Leading Change: Improving Courts’ Response to Mental Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disability Needs

GETTING STARTED

☐ Review these materials with your court administrator.

☐ Together, discuss the status of your court and community response to those with mental illness (MI) and intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

☐ What is the status of any other prior efforts undertaken in your county?

☐ Who has been involved in and provided leadership on key efforts in this area?

CONVENE STAKEHOLDERS

☐ Consider the many stakeholders who could be involved, and identify stakeholders relevant for your jurisdiction. Consult the list of potential stakeholders on the back of this card.

☐ Plan a first meeting, create an agenda, and invite stakeholders.

☐ Convene the first meeting of stakeholders.

AT YOUR FIRST MEETING

☐ Engage your stakeholders; do a lot of active listening.

☐ Propose “process mapping,” also known as “cross-systems mapping,” with your stakeholders to map the current MI/IDD landscape in your community. Emphasize the importance of this exercise to (1) understanding relevant systems as they currently exist, (2) identifying areas requiring improvement in community and court responses, and (3) fostering collaboration among stakeholders across disciplines.

☐ Begin mapping your local processes using the using Sequential Intercept Model (SIM). Examine the existing responses at each intercept point, and document stakeholder responses. Consult the Assessing the Mental Health and IDD Landscape by Intercept card for questions to facilitate discussion. Recognize that the mapping process may require multiple meetings and input by a variety of stakeholders.

☐ Decide the frequency of meetings necessary to lead change in your community. Note that more frequent meetings may be necessary in the beginning to establish the workgroup, map local processes, identify gaps and barriers, and developing goals and strategies for improving responses.

☐ Create a communication plan for sustained collaboration among stakeholders.

CONTINUE TO ASSESS THE MENTAL HEALTH AND IDD LANDSCAPE

☐ As you map your local processes using the SIM, identify gaps in community and court processes.

☐ Consider adapting protocols that have been developed in other counties and states to meet your needs.

☐ Develop strategies and protocols to address identified gaps.

☐ Solicit viewpoints to build a consensus among all stakeholders at each step.

Credit: National Center for State Courts and Arizona Supreme Court
**COLLECT DATA**

- Decide what data are important to collect to measure effective responses.
- Identify which agencies will be responsible for collecting data and reporting to the workgroup.
- Ensure stakeholders understand applicable privacy laws, and secure necessary data-sharing agreements.
- Utilize technology whenever possible.

**DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT IMPROVED RESPONSES**

- Develop an action plan, strategies, and timelines for implementation of responses.
- Develop plans to secure full leadership support.
- Develop strategies to overcome substantial barriers, including strategies for obtaining financial support.
- Consider grant and other funding opportunities to enable you to accomplish your goals.

**SUSTAIN YOUR EFFORTS**

- Conduct regular reviews through workgroup meetings, and adjust plans if necessary.
- Identify and implement outcome measures relevant to data collection.
- Reach out to the community on an ongoing basis through an established communication plan.
- Continue to engage your stakeholders. Regularly review your list of stakeholders and make adjustments as necessary.
- Establish a regular schedule for assessing response efforts.
- Facilitate necessary training for workgroup members and others involved in improving responses.

**Potential Stakeholders:**

- Consumers
- Advocates (children and adult)
- Local psychiatric hospital staff
- Mental health service providers
- Prevention services providers
- County officials
- Primary care providers
- Hospital emergency room personnel
- Faith-based organizations
- Probation department representatives
- Prosecutors
- Defense attorneys
- Judges/magistrates
- Education representatives
- Planning and Network Advisory Committee
- Veterans’ organization Stakeholder Type
- Family members
- Concerned citizens/others
- State hospital staff
- Substance abuse treatment providers
- Outreach, Screening, and Referral (OSAR)
- City officials
- Local health departments
- Emergency responders
- Community health & human service providers
- Parole department representatives
- Law enforcement
- Employers/business leaders
- Local consumer-led organizations