

## Overview of the Initiative

The Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) has funded the expansion of a data matching initiative at Cook County Jail designed to identify users of both Cook County Jail and the State of Illinois Division of Mental Health (DMH).

This is a secure internet based database that assists communities in identifying frequent users of multiple systems to assist them in coordinating and leveraging scarce resources more effectively. Jail Data Link helps staff at a county jail to identify jail detainees who have had past contact with the state mental health system for purposes of discharge planning. This system allows both the jail staff and partnering case managers at community agencies to know when their current clients are in the jail. Jail Data Link, which began in Cook County in 1999, has expanded to four other counties as a result of funding provided by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority and will expand to three additional counties in 2009. In 2008 the Proviso Mental Health Commission funded a dedicated case manager to work exclusively with the project and serve the residents of Proviso Township.

## Target Population for Data Link Initiatives

This project targets people currently in a county jail who have had contact with the Illinois Division of Mental Health.

- **Jail Data Link – Cook County:** Identifies on a daily basis detainees who have had documented inpatient/outpatient services with the Illinois Division of Mental Health. Participating agencies sign a data sharing agreement for this project.
- **Jail Data Link – Cook County Frequent Users:** Identifies those current detainees from the Cook County Jail census who have at least two previous State of Illinois psychiatric inpatient hospitalizations and at least two jail stays. This will assist the jail staff in targeting new housing resources as a part of a federally funded research project beginning in 2008.
- **Jail Data Link – Expansion:** The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority provided funding to expand the project to Will, Peoria, Jefferson and Marion Counties, and the Proviso Mental Health Commission for Proviso Township residents.

## Legal Basis for the Data Matching Initiative

Effective January 1, 2000, the Illinois General Assembly adopted **Public Act 91-0536** which modified the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Administrative Act. This act allows the Division of Mental Health, community agencies funded by DMH, and any Illinois county jail to disclose a recipient's record or communications, without consent, to each other, for the purpose of admission, treatment, planning, or discharge. No records may be disclosed to a county jail unless the Department has entered into a written agreement with the specific county jail. Effective July 12, 2005, the Illinois General Assembly also adopted **Public Act 094-0182**, which further modifies the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Administrative Act to allow sharing between the Illinois Department of Corrections and DMH.

Using this exception, individual prisons or jails are able to send their entire roster electronically to DMH. Prison and jail information is publically available. DMH matches this information against their own roster and notifies the Department of Corrections Discharge Planning Unit of matches between the two systems along with information about past history and/or involvement with community agencies for purposes of locating appropriate aftercare services.

## Sample Data at a Demo Web Site

DMH has designed a password protected web site to post the results of the match and make those results accessible to the Illinois Department of Corrections facility. Community agencies are also able to view the names of their own clients if they have entered into a departmental agreement to use the site.

In addition, DMH set up a demo web site using encrypted data to show how the data match web site works. Use the web site link below and enter the User ID, Password, and PIN number to see sample data for the Returning Home Initiative.

- <https://sisonline.dhs.state.il.us/JailLink/demo.html>
  - UserID: cshdemo
  - Password: cshdemo
  - PIN: 1234

## Program Partners and Funding Sources

- **CSH's Returning Home Initiative:** Utilizing funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, provided \$25,000 towards programming and support for the creation of the Jail Data Link Frequent Users application.
- **Illinois Department of Mental Health:** Administering and financing on-going mental health services and providing secure internet database resource and maintenance.
- **Cermak Health Services:** Providing mental health services and supervision inside the jail facility.
- **Cook County Sheriff's Office:** Assisting with data integration and coordination.
- **Community Mental Health Agencies:** Fourteen (14) agencies statewide are entering and receiving data.
- **Illinois Criminal Justice Authority:** Provided funding for the Jail Data Link Expansion of data technology to three additional counties, as well as initial funding for three additional case managers and the project's evaluation and research through the University of Illinois.
- **Proviso Township Mental Health Commission (708 Board):** Supported Cook County Jail Data Link Expansion into Proviso Township by funding a full-time case manager.
- **University of Illinois:** Performing ongoing evaluation and research

## Partnership Between Criminal Justice and Other Public Systems

Cook County Jail and Cermak Health Service have a long history of partnerships with the Illinois Department of Mental Health Services. Pilot projects, including the Thresholds Justice Project and the Felony Mental Health Court of Cook County, have received recognition for developing alternatives to the criminal justice system. Examining the systematic and targeted use of housing as an intervention is a logical extension of this previous work.

## Managing the Partnership

CSH is the primary coordinator of a large federal research project studying the effects of permanent supportive housing on reducing recidivism and emergency costs of frequent users of Cook County Jail and the Illinois Department of Mental Health System. In order to facilitate this project, CSH funded the development of a new version of Jail Data Link to find the most frequent users of the jail and mental health inpatient system to augment an earlier version of Data Link in targeting subsidized housing and supportive mental health services.

## About CSH and the Returning Home Initiative

The Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) is a national non-profit organization and Community Development Financial Institution that helps communities create permanent housing with services to prevent and end homelessness. Founded in 1991, CSH advances its mission by providing advocacy, expertise, leadership, and financial resources to make it easier to create and operate supportive housing. CSH seeks to help create an expanded supply of supportive housing for people, including single adults, families with children, and young adults, who have extremely low-incomes, who have disabling conditions, and/or face other significant challenges that place them at on-going risk of homelessness. For information regarding CSH's current office locations, please see [www.csh.org/contactus](http://www.csh.org/contactus).

CSH's national *Returning Home Initiative* aims to end the cycle of incarceration and homelessness that thousands of people face by engaging the criminal justice systems and integrating the efforts of housing, human service, corrections, and other agencies. *Returning Home* focuses on better serving people with histories of homelessness and incarceration by placing them to supportive housing.



Corporation for Supportive Housing  
Illinois Program  
205 W. Randolph, 23rd Fl  
Chicago, IL 60606  
T: 312.332.6690  
F: 312.332.7040  
E: [il@csh.org](mailto:il@csh.org)  
[www.csh.org](http://www.csh.org)