

# THE PRETRIAL POST

QUARTERLY – APRIL 2017

Dear Reader,

This is CAPS' first ever newsletter and we appreciate your attention. We plan to send one newsletter quarterly of Pretrial updates across the State. We ask for feedback and suggestions and welcome ideas if you would like to be featured in the next publishing.

Thank you,

CAPS Board Members

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## Insight from Larimer County's MHIPS Case Manager, April Moore, with Handling Mental Health Needs

By: Lindsay E. Kelly, CSS II

Larimer County Pretrial Services' Mental Health Intervention Pretrial Services (MHIPS) program includes one case manager, April Moore, who supervises defendants while under Pretrial Supervision with mental health needs and has successfully done so for ten years. Here, April provides answers of understanding how the program operates and suggestions for implementation of programs in other Counties:

### 1. Who is the MHIPS program designed for?

MHIPS is designed for defendants with mental health issues that either have access to needed resources and services or who are engaging in services but need a case manager with understanding of their diagnosis, medications, symptoms and how they can all effect compliance with their

conditions of bond. MHIPS also provides services to defendants with cognitive/developmental delays and Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI) to provide additional support in helping them comply with their conditions.

### 2. What does MHIPS provide to the clients?

MHIPS provides MH case management and support services. Through the program defendants are referred to MH and Substance Abuse treatment resources, Medication prescribers, and other community resources to assist them in accessing services. Defendants are provided information on housing, medical providers, how to apply for public benefits such as Medicaid, Food Stamps, etc. and information on possible SA rehab facilities. Through these referrals the MHIPS CM often collaborates with the referred providers to verify the defendant is accessing the services recommended. In some cases, clients are able to have their medications monitored through the program to verify if they are taking them as prescribed, and the program can fund medications for a short term pending the client taking active steps to apply for benefits/assistance for future refills.

### 3. What does a typical day look like for a MHIPS case manager?

Each day differs depending on the particular defendant's needs. Most follow up appointments with MHIPS participants are a review of the steps they have taken to access services, etc. that they were previously referred to, and in addressing additional issues that have come up both in regards to their Court requirements, as well as personally. Often Crisis intervention is needed, and that doesn't fit into any sort of schedule. Flexibility is pretty key. For some defendants, MHIPS provides direct assistance in communicating with providers, completing needed applications/documents, and assisting the client in understanding how to navigate community systems.

(Family is often involved when available to assist in getting the defendant into compliance and to help provide support in their following through with referrals.) As a result, family are often not only present in appointments, but great resources to use to address any compliance issues.

### 4. What partnerships are included for the MHIPS program and local community members?

Partnerships within the program are widespread including collateral contacts such as Probation, Attorney's, etc., as well as community resource providers. The local Community Mental Health Center, Mental health crisis centers and substance treatment facilities are frequently contacted both for referrals and ongoing case management and support. MHIPS regularly communicates with Probation Officers and Attorney's to discuss the client's limitations due to MH or cognitive delays, recommend State vs Private probation providers for additional support, and coordinate for referrals into the Mental Health sentencing programs, which locally are Alternatives to Incarceration for Individuals with Mental Health needs (AIIM) and Wellness Court. MHIPS CM's also directly supervise clients from the AIIM/Wellness Court programs who receive new charges or are pending revocation to assist with collaboration between the programs.

### 5. How are clients screened into the MHIPS program?

Defendants are screened in two ways. First, when they are in custody, they are prescreened based off of their responses to (continued on page two).



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## CAPS Shadowing Program

CAPS is excited to announce the start of a shadowing program which will allow Pretrial officers the opportunity to conduct a full day site visit with an officer from another jurisdiction's Pretrial program. Our hope is that officers are able to gain greater knowledge of how other Pretrial programs function within Colorado. Through the site visits, officers will experience what a typical day is like for officers in other Counties, which may include defendant risk assessment, Court and jail processes, and defendant supervision.

If you are interested in shadowing a County please email CAPS at [caps@capscolorado.org](mailto:caps@capscolorado.org), listing your name, contact information and the program you would like to shadow. CAPS will then send you an email with the information you will need to schedule a specific shadowing date and time. The jurisdictions that are currently participating in the shadowing program are: **Arapahoe, Boulder, Denver, Douglas, Jefferson, Larimer, Weld and Mesa County.**

## Page Meetings

All CAPS Members are encouraged to attend Executive Committee meetings and provide feedback to the

*(Continued from page one) four pre-determined MH questions regarding treatment history, MH hospitalizations, current medications and diagnosis by a mental health professional.*

*Once released from custody and placed on PTS, they are asked if they are interested in further evaluation for the program, and if so, are scheduled to meet with MHIPS CM. During the evaluation process, I speak with them about current/prior MH treatment, diagnosis, drug abuse history, Medications, benefits, and symptoms.*

**6. Do you have any suggestions for Counties who want to implement a MHIPS program?**

*Development of a Mental Health PTS program will require an accurate assessment of the number of individuals who would meet criteria for the program as well as a PTS CM who has education and experience working with Mental Health issues. A lot of the defendants who come through are either misdiagnosed or not at all, and the ability to accurately identify potential symptoms and effectively communicate with the defendant about the need for further MH assessment is important. No defendants are diagnosed by the program, but being able to identify things that just don't seem to fit and get them referred for further diagnosis is important. MH symptoms need to be taken into consideration in regards to noncompliance with bond conditions, and the CM needs to be able to work with that and try to get them on track by helping them access supports/services, rather than just immediately notifying the Court of NC. Furthermore, the CM needs to be knowledgeable of community resources and services. MHIPS CM's do not do "therapy" but often have to spend significantly more time with program clients than with regular PTS offenders, and being flexible, able to develop trust, and able to effectively communicate with both clients and providers is key. MHIPS programs also often need to take extra steps with the clients such as giving them reminder calls for appointments, providing day timers or other calendars and helping them keep track of appointments and requirements, and sometimes recommending additional MH evaluations/conditions as a part of a bond in lieu of a request for revocation.*

## Mallory and Casey Go to D.C. for Pi-Con!

In early March, Casey Barilla, Intake Officer in Denver County and Mallory Starr, Bond Commissioner in Boulder County attended the Worldwide Pretrial Innovators Convention (PI-Con) which was held in Washington D.C. Casey serves as the Vice President and Mallory serves as the Secretary on the CAPS Board. The CAPS Board provided funding for both members to attend.

Prior to the conference starting, CAPS was provided an opportunity to attend a site visit to the D.C. Superior Court with Federal Pretrial Services. During the site visit, they were able to witness detention hearings as well as their unique advisement hearings. They are unique in the fact that Washington D.C. does not use money for bail in their system and the Court simply determines whether you are releasable or detainable based on information provided by Pretrial Services. They were also provided the opportunity to speak and meet with the Chief Judge, a prosecutor, and a supervisor within Pretrial Services to get their perspective on their "one-of-a-kind" system they have in D.C.

The following day, PI-Con started with a "Pre-Mortem" session where several folks from different states and jurisdictions discussed reasons why perhaps a no-money bail system simply would not work. This was an effort to address issues and challenges that could come up while jurisdictions are trying to implement this wave of Pretrial improvement and how to hit these obstacles head on. The next day and a half was followed by several interactive workshops including live simulations of advisement and detention hearings as it would be in a "no money world", discussions around race and Pretrial justice, and victim's perspectives on freedom and safety. The conference ended with a spotlight presentation between two policy makers, Ted Lieu (Congress Rep California) and Policy Director of Right on Crime, Marc Levin in which Mr. Lieu stated there are plans to re-introduce the "No Money Bail Act of 2016" back into Congress. The "No Money Bail Act" would, if passed, require states within 3 years of passing to implement a no money system into their states and local jurisdictions. Casey summed up her memorable and unique experience with this direct quote: "Pi-Con (The Worldwide Pretrial Innovators Convention) was unlike any conference/training I have attended. Each session was created to get everyone thinking, talking, and sharing



opinions on reforming and re-imagining what Pretrial should be. Two hundred people came to the conference from all over the United States with the goal of going back to their agency to raise questions. Washington, D.C. was a perfect back-drop for this conference seeing how they have not had money bond since 1992 and have a 98% success rate on Pretrial. One of the questions that we left thinking about was "Why can we release Parolees who have been convicted of a crime without posting any money, but cannot release people who have not been found guilty or plead to a crime?" Overall, PI-Con was a great experience and to have the opportunity to be a part of their inaugural class was an honor to us both. We are grateful for the opportunity to be a part of such exciting times coming up for Pretrial improvement happening across the nation."

Article submitted by: Mallory Starr, CAPS Secretary, Boulder County

## CAPS Member of the Quarter: Steve Chin

My Name is Steve Chin and I supervise Community Based Programs in Mesa County. I'm

a Colorado native and was raised in the Denver area. I moved to the Western Slope in 2001 as it suits my passion for the outdoors, hunting, fishing, and camping. I'm on my second term as President of CAPS and am proud of the work that our Executive Board has done. We will soon be releasing a guide to Professional Standards for Pretrial Service Programs in Colorado. I was recently appointed to be part of a Pretrial Task Force formed by the CCJ and am excited to see if we can get the entire state of Colorado on the road to effective Pretrial reform. You have a ton of resources within CAPS, so if you ever have a question or need some advice, shoot us an email and we will be happy to help you out.

## Newsletter Staff:

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