Jail Diversion & Behavioral Health

Correctional Health Reentry Meeting

Mandy Gilman, Director of Public Policy & Research
Association for Behavioral Healthcare
Association for Behavioral Healthcare

- Statewide association of mental health and addiction treatment provider organizations
- Our members are the Commonwealth’s system of community-based behavioral health care
- Services funded by Department of Mental Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services, MassHealth, commercial insurers
- Our mission is to lead in promoting and advocating for community-based mental health and addiction treatment services
- Over 80 members across Massachusetts who serve 81,000 individuals daily, and employ 37,500 people
Prevalence of Behavioral Health Disorders in Prison Population

- According to the Massachusetts Sheriffs Association, 42 percent of inmates in the county jail system have a form of mental illness and 26 percent have major mental illness.

- A report by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University estimates that 85 percent of the prison population either has a diagnosable need of addiction treatment services, committed their offense to get money to buy drugs, or was incarcerated for an alcohol or drug law violation.
Potential Intercept Points

Best clinical practices: The ultimate intercept

Law enforcement and emergency services

Postarrest: initial detention and initial hearings

Post-initial hearings: jail, courts, forensic evaluations, and forensic commitments

Reentry from jails, state prisons, and forensic hospitalization

Community corrections and community support

* The Sequential Intercept Model Viewed as a series of Filters. Created by Mark R. Munetz, M.D. and Patricia A. Griffin, Ph.D.
Types of Diversion in Massachusetts

• Police Training Programs
• Emergency Service Programs (ESPs) – Crisis Response Teams
• Mental Health Courts & Drug Courts
• Court Alternative Programming
NAMI Mass – Crisis Intervention & Diversion Project

• 2012 - NAMI Mass & ABH released report on people living with mental illness who become involved in the criminal justice system ([link](https://example.com))
  • “Building Alliances between the Mental Health and Criminal Justice Systems to Prevent Unnecessary Arrests”
    • people with serious mental illness are at far greater risk of arrest than the general population;
    • absent treatment, adults and youth are arrested and incarcerated for behaviors that may reflect symptoms of their illness rather than for criminal conduct;
    • arrest has become an alternative to treatment; and
    • the lack of treatment also results in relapse, loss of employment and housing.
• Goal is to develop a statewide strategy to make high quality training on mental illness accessible to police departments in all 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts.
• Multidisciplinary Advisory Group
NAMI Mass – Crisis Intervention & Diversion Project

• Year 2 of the Project
• Working with the Municipal Police Training Committee to create an updated curriculum on mental illness for new police recruits
• Developing an online training platform for veteran officers
• Development of a regional training series for police chiefs and command officers
• Provide technical support to police departments interested in being trained
• Work with the Department of Mental Health to continue to fund more police training programs through the state budget
Emergency Services Programs (ESPs)

• Team concept
• ESPs use their expertise and knowledge of the community system and supports to connect individuals with most appropriate services
• Serve over 90,000 individuals per year, 20,000 of whom are children
• Divert 78% of children and 62% of adults to services other than inpatient hospitalization
Emergency Service Programs

Call our teams at anytime to help with individuals in crisis

Statewide, toll free number
1-877-382-1609
Drug Courts

• 19 Drug Courts across the State
• Specialized Court sessions designed to help individuals dealing with addiction through intensive probation supervision, the resources of community treatment providers.
• Approach that involves rewards—from positive affirmation to reduced probation—and sanctions—admonishment to increased probation supervision or incarceration.
• Locally Based Drug Court Teams
• The Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) was recently awarded a 3-year, $1.2 million federal grant through the Bureau of Justice Assistance to enhance drug courts in Massachusetts.
• Establish a statewide Drug Court data collection, reporting and information sharing system; launch a statewide training and technical assistance infrastructure to support the use of nationally-recognized evidence-based treatment strategies; further strengthen relationships between community-based treatment providers and Drug Court Teams.
Court Alternative Program (CAP) – New Bedford

• Funded through BSAS a Community-Base Court Alternative Program

• Therapeutic jail diversion program for clients facing incarceration for criminal matters caused by addiction

• Programs for both Men & Women, 90-day residential stabilization program followed by 9 months of community-based case management

• Referrals made by probation officers, defense attorneys & District Attorney’s offices
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