



National Association of Probation Executives
Supporting Executives in Community Supervision Agencies

Monthly Newsletter

March 2026

Medicaid Expansion in Jails & Prisons: What New Federal Momentum Means for Probation Leaders

Across the country, states are accelerating efforts to reinstate Medicaid coverage for individuals prior to release from jails and prisons, following new federal guidance and growing bipartisan recognition that untreated health conditions drive recidivism, emergency costs, and community instability.

A New York Times report highlights how this shift is reshaping correctional health care and reentry planning. The article underscores a central theme: continuity of care is no longer simply nice to have; it is becoming a structural expectation. For probation executives, this policy movement has direct operational implications, from caseload needs to community-based treatment coordination. NAPE will be working closely with Holon Health to bring you more information on this topic.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2026/03/13/health/medicaid-jail-prison-health-care.html>

Here's Why It Matters for Probation

States nationwide are activating Medicaid before release from jails and prisons. This shift could transform health access, supervision outcomes, and community safety.

The Reentry Health Gap

- High overdose risk in first 30 days
- Untreated mental illness & addiction
- No insurance = no care
- Leads to violations, crises, and instability

Medicaid Coverage Can Start Before Release

- 30–90 days pre-release enrollment
- Medication continuity
- Warm handoffs to community providers
- Better data sharing

Better Health = Better Supervision

- Clients arrive insured

- Immediate access to treatment
- Fewer crisis-driven violations
- More stability in the first weeks

Medicaid Pays — Local Budgets Breathe

- Treatment costs shift away from counties
- Providers expand capacity
- More resources for specialized caseloads & reentry staff

What Probation Leaders Can Do Action Steps for NAPE Members

- Build partnerships with Medicaid agencies
- Integrate Medicaid status into reentry planning
- Map local treatment capacity
- Track outcomes to guide policy & funding

Additional Reading

https://csgjusticecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Medicaid-Basics-for-Correctional-Leaders-and-Agencies_v8_508.pdf

<https://hoodline.com/2026/03/santa-clara-inmates-now-leave-jail-with-a-doctor-s-plan-not-just-a-plastic-bag>

<https://healthandreentryproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Harp-MedicaidReentry-March2025.pdf>

The Corporate Corner



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We invite members to share information about NAPE with other community supervision executives to help expand our network and strengthen our opportunities, data, and expertise. Affordable annual NAPE membership options are available and can be purchased/renewed at napehome.org
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NAPE is dedicated to enhancing the professionalism and effectiveness in the field of community corrections by creating a national network for executives, bringing about positive change in the field, and making available a pool of experts in community corrections management, program development, training, and research.

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