

# Action Wellness Jail-Based Programs: Philadelphia Linkage Program (PLP) and Linkage and Engagement After Prison (LEAP) Program



# Action Wellness Introduction

- Founded in 1986 by volunteers under the name ActionAIDS
- Mission was “ActionAIDS believes that no one should face AIDS alone”
- Name and mission changed in 2016

# Action Wellness Services

- Medical Case Management (HIV)
- Perinatal Program
- Eldercare Program
- Buddy Program
- Assistant Case Management/Care Outreach Specialists
- Housing
- Immediate Seating
- Approximately 2000 clients served each year
- Approximately 90 professional staff and 400 volunteers

# Why provide this service?

- An estimated one in seven persons living with HIV pass through a correctional or detention facility per year.\*
- Individuals are ten times more likely to overdose within 2 weeks after release from a correctional or detention facility. \*\*
- Successful linkages to medical and social services have been shown to reduce recidivism.\*\*\*

\*<https://www.hivlawandpolicy.org/issues/prisons-and-jails>

\*\* J Subst Use Addict Treat. 2023 April ; 147: 208971. doi:10.1016/j.josat.2023.208971

\*\*\*<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2019-05-healthcare-prisoners-recidivism.html>

# Past Jail-Based Program Successes

- Partnered with Drexel University PhD student from 2017-2019 on an overdose prevention pilot for individuals living with HIV. 115 incarcerated people living with HIV were given training and naloxone at release.
- Action Wellness expanded jail-based programs in 2016 to include RE-LINK. Funded through the Office of Minority Health. Provided case management to young people for years.

# Philadelphia Linkage Program (PLP)

- Partnership with Philadelphia Department of Prisons (PDP) since 1991, when the Philadelphia Linkage Program began providing HIV medical case management services behind the walls
- Monthly jail visits/discharge planning sessions: plan for medical care and medications upon release
- Risk reduction sessions - D&A, MH, sexual behavior
- Medication adherence
- Legal advocacy
- Primary referral source: YesCare
- Quarterly discharge planning meetings
- Approximately 100 clients served in 2023

# Linkage and Engagement After Prison (LEAP)

- Started in 2020
- Case management program for individuals with a diagnosis of Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) who have been induced on Medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) and who are currently incarcerated in or recently released from the Philadelphia Department of Prisons
- Case Manager who works with them for the entirety of their incarceration and for a minimum of three months following release from PDP
- 298 clients served in 2023

# LEAP Program Overview

LEAP is based on a harm reduction model and abstinence from drug use is not a requirement to participate. All services are client-centered and directed by client need. Services/resources to which LEAP is able to link clients include:

- Health insurance
- MOUD
- Inpatient/outpatient drug and alcohol treatment
- Mental health treatment
- Primary and specialist medical care
- HIV testing
- Narcan training
- Harm reduction services
- Educational programs
- Vocation support and job training
- Food resources
- Transportation
- Vital documents
- Housing counseling
- Welfare/Social Security/Veterans benefits
- Court advocacy
- Assistance in meeting probation requirements



# Care Outreach

- Once released, individuals are also assigned to a Care Outreach Specialist (COS) who accompanies them to medical, behavioral health, and social service appointments.
- If a client is lost to care after their release from PDP, a COS will conduct extensive outreach to reengage them in the program.

# Contact Information

- Dorsche Pinsky, MPH  
Assistant Director of Client Services  
[Dpinsky@actionwellness.org](mailto:Dpinsky@actionwellness.org)  
(215) 981-3361
- Odessa Summers, MSW  
PLP Coordinator  
[OSummers@actionwellness.org](mailto:OSummers@actionwellness.org)  
(215) 981-3302
- Vanessa Rodriguez, MSW  
LEAP Coordinator  
[Vrodriguez@actionwellness.org](mailto:Vrodriguez@actionwellness.org)  
(267) 930-6389



Thanks!

Questions?

