

Pennsylvania Veterans Jail Diversion and Trauma Recovery Initiative

SAMHSA Grant Overview

OMHSAS Advisory Committee
May 5, 2010

Initiative Overview

- On March 30, 2010, OMHSAS was awarded a 5-year grant by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (\$2 million over five years) as part of their targeted treatment capacity efforts
- The primary objective is to divert U.S. military veterans with trauma-related disorders from the criminal justice system and incarceration in local jails to programs that address:
 - Veteran's behavioral health and recovery needs
 - Provide trauma specific treatment

Goals and Objectives

- Act as a catalyst for creating a statewide system for identifying veterans who come into contact with the criminal justice system, but would be better served through diversion to a trauma informed service system
- Develop a strategic plan to divert veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and trauma-related disorders from the criminal justice system to community-based trauma informed and trauma specific treatment and recovery services
- Support pilot projects locally in Allegheny County and Philadelphia
- Evaluate the results of the pilot efforts and disseminate those findings
- Use the learnings from the pilot projects to replicate the pilots statewide

Target Population

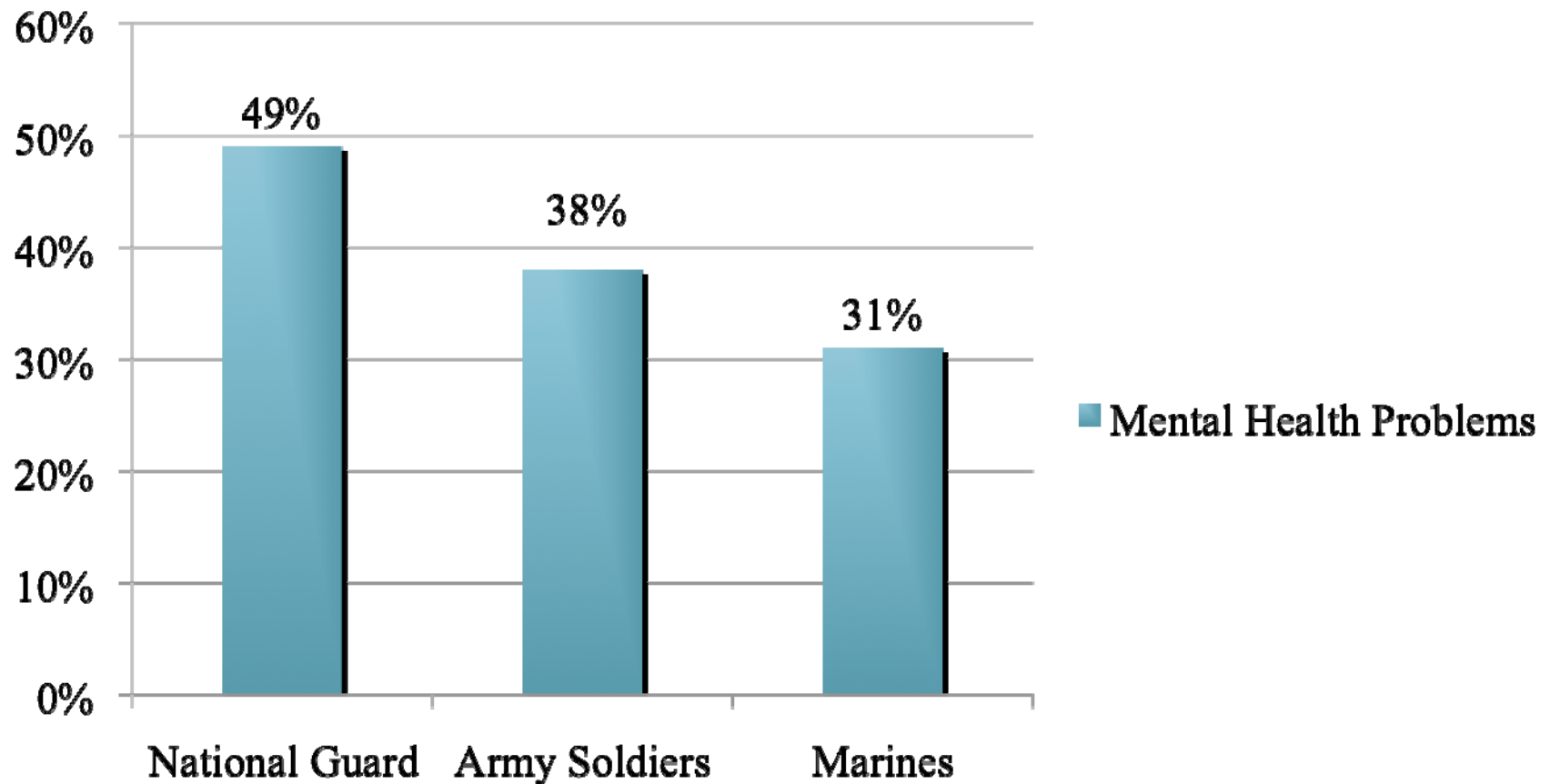
- United States military veterans with trauma related disorders who come in contact with the criminal justice system in Pennsylvania
- According to the PA State Data Center's 2008 Statistical Fact book:
 - **PA= 1,057,000 veterans**
 - **Allegheny = 142,638 veterans**
 - **Philadelphia = 123,365 veterans**
- Currently, 7,930 men and women from Pennsylvania are deployed in Iraq or Afghanistan (Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, 2009)

Statement of Need

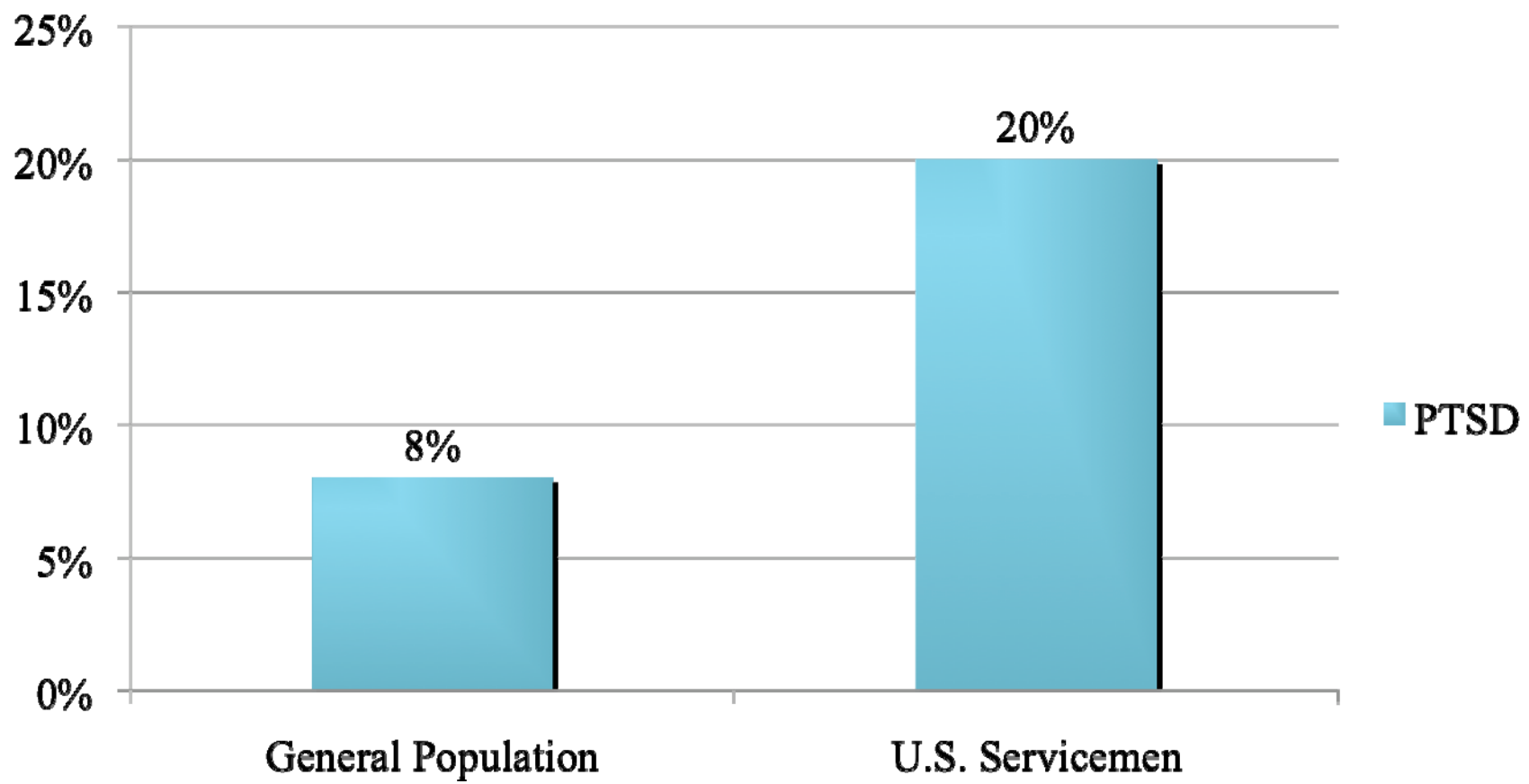
- Current military veterans face mental health challenges unique to their era
 - Today's wars are being fought by a relatively small number of soldiers who are frequently redeployed to high-intensity combat zones
 - Combat-related mental health disorders such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or traumatic brain injury (TBI) are often a result of combat stress exposure that is intense or prolonged (Mental Health Advisory Team Five, 2008)
 - Individuals with PTSD have a greater likelihood of mood and anxiety disorders, substance use disorders, elevated risk of suicide attempts

Soldiers Serving in Afghanistan and Iraq Returning with Mental Health Problems

(Pentagon's Mental Health Task Force 2007)



Post Traumatic Stress Disorder



Target Population's Involvement with Criminal Justice System

- Prevalence of mental health disorders among Iraq and Afghanistan War veterans increases after they leave the service and attempt to reintegrate into our communities (Milliken, Auchterlonie, & Hoge, 2007)
- Behavior that enhances survival in a war zone may lead to confrontation, arrest, and incarceration in a civilian community
 - Aggressive driving, carrying weapons, hyper-vigilance, rapid response to threatening encounters—perceived or real—are all appropriate defenses in a combat zone but tend to cause problems on the home front

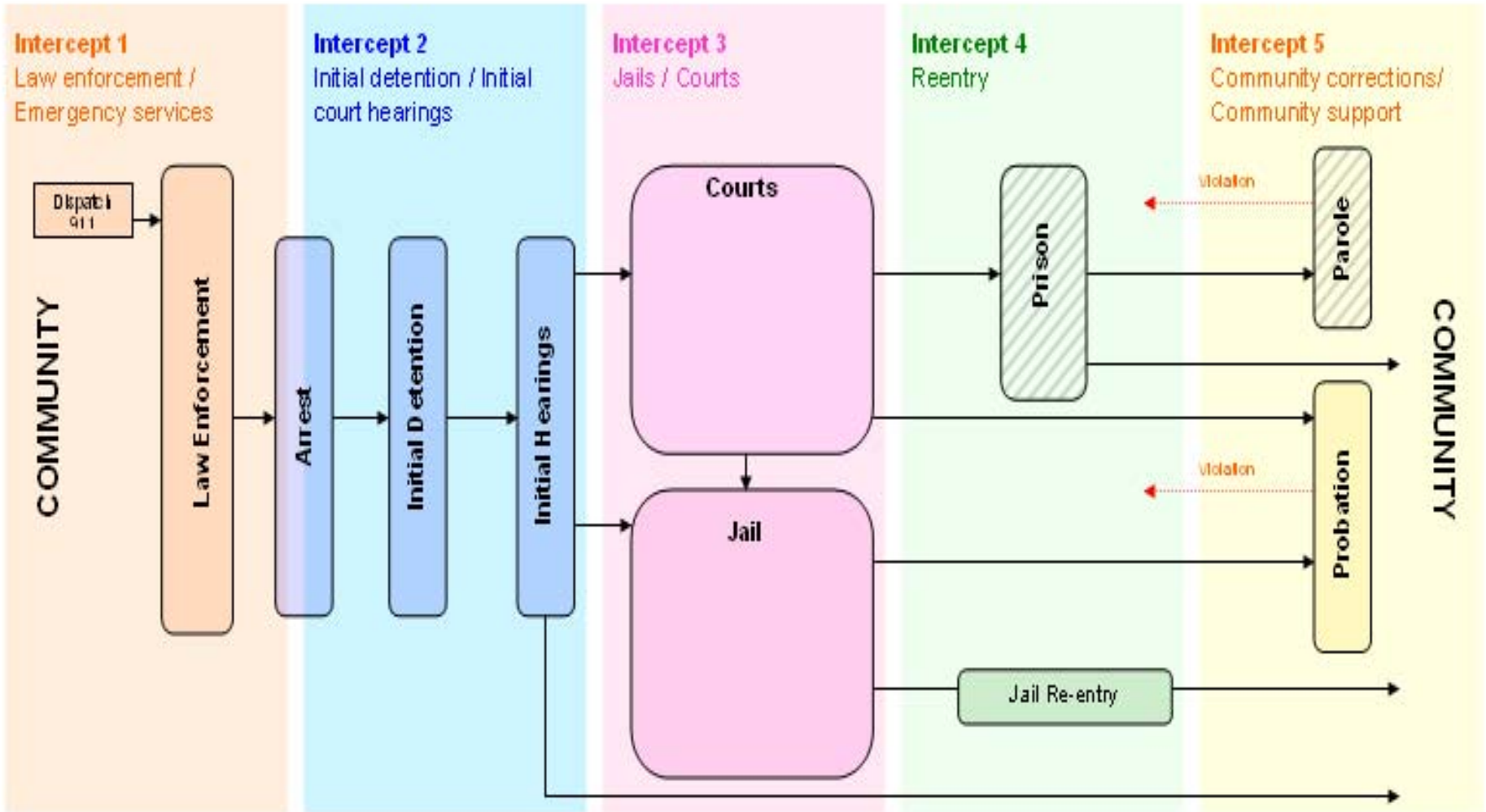
Target Population's Involvement with Criminal Justice System

- Approximately 10 % of all adults detained in U.S. jails and prisons are military veterans (Noonan & Mumola, 2007; Greenberg & Rosenheck, 2008)
- 7 % (3,000 military veterans) of PA's total state prison population are veterans (Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, 2008)
- Currently, Pennsylvania does not have a comprehensive, systematic, statewide method for identifying veterans who are detained in county jails
- No reliable data on the total numbers, demographics, or mental health status of veterans incarcerated in jails in Pennsylvania

Criteria for Selecting Communities as Pilot Projects: **Allegheny & Philadelphia**

- Large number of military veterans residing in both communities
- Allegheny County and Philadelphia have well-established and high-functioning mental health jail diversion projects that can be adapted to serve significant numbers of veterans
- Both communities have implemented exemplary jail diversion programs for people with serious mental illness that are based on the Sequential Intercept Model

Sequential Intercepts for Change: Criminal Justice – Mental Health Partnerships



Overview of Pilot Communities: Allegheny County

- The Allegheny County Office of Behavioral Health (OBH), through its Justice Related Services, has developed a continuum of jail diversion programs to engage and link these individuals with needed services and support in the community
- OBH sought out and established strong partnerships with diverse stakeholders, including consumers, families, courts, offices of the district attorney and public defender, law enforcement, the County jail, County behavioral health provider system, other support service providers, and advocacy organizations.

Overview of Pilot Communities: Allegheny County

Success Addressing Intercept Two

1. *Justice Related Pre-booking (Jail) diversion program*
2. *Allegheny County Justice Related (Post-booking) Diversion Services*

Success Addressing Intercept Three

1. *Allegheny County Mental Health Court*
2. *Allegheny County Drug Court*
3. *Allegheny County Veteran's Court*

Overview of Pilot Communities: Philadelphia

- **Success Addressing Intercept One**

- *Philadelphia RESPONDS (Respond, Engage, Secure, Protect, and address Ongoing Needs through Delivery of Services) Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)*
- The Mental Health Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania awarded their prestigious “Bell of Hope” Award to the Philadelphia Police Department in recognition of the department’s support of the Philadelphia RESPONDS Crisis Intervention Team

Proposed Implementation

Two-Pronged Approach to address the needs of Target Population:

- 1.) Statewide infrastructure development to support a comprehensive continuum of care and supports to divert veterans from the criminal justice system to community-based trauma informed and trauma specific treatment and recovery services
- 2.) Pilot projects in Allegheny County and Philadelphia enhancing existing diversion processes to demonstrate the inclusion and targeted focus on veterans with trauma-related disorders

Statewide Advisory Committee (SAC)

Proposed Membership

- **State Mental Health Agency**
- **Substance Abuse Services of the Dept. of Public Welfare**
- **Representatives from parole and probation**
- **Representatives from military components**
- **Local government veterans associations**
- **State Judiciary**
- **State Medicaid**
- **Pilot sites of Philadelphia and Allegheny**
- **Veterans' organizations; veterans families**
- **In addition - numerous organizations that have expressed interest in the high priority of the jail diversion of veterans**

SAC Goals

- **SAC in collaboration with Philadelphia and Allegheny Advisory Committees will design the specifics of the local jail diversion program for veterans with trauma related illnesses with the goals of:**
 - **Designing specific Philadelphia and Allegheny pilot plans to be included in a larger statewide strategic plan for trauma informed integrated service system**
 - **Identifying resources to support statewide comprehensive services during and after federal funding**
 - **Working closely with evaluators from Drexel who will contribute a broad range of expertise in areas of criminal justice, research design, and treatment of trauma-related disorders**
- **SAC will oversee evaluations of the pilot programs and statewide infrastructure developments**

SAC Goals

- Play a pivotal role in addressing gaps in knowledge concerning Pennsylvania jail diversion for veterans
 - Grant proposes building a database of all 67 PA counties that will include a description of diversion efforts for target population and a contact person for each county
 - Plans to implement during Year 1 of the grant

SAC Partnerships

- **Mental Health and Justice Center of Excellence**
 - DPW and the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) have provided joint funding (\$500,000) for a Center of Excellence (CoE) for the development and improvement of programs serving adults with mental illness involved in the criminal justice system
 - SAC will include a representative from the Center of Excellence and will work closely together to promote mutual goals
 - Including an annual conference to promote the statewide expansion of jail diversion and recovery programs for veterans with trauma-related disorders
 - <http://www.pacenterofexcellence.pitt.edu/>

Engagement of Veterans for Jail Diversion and Trauma Integrated Services --- Philadelphia Pilot

- **Year 1: Planning**
- **Year 2: Intercept 1 --- Crisis Intervention Team**
 - Training for law enforcement and crisis response staff
 - Crisis Intervention Training will be modified to focus on making training more trauma informed and sensitive to needs of veterans
 - Trauma Recovery and Empowerment model (TREM) modified for veterans
 - Resources for Human Development, Inc. (RHD) will provide trauma-integrated treatment and recovery services for target population
 - Healing Ajax --- Vets to Vets engagement
 - Mentors through Kingdom Care Reentry Network
 - Focus on families with Family Resource Network
- **Year 3: Intercepts 2 & 3 --- Initial Hearings and Courts**

Engagement of Veterans for Jail Diversion and Trauma Integrated Services --- Allegheny Pilot

- **Year 1: Planning**
- **Year 2: Intercepts 2 & 3 --- Initial Hearings & Problem Solving Courts**
 - Develop specific mechanisms to engage and prioritize veterans for trauma integrated services once providers are identified during Year 1 planning stage
- **Year 3: Intercept 1 --- Crisis Intervention Team**

Activities

Statewide Advisory Committee

- Develop strategic plan
- Support pilots
- Maintain program continuity
- Replicate successful pilots statewide
- Develop strategies to sustain efforts

Pilots

- Improve identification
- Screen for trauma-related disorders
- Assess trauma-related disorders, mental illness, and co-occurring substance use disorders
- Engage effectively
- Increase knowledge and use of best practice
- Ensure availability of appropriate community services

Evaluation

- Evaluate effectiveness of pilots and disseminate results
- Consult with State Advisory Committee

Outcomes

Individual Level

- Reduced trauma related symptoms
- Improved functioning
- Reduced admissions to jail and time in jail
- Reduced re-arrests

Program Level

- Systematic strategies for identifying veterans
- Increased diversion alternatives for police, jail, and courts
- Increased expertise by criminal justice and mental health staff in effectively addressing the target population

System Level

- Improved collaboration between VA and local criminal justice, mental health, and supporting services
- Increased capacity at all levels for trauma informed integrated services

Timeline:

- Year 1 --- Planning
- Year 2 --- Tests of Pilots
 - Philadelphia: Intercept 1--- Crisis Intervention Team
 - Allegheny C: Intercepts 2 & 3 --- Initial Hearings & Courts
- Year 3 --- Tests of Pilots
 - Philadelphia: Intercepts 2 & 3
 - Allegheny C: Intercept 1
- Year 4 --- Statewide Implementation
- Year 5 --- Statewide Implementation (cont.)

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