Improving Outpatient Service Delivery for Criminal Offenders with Serious Mental Illness

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The Challenge

SMI + justice problems = arrest-release-arrest.

Outpatient mental health services - inconsistent and lack coordination with the justice system.

Costs are preventable! positive correlation between outpatient mental health services and reduced recidivism.
**Desired Outcomes**

- **Successful coexistence in the community.**
  - Less victimization, exploitation, etc.
- **Safer Community-less crime.**
- **Lower costs associated with incarceration and justice procedures.**
- **Clinical needs may be addressed with an overall lower level of care.**
Improving Outcomes

Macro Level (System)
- Advocacy
- Collaboration

Micro Level (Person)
- Advocacy
- Collaboration
When the justice and mental health systems work together to help offenders with serious mental illness, they are more likely to avoid or reduce chronic justice involvement.
• As a team, we examine input from the mental health service providers and justice professionals.

• United approach to improving quality of life and community safety.

• Aligning priorities and setting team objectives.
A range of people who come together to explore the macro process.

1st How? System Collaboration

Focus on reducing recidivism

What are positive outcomes of collaboration between the justice and mental health systems, that worked in favor of offenders with mental illness?

Collaboration between systems

What does positive collaboration between these two systems look like?

Constructing and Maintaining

What process constructs and maintains a positive collaboration between the justice and mental health systems?
Objectives of System Collaboration

• Define effective practice associated with collaboration between systems.

• Identify risk factors for recidivism that can be mitigated with professional collaboration.

• Define roles and responsibilities of the professionals who help offenders with serious mental illness.
How can each professional encourage and assist the person in improving functional adaptive behavior in order to improve their quality of life in the community?

Focus on functioning in the community

Come to an agreement on strengths and needs. Agree on treatment priorities and outcomes.

Collaboration between professionals

Constructing and maintaining

What creates and maintains a positive collaboration between individual professionals?

A range of people who come together to explore the micro process.
Objectives of Case Collaboration

- Smooth transition to the community for offenders with serious mental illness.
- Increase functioning in 8 Dimensions of Wellness.
- Decrease Criminogenic thinking and behavior.
“It is not helpful to impose our own grid onto others. We need to understand their situation and their needs accurately, and this comes from listening to them, not coming in with our own assumptions.”

Matt Perman, *What's Best Next: How the Gospel Transforms the Way You Get Things Done*
Objectives of Advocacy

• Educate ourselves and others about the disadvantage of serious mental illness for offenders.

• Change attitudes and address misconceptions about the vulnerability of people with serious mental illness.
How Vulnerable Are They?

People with mental illness
11.8 times more likely to be victimized by violent crime:

- Rape and attempted rape: 22.5x more
- Sexual assault: 15x more
- Aggravated assault: 13.1x more
- Robbery with injury: 7.3x more
- Theft of property from a person: 140.4x more

FRONTLINE-Set Up for Failure...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Six Steps</th>
<th>Macro Level</th>
<th>Micro Level</th>
<th>Other</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Define Barriers and Needs.</td>
<td>Bureaucracy, Turf Issues, Funder Expectations, etc.</td>
<td>Lost Support, Secure Basic Needs, SA, etc.</td>
<td>Staff turnover, Current Events, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Assess Resources to Address Barriers and Needs.</td>
<td>Strong Leaders, Combined Funds, Community Support, Outreach conduits.</td>
<td>Natural Supports, Public Benefits, Service Hx, etc.</td>
<td>Advocates in other communities</td>
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<td>4. Determine a Collaborative Plan</td>
<td>Consensus, Funding, Assign Responsibilities</td>
<td>Combine Treatment Plans</td>
<td>Accountability Plan</td>
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<td>5. Follow the Plan Through.</td>
<td>Track unintended consequences, problem-solve unexpected issues.</td>
<td>Support the person, Encourage, Be Reliable</td>
<td>Expect the unexpected!</td>
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<td>6. Evaluate the Outcomes/Tweak Plan.</td>
<td>Ongoing quarterly meetings.</td>
<td>Regular Team Meetings, Transition out of Services</td>
<td>Hold each other Accountable</td>
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Define Barriers and Needs.

- Bureaucracy, Turf Issues, Funder Expectations, etc.
- Lost Support, Secure Basic Needs, SA, etc.
- Staff turnover, Current Events, etc.
Assess Resources to Address Barriers and Needs

- Strong Leaders, Combined Funds, Community Support, Outreach conduits.
- Natural Supports, Public Benefits, Service Hx, etc.
- Advocates in other communities
Brainstorm, Outreach, Education

- Review Case Examples,
- Examine solution options.
- Communication is key!
- Involve natural supports.
- Stakeholder Meetings.
Determine a Collaborative Plan

• Consensus,
• Funding,
• Assign Responsibilities
• Combine Treatment Plans
• Accountability Plan
Follow the Plan Through

- Track unintended consequences
- Problem-solve unexpected issues
- Support the person
- Encourage, Be Reliable
- Expect the unexpected!
Evaluate the Outcomes & Tweak the Plan

• Ongoing quarterly meetings.
• Regular Team Meetings
• Transition out of Services
• Hold each other Accountable.
Summary

- Improving outcomes for offenders with serious mental illness benefits communities and individuals.
- An effective, community approach requires combining collaboration and advocacy.
- The process must be nurtured in order to be sustained.
Discussion and Questions
Thank You!

for your attention!

The End