

BJA-Funded Justice and Mental Health Resources

GRANT PROGRAMS

Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program

Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act (MIOTCRA, Public Law 108-414) was signed into law by President Bush in 2004 and authorized a \$50 million grant program to be administered by the Department of Justice (DOJ). This law created the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCPC) to help states and counties design and implement collaborative efforts between criminal justice and mental health systems.

In 2008, Congress reauthorized the MIOTCRA program for an additional 5 years. The reauthorization bill also expanded training for law enforcement to identify and respond appropriately to individuals with mental illnesses, and supported the development of law enforcement receiving centers as alternatives to jail booking, to assess individuals in custody for mental health and substance abuse treatment needs.

Funding History:

\$5 million in FYs 2006 and 2007

\$6.5 million in FY 2008

\$10 million in FY 2009

\$12 million in FY 2010

\$10,770,600 in FY 2011

\$9 million in FY 2012

\$9 million in FY 2013

\$8,250,000 in FY 2014

PUBLICATIONS/REPORTS

Women's pathways to jail: The roles & intersections of serious mental illness & trauma

The rate of incarceration of women has increased substantially in recent decades, with a 31% increase between 2000 and 2011. Female offenders appear to have different risk factors for offending than do

male offenders. In particular, female offenders report greater incidence of mental health problems and serious mental illness than do male offenders) and higher rates of substance dependence as well as greater incidence of past physical and sexual abuse. Other researchers also have noted elevated rates of experiences of interpersonal trauma, substance dependence, and associated symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder in female offenders. This BJA-funded multi-site study addresses critical gaps in the literature by assessing the prevalence of serious mental illness, posttraumatic stress disorder, and substance use disorders in women in jail and pathways to jail for women with and without serious mental illness. The study is available at www.bja.gov/Publications/Women_Pathways_to_Jail.pdf.

Intersection of the Criminal Justice and Mental Health Systems Publications

BJA has partnered with the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center, and in many instances, other federal departments such as the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), to publish and disseminate 15 publications related to the intersection of the criminal justice and mental health systems.

The publications listed below can also be found on the Justice Center's web site at http://consensusproject.org/jc_publication. Publications denoted with an asterisk (*) were also funded by partner federal agencies.

For Law Enforcement:

- Improving Responses to People with Mental Illnesses: Tailoring Law Enforcement Initiatives to Individual Jurisdictions
- Improving Responses to People with Mental Illnesses: The Essential Elements of a Specialized Law Enforcement-Based Program
- Improving Responses to People with Mental illnesses: Strategies for Effective Law Enforcement Training

For Courts:

- A Guide to Collecting Mental Health Court Outcome Data
- A Guide to Mental Health Court Design and Implementation
- A Guide to the Role of Crime Victims in Mental Health Courts*
- Improving Responses to People with Mental Illnesses: The Essential Elements of a Mental Health Court
- Navigating the Mental Health Maze: A Guide for Court Practitioners

For Corrections/Community Corrections:

- Adults with Behavioral Health Needs Under Correctional Supervision: A Shared Framework for Reducing Recidivism and Promoting Recovery*

- Improving Outcomes for People with Mental Illness under Community Corrections Supervision: A Guide to Research-Informed Policy and Practice*
- Improving Responses to People with Mental Illnesses: The Essential Elements of Specialized Probation Initiatives*

For Victim Advocates/Service Providers:

- Responding to People Who Have Been Victimized by Individuals with Mental Illnesses*
- Violence against Women with Mental Illness

For General Criminal Justice/Mental Health Professionals:

- Criminal Justice/Mental Health Consensus Project*
- Information Sharing in Criminal Justice/Mental Health Collaborations: Working with HIPAA and Other Privacy Laws

National Policy Summit on Building Safer Communities: Improving Police Response to Persons with Mental Illness.

In May 2009, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), in collaboration with BJA, JEHT Foundation, and HHS’s Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration hosted a National Policy Summit on “Building Safer Communities: Improving Police Response to Persons with Mental Illness.” The goal of the summit was to begin a dialogue resulting in recommendations for local, state, federal, and tribal organizations that will improve the safety of community members and law enforcement officers when responding to crisis calls involving a person with mental illness. These recommendations are intended to reduce trauma, injury, or death during mental health crisis calls and to promote dialogue between law enforcement, community providers, and partners that will sustain short and long term improvement in crisis call response, treatment, and recovery around the United States. The final report is available at: www.theiacp.org/Building-Safer-Communities-Improving-Police-Response-to-Persons-with-Mental-Illness.

WEBINARS

Since 2009, BJA, with additional support from other departments, has funded 30 webinars targeted at criminal justice and mental health system stakeholders around the topics of criminal justice and mental health. Webinars are unique in that they offer the ability to allow members of the field to interact with one another and experts in the field, while saving on the cost of traveling to meet in person. All

webinars supported by BJA, as well as other federal partners, are open to the public and stored on the Justice Center’s website for distance-learning opportunities.

Of particular note are the following webinars:

- Child Trauma and Juvenile Justice: Prevalence, Impact, and Treatment
- Improving Mental Health Court Response to Crime Victims
- Mental Illness and Violence

All Justice Center webinars can be found at <http://consensusproject.org/technical-assistance/webinars>.

<i>CURRICULA</i>

Developing a Mental Health Court: An Interdisciplinary Curriculum

BJA provided grant funds in 2010 to the CSG Justice Center to develop an interdisciplinary mental health court curriculum. This curriculum brings together interviews with experts from over 20 states into an accessible curriculum that includes both online and live elements. The curriculum can also be adapted for diverse learning needs, including introductions to behavioral health and criminal justice, discussion of the latest research from behavioral health and criminology, program design decisions, and tips for program management and sustainability. The curriculum is available online at <http://learning.justicecenter.csg.org/>. Technical assistance is available from the Justice Center for states and localities that are interested in using or adapting the curriculum.

Law Enforcement Response to Special Populations

- Community engagement, assessment, and implementation curriculum;
- Law enforcement response training curriculum; and
- Train the trainers curriculum.

The University of Memphis, in partnership with National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), and CIT International, has developed draft core elements curricula which includes not only law enforcement response training and train the trainers, but also a curriculum for community engagement, assessment, and implementation. The project includes a strategy for participants and trainers to evaluate the curriculum by creating a national template for curriculum evaluation using state and local programs to assist in identification of evaluation tools. The partner organizations will provide on-going technical assistance with the goal of creating programs that are permanent and self-sustaining. Please note that the curricula are still in development and not yet final, but the draft is accessible at: <http://cit.memphis.edu/bja.php>

RNR Simulation Tool

This project is in the final stages of development of a RNR Simulation Tool that can assist local, state, and/or federal agencies to use the risk-need-responsivity approach in practice through defining the type and nature of correctional options available in their jurisdictions. This tool, which is still in development, will allow practitioners to assess the programs they already provide, based on intensity of liberty restrictions, treatment offered, content, and quality. BJA is also supporting the development of a tool that will allow practitioners to assess an individual's programming needs based on risk and criminogenic needs. The user will enter the individual's risk level and the number of criminogenic needs he/she has, then the tool will recommend programming for that individual. The tool is accessible at www.gmuace.org/research_rnr.html.