

Monroe County, Florida: Taking Action for Change Transforming Services for Persons with Mental Illness in Contact with the Criminal Justice System

Introduction

This report summarizes the Cross-Systems Mapping & Taking Action for Change workshop held in Monroe County, Florida on April 8th and 9th 2008. The workshop was facilitated by the Florida Criminal Justice Mental Health and Substance Abuse (CJMHS) Technical Assistance Center at Florida Mental Health Institute (FMHI), University of South Florida (USF). This report includes:

- 3 A brief review of the origins and background for the workshop
- 3 A summary of the information gathered at the workshop
- 3 A cross-systems intercept map as developed by the group during the workshop
- 3 An action planning matrix as developed by the group
- 3 Observations, comments, and recommendations from the Florida CJMHS Technical Assistance Center to help Monroe County achieve its goals

Recommendations contained in this report are based on information received prior to or during the Cross-Systems Mapping & Taking Action for Change workshop.

Background

The Monroe County Criminal Justice Mental Health and Substance Abuse (CJMHS) Planning Council along with the full support of multiple local stakeholders requested that the Florida CJMHS Technical Assistance Center facilitate the Cross-Systems Sequential Intercept Model Mapping and Taking Action for Change in Monroe County, Florida to provide assistance with:

- 3 Creation of a map of the points of interface among all relevant systems
- 3 Identification of resources, gaps, and barriers in the existing systems
- 3 Development of a strategic action plan to promote progress in addressing the criminal justice diversion and treatment needs of the target population

The participants in the workshop included 18 individuals representing multiple stakeholder systems, including mental health, substance abuse treatment, human services, corrections, advocates, family members, consumers, law enforcement, and the courts. A complete list of participants is available in the resources section of this document. Mark Engelhardt, M.S., ACSW (FMHI), Michele Saunders, LCSW (Partners in Crisis), Cindy Schwartz, M.S., MBA (11th Judicial District) and Nicolette Springer, M.S. (FMHI) facilitated the workshop sessions.

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 Monroe 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 Monroe 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 Monroe County Systems Map that are particularly noteworthy. These include, but are not limited to the items listed below.

Existing Cross-Systems Partnerships include:

- 3 An in-Jail Suicide Prevention Taskforce – Chaired by Major Taylor
- 3 District 11 Co-rr /TTil 07/T76.7 : Comprehensive Continuous Integrated System of Care (CCISC Model) Strategic Plan – Dr. Kenneth Minkoff and Dr. Chris Cline
- 3 Southern Most Homeless Assistance League, lil 0c. lead entity for the Homeless Coalition
- 3 HUD Continuum of Care Application and other supportive housing resources
- 3 Keys Overnight Temporary Shelter (KOTS) – Interagency homeless shelter
- 3 Establishment of the CJMHSa Planning Council prior to the passage of the CJMHSa Act

Strengths Identified

- 3 Stakeholders have participated in classification meetings within the jail creating a portal for information. As a result of these meetings, issues such as length of stay, inmates needs during incarceration as well as discharge planning issues are being addressed.
- 3 Jail utilizes a screening tool for suicide assessment
- 3 Monroe County CJMHSa Planning Council has met several times and has established subcommittees
- 3 Strong leadership and enthusiasm to improve the system

Monroe County Cross-Systems Map Narrative

The following information reflects the notes taken during the *Cross-Systems Mapping* Exercise. These notes include a description of the map at each intercept point in the Sequential System Map by the Monroe County CJMHSA Planning Council

Intercept III: Jails / Courts

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, county probation, conditional release and pretrial services supervision.

Individuals with documented mental illness are provided with a three day supply of medication when released from county jail into the community. A follow up appointment is scheduled at the time of release; however due to a shortage of licensed mental health professionals appointments may be scheduled weeks beyond that date.

In addition, 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)

- › Lack of licensed mental health professionals
- › Lack of mental health follow up to assure mental health appointments are kept
- › No assistance with reinstating benefits
- › No specialized caseload for individuals with mental illness on release from jail or prison
- › Limited training
- › Inadequate follow up upon release from prison
- › Lack of family involvement
- › No peer involvement
- › No linkage to forensic case management

The Monroe County Action Plan

Subsequent to the completion of the Systems Mapping exercise, the assembled stakeholders began to define specific steps

Priority Area 1: Services				
Objective		Action Step	Who	When
1.1	Examine National Best Practices	Seek guidance from experts: § Florida TA Center www.floridatac.org § GAINS Center www.gainscenter.samhsa.gov § Justice Center www.justicecenter.csg.org	All members lead by Joe Laino	Ongoing
1.2	Range of Services	§ Workforce development § Increase residential programs		
1.3	Increase Service Capacity	§ Expand Service Delivery § Reevaluate assessment tools used to determine services - Brief Jail Screening Tool available at www.gainscenter.samhsa.gov		Long Range (2009)

Priority Area 2: Communications			
Objective	Action Step	Who	When

Priority Area 3: Training				
Objective		Action Step	WHO	WHEN
3.1	Address and schedule known training needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> § Baker Act § Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) § Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) § SOAR – Benefits Planning § Co-occurring Disorders 	Joe Laino	May May/June To be Scheduled To be Scheduled
3.2	Identify additional training needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> § Document current training § Promote cross training 		June Ongoing
3.3	Training Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> § Create an annual training plan 		Ongoing

Priority Area 4: Supportive Housing				
Objective		Action Step	Who	When
4.1	Expand Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> § Identify potential housing developers and supportive housing providers § Research National Best Practices (USF-FMHI) 		June Ongoing
4.2	Explore other supportive housing resources and innovations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> § United States Interagency Council on Homelessness www.ich.gov § VA Per Diem Program § 		

Priority Area 5: Community Resources

Objective		Action Step	Who	When
5.1	To Identify Key Community Leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> § Follow Up with Leaders § Politicians § County Commissioners, § Community Leaders § Grant Managers 	PR Committee	Ongoing
5.2	To Identify Private Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> § Business Community § Providers § Foundations 		Ongoing

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

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Screen for
Pretrial
Release or
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