SUMMARY: Process Measures at the Interface Between the Justice System and Behavioral Health: Advancing Practice and Outcomes

Guiding Principles

1. **Collaboration.** The many different agencies that make up the criminal justice and behavioral health systems in each jurisdiction must work collaboratively to ensure that there is treatment available for people involved in the justice system who have substance use disorders, mental disorders, or co-occurring substance use and mental disorders.

2. **Access and Retention.** Jointly facilitating access to and retention in behavioral health services by criminal justice and behavioral health partners is essential for achieving better behavioral health outcomes for people involved with the justice system.

3. **Options for Care.** Individuals in the justice system who have behavioral health needs should have access to the appropriate level of care.

4. **Process Measurement.** Process measures provide the means to assess whether partners (justice, behavior health, or both) have met their goals of providing access to, retaining, and completing the appropriate level of care for people who have behavioral health disorders.

5. **Quality and Joint Accountability.** Process measures can promote quality and joint accountability in the delivery of substance use and mental disorders services.

Interface Process Measures

Set 1: Identification and Referral (Systems Level)

- **Screening Rate:** Percentage of people (arrestees, defendants, inmates, probationers/parolees) who screened positive for behavioral health issues using a validated screening tool

- **Clinical Assessment Rate:** Percentage of people (arrestees, defendants, inmates, probationers/parolees) clinically assessed using a validated assessment procedure as needing behavioral health services

- **Referral Rate:** Percentage of people (arrestees, defendants, inmates, probationers/parolees) screened or assessed for behavioral health disorders who are referred to a treatment program or linked to services

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1 Of the below process measures, those marked with an asterisk (*) are prioritized
• *Initiation*: Percentage of people who had been referred to behavioral health services who start services within 14 days of the screening or clinical assessment

Set 2: Engagement and Completion (Individual Level)

• *Engagement*: The individual participates in at least two treatment sessions within a 30-day period of initiation

• Retention: Length of stay in treatment for different levels of care including outpatient treatment, intensive outpatient treatment, therapeutic community, and counseling services

• *Successful Completion Rate*: Percentage of individuals (arrestees, defendants, inmates, probationers/parolees) who successfully complete treatment

• Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Rate: Percentage of individuals (arrestees, defendants, inmates, probationers/parolees) screened or assessed for behavioral health disorders who require medication and who are provided medication in a justice setting

• Compliance with Treatment Plan: Percentage of individuals who are in compliance with their treatment plans developed by the behavioral health specialist and the individual

Set 3: Recovery Management (Individual Level)

• *Continuum of Care*: Percentage of individuals who transitioned from one program to another (step up or step down) within 30 days

• Continuity of Care: Percentage of individuals who transitioned from one phase of programming to another within 30 days

• Transitioning of Care: Percentage of individuals who moved from one type of programming (i.e. substance use or mental disorder) to another, such as vocational or educational services

Set 4: Access Measures and Systematic Responsivity (Systems Level)

• *Uniform Screening Protocols*: A core set of screening processes and criteria accepted by justice and treatment agencies to identify individuals with substance use and mental disorders.

• Insurance Enrollment: Percentage of individuals involved in the justice system who are enrolled in health insurance

• Enrolled in Insurance at Time of Release: Percentage of individuals released from prison or jail who are enrolled in health insurance

• Responsivity Rate: Percentage of individuals involved in the justice system who can access appropriate services for their specific needs
• **Availability of Programming**: Capacity of the system to provide appropriate levels of care for individuals (in prisons, probation/parole, jail, or community settings) who have specific needs

• **Access Rate**: Percentage of individuals who can access a given program

• **Participation Rate**: Percentage of individuals who partake in programs during their period of incarceration or supervision

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