**SAMHSA Criminal Justice Resources to Better Serve**

**People with Serious Mental Illness and Substance Use Disorders**

**October 2018**

1. **GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation**

The SAMHSA GAINS Center focuses on expanding access to services for people with mental and/or substance use disorders who come into contact with the justice system and has a myriad of free resources available.

<https://www.samhsa.gov/gains-center>

1. **The One Mind Campaign seeks to ensure successful interactions between police officers and persons affected by mental illness.** The initiative focuses on united local communities, public safety organizations, and mental health organizations so that the three become "of one mind." To join the campaign, law enforcement agencies must pledge to implement four promising practices over a 12-36 month time frame.

**These practices include:** establishing a clearly defined and sustainable partnership with a community mental health organization, developing a model policy to implement police response to persons affected by mental illness, training and certifying sworn officers and selected non-sworn staff in mental health first aid training or other equivalent mental health awareness course, and providing crisis intervention team training.

<https://www.theiacp.org/projects/one-mind-campaign>

1. **Serving Safely** is a national initiative designed to improve interactions between police and persons affected by mental illnesses and developmental disabilities. The initiative offers free remote and on-site assistance to police departments and prosecutors’ offices through training, evaluation, and guidance specific to your agency’s needs. Examples, among many others, include:

* Phone assessments identifying opportunities, resources, and next steps for your agency
* Assistance in developing and implementing policies and standard operating procedures
* CIT International’s emergency dispatcher training
* Access to NAMI’s network of speakers, including self-advocates and family members that can speak to their experiences with mental illness
* Arc’s Pathways to Justice training, which helps law enforcement, legal professionals, and victim service professionals better understand the unique challenges that people with developmental disabilities face in the justice system

<http://www.vera.org/projects/serving-safely>

1. **Stepping Up Initiative**

Stepping Up is a national initiative to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails. This initiative offers some free resources including webinars, a County Self-Assessment and the Stepping Up Resources Toolkit which provides [key resources](https://stepuptogether.org/key-resources) intended to assist counties with developing and implementing a systems-level, data-driven plan that can lead to measurable reductions in the number of people with mental illnesses in local jails.

<https://stepuptogether.org/>

1. **MacArthur Foundation - Safety and Justice Challenge**

The MacArthur Foundation began in 2015 with the selection of 20 jurisdictions from across the country to participate in a learning and leadership community called "the Safety and Justice Challenge Network," whose members were publicly committed to reducing their jail usage dramatically and making their local criminal justice systems fairer and more effective in the process. Teams from each of these jurisdictions were initially supported through a data analysis and system mapping process designed to identify local sources of unnecessary jail incarceration and racial and ethnic disparities in jail usage, and to enable collaborative leadership teams to generate comprehensive reform plans in response. A first round of implementation funding was awarded to a group of these sites in 2016, with the rest receiving smaller grants to support continued progress and planning. A second round of deep implementation grants was recently announced. Now a total of 20 Challenge Network implementation sites are working with a national consortium of expert consultants to make broad changes in their local systems—deflecting or diverting low-level offenders, piloting or expanding programs that connect people with sources of treatment and help instead of jail, eliminating inefficiencies and cutting processing times to shorten jail stays, and otherwise rethinking and redesigning their systems from the ground up.

<http://www.safetyandjusticechallenge.org/>

1. **Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program**

The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program is a community partnership of law enforcement, mental health and addiction professionals, individuals who live with mental illness and/or addiction disorders, their families and other advocates. It is an innovative first-responder model of police-based crisis intervention training to help persons with mental disorders and/or addictions access medical treatment rather than place them in the criminal justice system due to illness related behaviors.   It also promotes officer safety and the safety of the individual in crisis. The CIT Model was first developed in Memphis and has spread throughout the country. It is known as the “Memphis Model.”

CIT is a program that provides the foundation necessary to promote community and statewide solutions to assist individuals with a mental illness and/or addictions. The CIT Model reduces both stigma and the need for further involvement with the criminal justice system. CIT provides a forum for effective problem solving regarding the interaction between the criminal justice and mental health care system and creates the context for sustainable change. Research also shows that communities that prescribe to the CIT Program model, have higher success rates in resolving serious crisis situations.

<http://www.citinternational.org/>

1. **Sequential Intercept Model**

SAMHSA’s criminal justice work is organized around a framework for intervention referred to as the Sequential Intercept Model. This model identifies five key points for “intercepting” individuals with behavioral health issues, linking them to services and preventing further penetration into the criminal justice system. This model builds on collaboration between the criminal justice and behavioral health systems; highlights where to intercept individuals as they move through the criminal justice system; identifies critical decision-makers who can authorize movement away from the justice system and into treatment; and delineates essential partnerships among mental health, substance abuse, law enforcement, pre-trial services, courts, judges, jails, community corrections, social services, and others.

Learn more about the Sequential Intercept Model by contacting the GAINS Center (above) <https://www.samhsa.gov/gains-center>

1. **Municipal Courts: An Effective Tool for Diverting People with Mental and Substance Use Disorders from the Criminal Justice System**

This report examines the opportunities and challenges associated with municipal court diversion for people living with mental illness and substance use disorder conditions. It outlines elements for effective diversion, recovery-based engagement strategies, and proportional response.

<https://store.samhsa.gov/product/Municipal-Courts-An-Effective-Tool-for-Diverting-People-with-Mental-and-Substance-Use-Disorders-from-the-Criminal-Justice-System/All-New-Products/SMA15-4929>

1. **Screening and Assessment of Co-occurring Disorders in the Justice System**

This report provides evidence-based practices for screening and assessment of adults in the justice system who are living with mental illness, substance use disorders, or both. It discusses the importance of instrument selection for screening and assessing patients.

<https://store.samhsa.gov/product/Screening-and-Assessment-of-Co-occurring-Disorders-in-the-Justice-System/SMA15-4930>

1. **Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Methods for Using Data to Inform Practice**

This guide helps local systems use data to implement Crisis Intervention Team programs that can improve the safety and effectiveness of law enforcement response to people experiencing behavioral health crises. It provides information about building necessary partnerships, documenting program activities, identifying key metrics, establishing data collection processes, analyzing and reporting data, using data to improve programs, and expanding capacity to collect and use data. The guide is a companion to Practice Guidelines: Core Elements in Responding to Mental Health Crises

<https://store.samhsa.gov/product/Crisis-Intervention-Team-CIT-Methods-for-Using-Data-to-Inform-Practice-/All-New-Products/SMA18-5065>

1. **Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT): Promising Practices: An Overview**

This educational webinar, hosted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) Center for Mental Health Services, explores Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT)—a strategy that involves petitioning courts to order individuals experiencing serious mental illness (SMI) to enter and remain in community-based treatment for a specific period of time. Designed to work with families and courts, AOT promotes treatment of individuals while they continue to live in their homes and communities.  
  
During the one-hour webinar, participants will learn about the basics of AOT and how it supports recovery for individuals with SMI. Experts in the field will address both legal and clinical implications. Webinar participants will gain an understanding of the AOT program and watch a video segment from an AOT court.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZdypKoEyCI&feature=youtu.be>

1. **Adult Drug Courts and Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Dependence**

This guide highlights the use of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid use disorder in drug courts. It reviews effective medications, including methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone. The guide also provides strategies to increase the use of MAT in drug court programs.

<https://store.samhsa.gov/product/Adult-Drug-Courts-and-Medication-Assisted-Treatment-for-Opioid-Dependence/SMA14-4852>

1. **Crisis Services: Effectiveness, Cost-Effectiveness, and Funding Strategies**

This report summarizes the clinical and cost effectiveness of crisis services. It also presents case studies of approaches states are using to coordinate, consolidate, and blend funding sources to provide robust crisis services.

<https://store.samhsa.gov/product/Crisis-Services-Effectiveness-Cost-Effectiveness-and-Funding-Strategies/SMA14-4848>

1. **SAMHSA Store** - <https://store.samhsa.gov/>
2. **SAMHSA Grants** - <https://www.samhsa.gov/grants>