

Lake County, Florida:

Taking Action for Change

Transforming Services for Persons with Mental Illness in

Objectives of the Cross-Systems Mapping Exercise

The Cross-Systems Mapping Exercise had three primary objectives:

1. The development of a comprehensive picture of how people with mental illness and co-occurring disorders flow through the Lake County criminal justice system along five distinct intercept points: Law Enforcement and Emergency Services (Intercept 1), Initial Detention/Initial Court Hearings (Intercept 2), Jails and Courts (Intercept 3), Community Re-entry (Intercept 4), and Community Corrections/Community Support (Intercept 5).
2. The identification of gaps, resources, and opportunities at each intercept point for individuals in the target population.
3. The development of priority areas for activities designed to improve system and service level responses for individuals in the target population.

The Lake County Cross-Systems Map created during the workshop is on the last page of this document.

Resources, and Opportunities

There are several features of the Lake County Systems Map that are particularly noteworthy. These include, but are not limited to the items listed below.

Existing Cross-Systems Partnerships and important relationships include:

- ❖ The CJMHSA Council has emerged as an important venue for cross-systems discussion
- ❖ The county commission has demonstrated interest in the overall planning process and support for discrete initiatives
- ❖ The recent diversion program agreed to between the State Attorney and the Public Defender, and supported by the County Commission, creates the foundation to include diversion of people with serious mental illnesses as the program unfolds
- ❖ A strong commitment to CIT training for law enforcement
- ❖ Establishment of the CJMHSA Council

Strengths Identified

- ❖ The County CJMHSA Planning Council has met several times and has established subcommittees
- ❖ Strong leadership and enthusiasm to improve the system is evident
- ❖ While the county population has grown significantly in recent years, participants in the mapping exercise identified a number of areas where intervention with a comparatively small group of individuals could have a positive impact
- ❖ Law enforcement and the courts are knowledgeable about relevant issues and appear willing to participate in cross-systems initiatives

Lake County Cross-Systems Map Narrative

The following information reflects the notes taken during the

- No mobile crisis team
- No formal linkage to services from jail
- Lack of adequate funding for detox beds
- Marchman Act difficult to use and so rarely used
- Outpatient commitment provisions of Ba

➤ **Identified Gaps – Re-entry (Intercept 4)**

- If benefits have been suspended while the person is in jail, it is difficult to get medication prescriptions filled
- There is inadequate shelter and housing for people leaving jail
- People leave jail without entitlement benefits and must apply on their own; the lack of benefits has an impact on their ability to obtain treatment
- Inadequate funding for treatment and services
- The person receives a 3 day supply of medication on leaving jail, in accordance with external standards, but this is often inadequate for the person's needs, particularly when the person is unable to immediately obtain medication on release to the community

Intercept V: Community Corrections / Community Support

After judicial disposition or upon release from incarceration, individuals can be placed under the supervision of a number of community corrections agencies. These include work release, state probation, and county probation. County probation officers appear to have more knowledge about a person's mental illness because of county screening on the issue. However, state probation officers have no formal way to learn whether a person has a mental illness or treatment history.

As noted above, individuals with documented mental illness are provided with a three day supply of medication when released from county jail into the community. County probation in particular has developed a good working relationship with Lifestream to keep informed about the person's adherence to treatment.

Also as noted above, there is no assistance with reinstating social security or Medicaid benefits; leaving many without the means to obtain needed medication and/or access to medical attention.

➤ **Identified Gaps - Community Corrections / Community Support (Intercept 5)**

- Very little knowledge made available for probation at either state or county level, more however for latter because of county intake screening
- Huge gap in numbers of people not being served by case management (40 people being managed by a case manager; 20 if juvenile caseload)
- Not much help with people on probation being given help with securing entitlements and social services

The Lake County Action Plan

Subsequent to the completion of the Systems Mapping exercise, the assembled stakeholders began to define specific steps that could be taken to address the gaps identified in the group discussion about the systems map. Four priority areas were identified, which included expanded use of outpatient civil commitment; data sharing; discharge planning from the criminal justice system; and pre-adjudication issues, including mobile crisis services. These priority areas are outlined on the following pages.

Priority Area 1: Outpatient civil commitment				
Objective		Action Step	Who	When
1.1	Determine whether the Baker Act provisions permitting outpatient civil commitment can be used more frequently, particularly with individuals with mental illnesses in the jail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Obtain more information about how best to use Outpatient Commitment (OPC) and in what circumstances ▪ Screen people in jail on whether they meet criteria for OPC ▪ Evaluate use of OPC and potential funding for services associated with it 	Mike Dwyer Howard Lawrence Mike Dwyer; Karen Rogers	2 weeks from report On-going Immediately and on-going

Priority Area 2: Communications/Data sharing				
Objective		Action Step	Who	When
2.1	Improve sharing of relevant data and information to improve treatment coordination and cross-system collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create steering committee to identify barriers to information sharing ▪ Assure expansion and better dissemination of county resource guide ▪ Create more educational opportunities for public and stakeholders on mental illness/criminal justice issues 	Duane Zimmerman	Four weeks from report

4.3	Continue expansion of community competency restoration programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="724 191 1453 324">▪ Determine whether competency restoration decisions can occur more quickly with better and more frequent information made available to the courts		
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Conclusions and Recommendations: Summary

A process such as the Cross-Systems Mapping & Taking Action for Change workshop can result in the acknowledgment of a somewhat daunting list of service gaps. In this respect, Lake County like many Florida counties and indeed like many jurisdictions in the United States. At the same time, Lake County has important strengths.

- ❖ First, the individuals who participated in this workshop represented all of the major stakeholders necessary to accomplish change in this area and the planning meetings that have occurred over the last few months have opened up communications across agency boundaries. This is a pre-requisite for system planning and change.
- ❖ Second, the discussion and comments during the day and a half were open and not defensive, but rather were focused on identifying problems and solutions.
- ❖ Third, the active involvement of local law enforcement, the courts, the public defender and state attorney, as well as the county commission, creates a political foundation for change that is very well-developed and provides the basis for incremental change, over time.

As Lake County moves forward in addressing the issues identified during this process, there are three issues in particular that may be of particular importance.

- ❖ First, the planning process over time needs to identify the specific points in the process where intervention is possible and might have the biggest impact. It is impossible within existing resources to resolve every problem identified in a planning process, but it is possible to identify the potential points where an intervention might make the most difference.
- ❖ Second, it is worth inventorying the data that are currently available in making this judgment and identifying what types of data that could be useful but either are not collected or not retained in an accessible data base. The USF-FMHI CJMHS Technical Assistance Center can assist in this task.
- ❖ Third, it is critical that the planning process not lose the momentum created to date. Planning meetings involving all relevant stakeholders should be conducted on a regular basis and assigned priority by stakeholders. In addition, there are a number of resources available to Lake County to accomplish some of the tasks identified during the workshop as next steps. Those resources should be utilized whenever possible to expand the capacity of the planning group.

In closing, we would like to thank Lake County for allowing the CJMHS Technical Assistance Center to facilitate this workshop. In particular we would like to thank Fletcher Smith and B.E. Thompson for their work in handling the logistics for the mapping session. We look forward to continuing to work with Lake County.

Resources

Website Resources and Partners	
Florida Criminal Justice Mental Health and Substance Abuse Technical Assistance Center	www.floridatac.org
Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute Department of Mental Health Law and Policy	http://mhlp.fmhi.usf.edu
Florida Partners in Crisis	http://www.flpic.org
Justice Center	www.justicecenter.csg.org
Policy Research Associates	www.prainc.com
National GAINS Center/ TAPA Center for Jail Diversion	www.gainscenter.samhsa.gov

Other Web Resources	
Center for Mental Health Services	www.mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/cmhs
Center for Substance Abuse Prevention	www.prevention.samhsa.gov
Center for Substance Abuse Treatment	www.csat.samhsa.gov
Council of State Governments Consensus Project	www.consensusproject.org
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill	www.nami.org
National Center on Cultural Competence	www11.georgetown.edu/research/gucchd/nccc/
National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information	www.health.org
National Criminal Justice Reference Service	www.ncjrs.org
National Institute of Corrections	www.nicic.org
National Institute on Drug Abuse	www.nida.nih.gov
Office of Justice Programs	www.ojp.usdoj.gov
Partners for Recovery	www.partnersforrecovery.samhsa.gov
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration	www.samhsa.gov

