Addressing Justice System Inequities Head-On

Thomas Eberly, Kristy Danford, Michael Daniels, Tiffany Iheanacho | August 2020
Agenda

• Welcome and Introductions
• Polling Questions
• Panel Discussion
• Questions and Answers
Section 1

- Welcome and Introductions
Webinar Moderator: Thomas Eberly, Program Director, Justice Management Institute
Featured Panelist:
Kristy Danford, Project Director, Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee, Charleston County, SC
Featured Panelist:
Michael Daniels,
Director, Justice Policies and Programs, Franklin County, OH
Featured Panelist:
Tiffany Iheanacho,
Justice Services Director,
Buncombe County, NC
Stepping Up Overview

Hundreds of counties across 43 states have joined Stepping Up to reduce the prevalence of mental illness in jails.

47% of the U.S. population lives in a Stepping Up county.

Approximately 2 million individuals who have serious mental illnesses are admitted into jail each year.

21 Innovator Counties are blazing the trail in data collection.

3 states have launched statewide Stepping Up initiatives.

www.Stepuptogether.org
JMHCP Technical Assistance Center—Coming Soon!

• Offers training, resources, and TA to jurisdictions to improve their approaches for people in their criminal justice systems who have mental illnesses or co-occurring substance use disorders

• TA will be tailored based on intensity of request and could include: consultations with CSG Justice Center staff, connections with subject matter experts and peers, virtual events and meetings, curated online resources

• Jurisdictions can request TA through a request form on the CSG Justice Center website
Justice Management Institute

Arlington, VA non-profit organization
Provides cutting edge research, education and training programs, and technical assistance in justice policy, planning, and operations

NNCJCC was created in 2010 to provide a forum for CJCCs to learn from each other and to build capacity for local system improvement.
The Role of Criminal Justice Coordinating Committees

• Buncombe County, North Carolina, buncombecounty.org/jrac

• Charleston County, South Carolina, cjcc.charlestoncounty.org/

• Franklin County, Ohio, jpp.franklincountyohio.gov/
Section 2

• Polling Questions
Section 3

• Panel Discussion
Approaching Disparities in the Justice and Public Health Systems

• As a leader in your system, how do you approach conversations that others may want to avoid or may cause unintended conflict?

• How do you use data to elevate the issue and frame conversations about disparities?

  • E.g., Data on overrepresentation of serious mental illness (SMI) in jails compared to general population; percentage of SMI in jail remains flat even with reductions in overall jail population; racial disparities along justice system decision points

• Recently, racism was declared a public health crisis in Buncombe and Franklin Counties. What does this mean and why was this action taken?
Facilitating Difficult Conversations as a Change Agent

• How do you identify potential partners and bring people together to have difficult conversations?
• What role does the community play in addressing disparities in the justice and behavioral health systems?
• What are some guiding principles that you feel are necessary when addressing system inequalities?
Developing Strategies and Implementing Change

• What strategies has your jurisdiction undertaken to address racial inequities in the justice and behavioral health systems?

• What obstacles have you faced in implementing changes and what unexpected opportunities have you seen?

• How can you keep the work moving forward and prevent factions from emerging?
Section 4

- Questions and Answers
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