1, 2022, the program launched statewide with seven additional providers. MassHealth requested permission and has launched similar community supports for members enrolled in MassHealth managed care and Fee for Service members, in what became the Community Support Program for Individuals with Justice Involvement (CSP-JI).

BH-JI Background and Process

Demonstration

- Guidance from Council on State Governments – Justice Center at the request of leadership across the commonwealth
- Alignment within MassHealth with larger health reform strategy
- Partnered with probation, parole, state and county correction agencies, and public health and mental health agencies
- Informed by ForHealth Consulting at UMass Chan Medical School literature review and stakeholder interviews
- Used state-only dollars for demonstration that began in 2019 with Advocates and Open Sky Community Services in Middlesex and Worcester counties

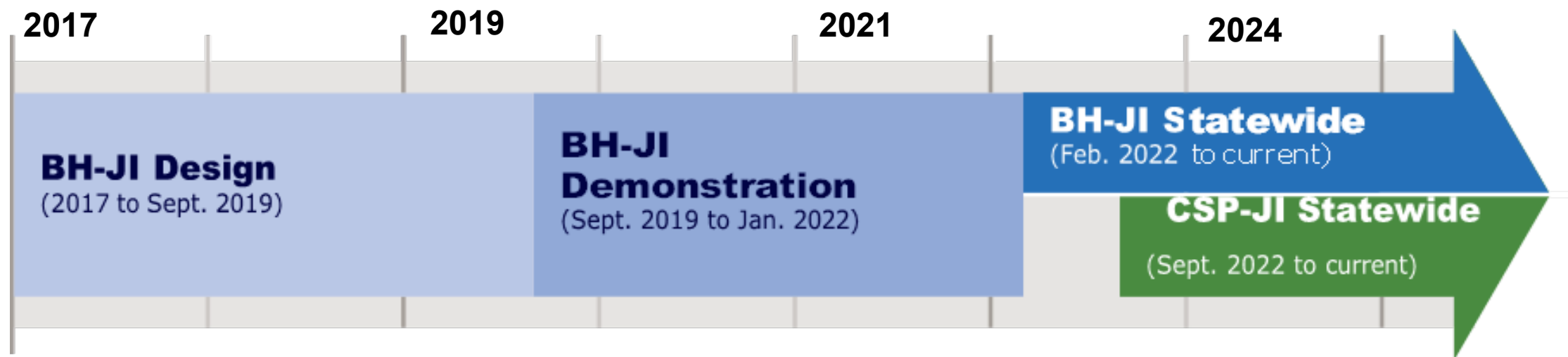
Statewide

- In February 2022, launched BH-JI statewide (see map for list of providers and service areas)
- In August 2022, achieved authority from CMS for the community services component, making CSP services for Individuals with Justice Involvement a permanent part of the benefit, now available for managed care and FFS members
- BH-JI has led to other work for justice populations:
 - MassHealth still has a pending request to CMS for certain pre-release services, which would include some of the In-Reach services of BH-JI
 - Piloted a program with the Massachusetts Probation Service to assist individuals apply for MassHealth coverage
 - Implemented 12-months continuous eligibility for individuals upon release from a carceral setting to reduce administrative eligibility churn during the post-release period

BH-JI Goals

- Develop a reach-in, reentry model for engaging Justice Involved Individuals with mental health and addiction needs
- Demonstrate improved health outcomes, decreased fatal overdoses, and effective, efficient healthcare utilization for Justice Involved Individuals enrolled in the BH-JI program
- Connect and transition eligible enrolled individuals to appropriate healthcare and community services, using the Navigator model
- Expand the BH-JI program statewide

History



Together with MassHealth, MA Parole Board, MA DOC, Worcester and Middlesex counties and guidance from the Council of State Governments, BH-JI was developed.

Began in 2019 as a state-funded demonstration, providing navigation services in Worcester and Middlesex counties.

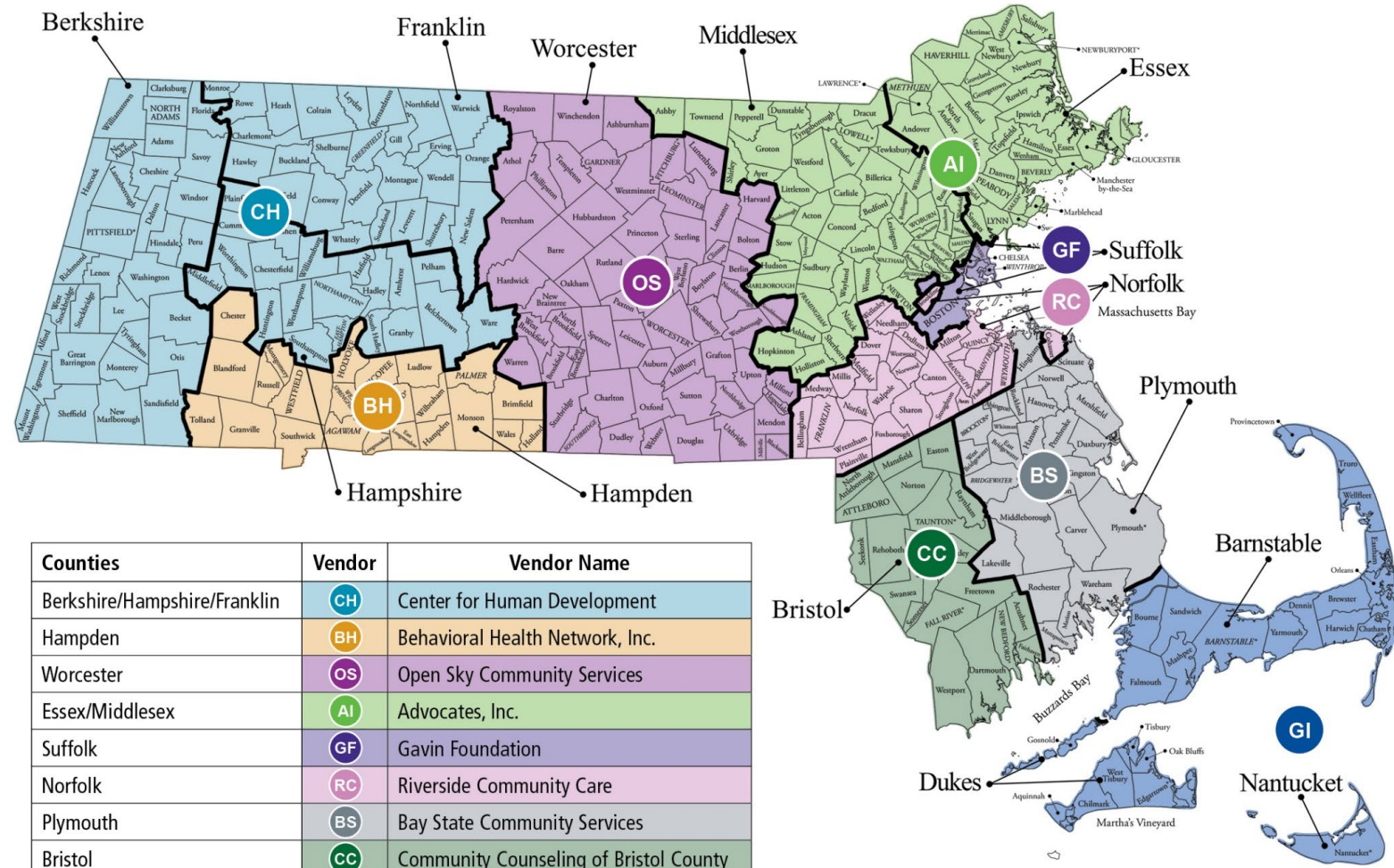
In February 2022, BH-JI went statewide as a MassHealth benefit with nine vendors across the commonwealth.

In September 2022, CSP-JI began and is now available through several MassHealth plans.

Program Partners



BH-JI Support Areas



Counties	Vendor	Vendor Name
Berkshire/Hampshire/Franklin	CH	Center for Human Development
Hampden	BH	Behavioral Health Network, Inc.
Worcester	OS	Open Sky Community Services
Essex/Middlesex	AI	Advocates, Inc.
Suffolk	GF	Gavin Foundation
Norfolk	RC	Riverside Community Care
Plymouth	BS	Bay State Community Services
Bristol	CC	Community Counseling of Bristol County
Barnstable/Dukes/Nantucket	GI	Gosnold, Inc.

BH-JI Background and Process

Referrals can come from:

- Probation
- Parole
- DOC/HOC
- Self-referral
- Community providers
- Family members
- Legal counsel

How referrals work?

- ✓ **Identify eligible member**
- ✓ **Complete referral form/consult** with appropriate vendor
- ✓ **Coordination and communication** to occur regarding member and next steps
- ✓ **In-reach/meetings** can begin

BH-JI Flyer

BH-JI Flyer can be customized

☐ Have you **recently released** or **will soon release from jail or prison**? Or are you **involved with Probation or Parole**? Have you struggled with substance use, or feeling anxious or down?

☐ Are you **nervous about finding your place** in the community?


BH-JI is here to help you successfully find your place in the community.

What is BH-JI & How Can It Help You?

- BH-JI is a **VOLUNTARY** program that can connect you with a **PERSON**, called a **BH-JI NAVIGATOR**.
- Your Navigator will help you create a plan with **YOUR NEEDS** in mind.
- BH-JI can help you in **MANY WAYS**, including:
 - Setting goals
 - Scheduling health appointments
 - Connecting with your community
 - Applying for benefits and services
 - Renewing a driver's license or other ID
 - And more

How Do I Learn More?

- **Visit the website** for more information on services:
<https://www.mass.gov/bhji>
- **Contact us by email at:**
BHJIcontractmanagement@umassmed.edu
- **Ask** your local provider, Probation/ Parole Office, or Re-Entry Worker

 MassHealth Behavioral Health Supports for Justice Involved Individuals (BH-JI)
<https://www.mass.gov/bhji>

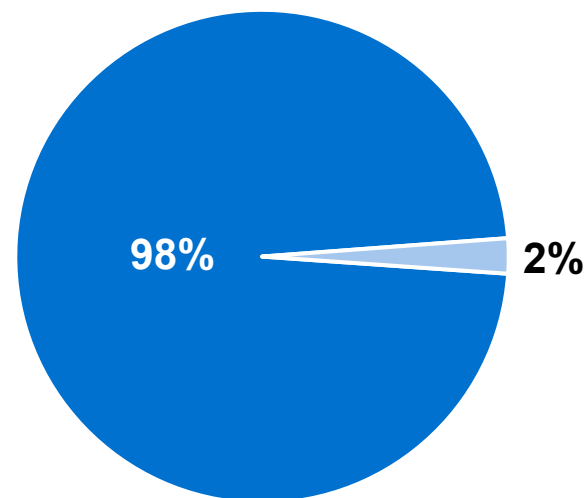
Background: MassHealth Members with Opioid Overdoses and Recent Incarceration

Majority of Justice Involved are MassHealth Members (90-95%).

Among all MassHealth Members who had an opioid overdose between 2011 to 2015, more than 1 in 4 had been incarcerated in a correctional facility at some point during that five-year period.

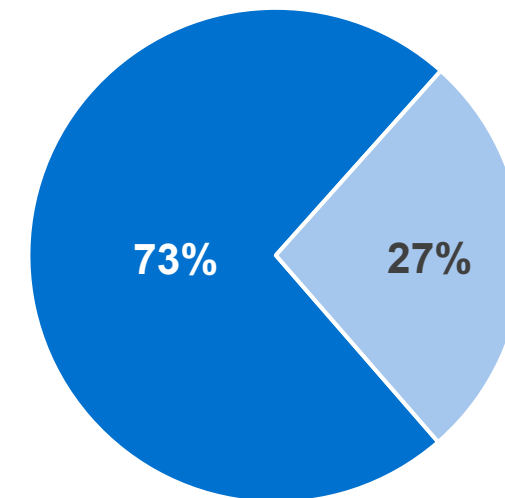
Only 2% of all MassHealth Members were incarcerated at any point during those five years.

Of All MassHealth Members Between 2011-2015, 2% Were Recently Incarcerated



- Total MassHealth Members (1,968,266)
- MassHealth Members Who Were Recently Incarcerated (46,355)

Of All MassHealth Members **with an Overdose** Between 2011-2015, 27% Were Recently Incarcerated



- Total MassHealth Members With Any Overdose (25,988)
- MassHealth Members Who Were Recently Incarcerated With Any Overdose (7,094)

Source: Center for Health Policy and Research, University of Massachusetts Medical School. Opioid Overdoses Among High-Risk MassHealth Members: An Exploratory Analysis. July 20, 2017.

Techniques for Success

Selecting experienced vendors

- Experience providing In-Reach and/or expertise with the population
- Already providing similar MassHealth services

Regular check-ins with vendors

- Standard agenda and check in monthly with each vendor, virtually and in-person when possible
- Discuss enrollments, referrals, staffing, waitlists, any concerns from referring agencies, charts, etc.

Meet regularly with MA DOC, one of our biggest referring agencies

- Discuss in reach opportunities, referrals and enrollments
- Collaborate on new ideas for growth

Facilitate bi-monthly statewide meetings (virtually)

- All justice partners present (HOCs, DOC, Parole, Probation)
- Additional community partners (DMH, CPCS)

Ongoing trainings with referring agencies

- Holds meetings with multiple stakeholders to discuss ways to improve collaboration

Attend regional meetings held by vendors

- Virtual and in-person when able

BH-JI Eligibility and Support

Eligibility for Participation

Eligibility Criteria	
Administration Criteria	MassHealth eligible (most in community: CSP-JI; those incarcerated: BH-JI)
Clinical Criteria – Must meet all of the following	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clinical diagnosis or symptoms of mental illness, addiction treatment needs or co-occurring mental illness and addiction treatment needs• At risk for admission to a 24-hour facility (inpatient hospital, crisis stabilization, detoxification, residential treatment, or to a Correctional Institution)• Criminogenic risk profile constitutes a barrier to accessing or consistently utilizing essential medical or behavioral health services
Justice Involvement Criteria – Must meet one of the following	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Released from a HOC/DOC facility in the past year• Under the risk/need supervision of probation or parole• Expecting release from a Correctional Institution within six months (only for BH-JI)

BH-JI Supports for Individuals Enrolled While Incarcerated

Supports While Incarcerated

- Identify individuals who are eligible and interested
- Staff inside the facility in collaboration with BH-JI vendor staff work to educate individuals on how to access BH-JI and facilitate in-reach sessions
- Conduct both group and individual in-reach sessions, either in person or via telehealth
- If eligible, enrollment can occur, and a support plan is developed
- Develop a support plan and coordinate with facility-based providers to establish release appointments and other community-based supports

Community Supports

- Trained navigator staff provide intensive supports:
 - Navigators meet members on day of release
 - Up to daily contact for first month, as needed while enrolled
 - Coordinate with providers, other supports
 - 24/7 on-call support available as needed
- Develop and implement support plan
- Assist with making and keeping healthcare and other SDOH appointments
- Provide a warm hand-off to post program supports

BH-JI Contract Requirements

Coordination Requirements with Sheriff's Offices

1. CSP-JI providers are encouraged to reach out to the BH-JI providers in your area if you are interested in joining one of the regional coordination meetings. Meetings allow providers to establish relationships and share resources, and are held at least every two months, in person and/or virtually.

In these meetings, providers will:

1. Discuss the BH-JI program (such as outreach, coordination, and other updates).
2. Discuss other regional initiatives and needs.
3. Convene a variety of regional stakeholders, including Sheriff's Office(s), Probation departments, Field Parole, other providers, advocates, other state agencies, etc.

BH-JI Data and Preliminary Findings

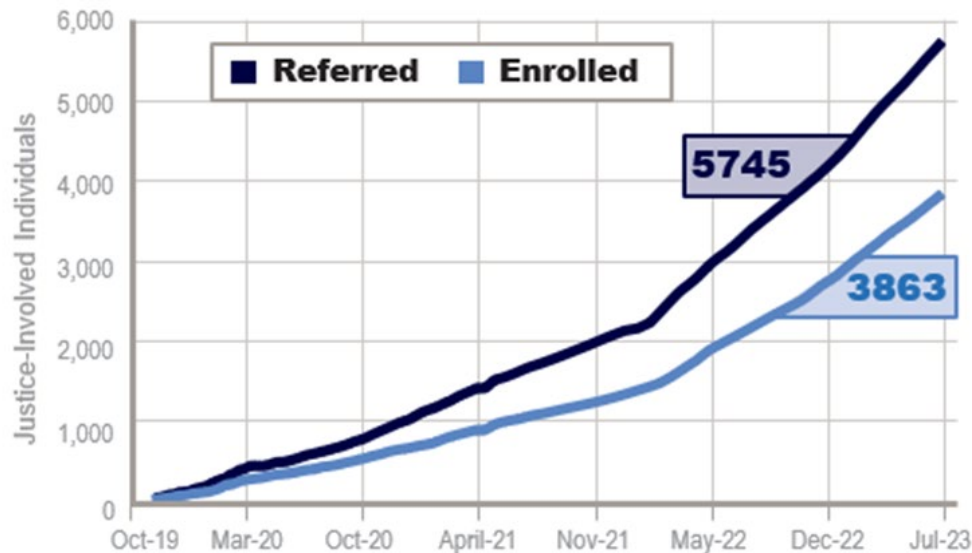
Who Participates in the Program



- 21% are Black or African American
- 15% are of Hispanic or Latino origin
- 58% are between 19-39 years of age
- 87% are male
- Nearly 1/3 have a history of homelessness
- Nearly 80% have a mental health condition
- Over 50% have a diagnosis of Alcohol UD
- Over 50% have a diagnosis of Opioid UD
- More than 15% had an overdose diagnosis prior to enrollment

Program Outcomes

**Total Referred and Enrolled,
September 2019 to June 2023**



- BH-JI members have seen an increase in:
 - Housing
 - Employment
- In the six months following enrollment:
 - 50% of health care costs were for behavioral health services
 - Approx $\frac{3}{4}$ of members had an outpatient behavioral health visit, $\frac{1}{2}$ of these occurring within 19 days of enrollment
- 29% receive MOUD
- 14% received diversionary behavioral health services

Program Outcomes Continued

- Among the **1,524 individuals** referred to BH-JI between September 2019 and March 2022, the **one-year overdose death rate was 1.6%**.
- Among the **801 individuals** referred to BH-JI between September 2019 and March 2021, the two-year recidivism rates were:
 - Re-arraignment: 48.9%
 - Re-conviction: 16.7%
 - **Re-incarceration: 10.1%**

More Resources

- **BH-JI:** <https://www.mass.gov/BHJI>
- **CSP-JI:** <https://www.mass.gov/regulations/130-CMR-46100-community-support-program-services>
- **MIEP:** [1115 MassHealth Demonstration \("Waiver"\) | Mass.gov](#)



Any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to any of us!

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Behavioral Health Supports for Justice-Involved Individuals (BH-JI)



BH-JI Member Video

[BHJI ADVOCATES MEMBER INTRODUCTION VIDEO - YOUTUBE](#)

Behavioral Health Supports for Justice-Involved Individuals (BH-JI)



BH-JI Member Video

[BH-JI OPEN SKY VIDEO - YOUTUBE](#)

Behavioral Health Network Marketing Video

<https://vimeo.com/859191379/e06072f4c8>



Thank You

Acronyms

- Behavioral Health Justice Involved Initiative (BH-JI)
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
- Community Support Program (CSP)
- Community Support Providers Justice Involved (CSP-JI)
- Department of Correction (DOC)
- Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS)
- Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS)
- Fee for Service (FFS)
- House of Corrections (HOC)
- Primary Care Clinician (PCC)
- Substance Use Disorder (SUD)