



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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Jail administrators survey - key part of effort to establish new programs in the next state budget to aid county jails in managing mentally ill/addicted inmates

The rising cost of psychotropic medication and the management of the mentally ill/addicted inmates in the jail setting have become overwhelming issues to jails that have seen inconsistent and inadequate assistance from the state.



In an effort to maximize potential state funding allocated for this population in the next state budget CCAO, the Buckeye State Sheriffs Association (BSSA) and the Ohio Jail Advisory Board (OJAB) have jointly developed three recommendations that were presented to Tracy Plouck, the Director of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (MHAS) in a meeting with her and her staff last week.

To further explore the recommendations it is necessary to determine the breadth and nature of the impact which these populations have on county jail operations and how the proposed programs would benefit county jails. CCAO, BSSA, OJAB and MHAS spent this week developing a survey which has been sent by the OJAB to all county jail administrators today.

The survey is quite extensive and asks jail administrators to provide critical, valid information in a very short period of time. We urge our commissioners to talk with your sheriff and help facilitate your county jail's timely response to the survey. Please make this a top priority since all responses are required to be submitted by September 16, 2016. There will be no extensions.

The recommendations being made are specifically designed to assist county jails in managing and caring for the mentally ill and addicted population and would:

- Establish and fund a program managed by the local county behavioral health boards that utilizes Medicaid managed care providers and local providers to assess and treat jail inmates and, upon release, continue treatment under traditional Medicaid coverage.

This program will provide a continuity of care for mental health and addiction services that are so critical for many of the individuals incarcerated in our jails.

- Create a state-wide behavioral health triage program that provides regional centers that law enforcement can take individuals to who have been taken into custody or are incarcerated which:
 - Serve as a drop-off center and provide crisis beds for crisis intervention
 - Conduct immediate forensic evaluations
 - Manage detoxification
- Require the Department of Mental Health and Addictions Services' Central Pharmacy to provide all psychotropic drugs prescribed for county jail inmates

While the state took great strides in the 131st General Assembly to address the "opiate epidemic," the continued incarceration of mentally ill and addicted individuals in county jails places an undue burden of risk and of cost upon these facilities. It is not the jails' mission to treat or house the mentally ill or addicted. Jails are not treatment facilities and jail staff are neither envisioned to be nor trained to manage or treat individuals suffering from mental illness or addiction. This population is at high risk for injuring themselves or others, the health care costs for these individuals are excessive, and the housing of these individuals in a jail threatens public safety by taking up scarce bed space that was not contemplated to be used in this way.

With continued dialogue among the departments of Mental Health and Addiction Services and Rehabilitation and Corrections, the county behavioral health boards, our sheriffs and our commissioners we hope to establish new programs in the next state budget that will directly support the county jails in their management of the mentally ill/addicted inmates.

HB 523 providing for the legalization of “medical marijuana” became effective this week

While Ohio became the 25th state to allow marijuana for medical purposes, the complete implementation of the bill's provisions is expected to take up to two years.

CCAO has published a [CAB](#) on the subject and held a [webinar](#), which you can [listen](#) to, that concentrated on the impacts the bill will have on the counties as employers.



The bill requires that the Department of Commerce have rules in place regarding the licensure of cultivators within 8 months which would be the end of May 2017. Both the Department of Commerce and Board of Pharmacy must separately adopt rules establishing standards and procedures for the portions of the Program each is responsible for administering within a year from now and are required to take all actions necessary to ensure that the Program is fully operational not later than two years after the bill's effective date which would be September of 2018.

Although the use of medical marijuana is legalized, the bill DOES NOT require an employer to permit or accommodate employees' use, possession, or distribution of medical marijuana. It REMAINS LEGAL for employers to fire employees for use, possession, or distribution of medical marijuana.

Statehouse, Etc.



August casino revenue down from last year. Overall casino revenue for the month of August was down from July and also below the August 2015 receipts. The four casinos brought in nearly \$62.8 million in revenue last month, however, this was below the \$66 million taken in during July and the \$66.3 million that was taken in last August. Racinos suffered a similar fate with revenue falling at all seven of the state's racinos in August. Revenue from video lottery terminals was \$74.5 million in August compared to more than \$80 million in July.



Hearing Schedule



Monday, September 12

[Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review \(Committee Record\)](#), (Chr. [Uecker, J.](#), 466-4086), Senate Finance Hearing Rm., 1:30 pm

Thursday, September 15

[Unemployment Compensation Reform Joint Committee](#), (Chr. [Peterson, B.](#), 466-8156), Rm. 313, 1:00 pm