

Success, Resiliency and Recovery  
2017 Annual Nebraska Behavioral Conference

# **DUAL STIGMA: SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT**

# Presenters

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# Objectives

- ① The participant will be able to define the basic principles of forensic peer support.
- ① The participant will be able to describe the seven principles of MASSIVE Inc. and connect these principles to practice.
- ① The participant will be able to identify how forensic peer support as provided by MASSIVE Inc. decreases recidivism and increases community engagement.

# Recovery

**Recovery is “a process of change** through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life, and strive to reach their full potential.”

*Citation: U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Working definition of recovery, 2011.*

**For justice-involved individuals** with mental illness, especially, “it is important to support re-authoring a personal narrative, moving from ‘offender’ to community citizen as well as from ‘patienthood’ to personhood. Two critical factors that amplify the need for recovery-oriented care for people involved in the justice system include the level of social exclusion and trauma that a person experiences leading up to and as a result of convictions or incarcerations.”

*Citation: SAMHSA, Recovery to Practice, “Frequently Asked Questions,” 2011.*

# Forensic Peer Support

**“Forensic Peer Specialists effectively embody the potential** for recovery for people who confront the dual stigmas associated with serious mental illness and criminal justice system involvement. Forensic peer specialists are able to provide critical aid to persons in the early stages of re-entry, in much the same way that peer specialists who support peers with mental illness alone (i.e., without criminal justice system involvement), have been able to engage into treatment persons with serious mental illnesses.”

*Citation: Larry Davidson, Ph.D. & Michael Rowe, Ph.D., Peer Support within Criminal Justice Settings: The Role of Forensic Peer Specialists, CMHS National GAINS Center, 2008*

# The Intersection

According to a 2006 Bureau of Justice Statistics report, approximately 74% of state prisoners, 63% of federal prisoners and 76% of jail inmates met the criteria for a mental health disorder. An estimated 42% of state prisoners and 49% of jail inmates met the criteria for both a mental health and substance use disorder. Studies have found that for youth in the juvenile justice system, 50% to 70% met criteria for a mental disorder and 60% met criteria for a substance use disorder.

Citation: <https://www.samhsa.gov/criminal-juvenile-justice>

# Best Practice

The overarching theme of SAMHSA's work is to support treatment and recovery efforts through evidence-based and best practices in diversion and reentry. These practices are implemented on a robust platform of cross-system behavioral health and justice collaboration. SAMHSA approaches the work through:

- ① Identification of individuals with mental and substance use disorders
- ② Pre- and post-adjudication using evidence-based screening and assessment to ensure comprehensive treatment, supports, and services

# Best Practice (cont.)

- ④ Diversion of individuals from the justice system into home- and community-based treatment
- ④ Using evidence-based and promising practices demonstrated to be less costly and more successful than treatment provided in confinement settings
- ④ Provision of training and technical assistance for law enforcement officers, juvenile and family court judges, probation officers, and other judicial decision-makers
- ④ Assurance of equity of opportunities for diversion and linkage to community services and supports for all populations in order to decrease disproportionate minority contact with the justice system

# Strategic Points of Intervention: Re-entry is Key to Addressing Recidivism



Sources: Munetz and Griffin, "Use of the Sequential Intercept Model as an Approach to Decriminalization of People with Mental Illness," *Psychiatric Services*, 2006; SAMHSA, GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation, "Developing a Comprehensive Plan for Mental Health & Criminal Justice Collaboration: The Sequential Intercept Model."

# Forensics Peer Support

## Peer Support Throughout the Criminal Justice System

A multi-state survey conducted by CPPP staff found that state and local governments and community organizations are using forensic peer support in a variety of criminal justice settings:

- Specialty courts
- Jail diversion programs
- Jail-based competency restoration units
- State prisons and local jails
- Forensic units in state hospitals
- Jail “in-reach” re-entry programs
- Community-based re-entry services

# History

- In 2011, the Pennsylvania DOC launched a forensic peer support program in state prisons **training and certifying prison inmates to provide peer support to fellow inmates.**
- The Pennsylvania DOC **now employs peer specialist inmates in 18 of its 25** correctional institutions.

# History (cont.)

## Peer Support and Criminal Justice in Pennsylvania and Texas

- **Has a formal Certified Peer Specialist (CPS)** training and certification program.
- Established its CPS program through funding from a **Mental Health Transformation Grant** awarded in 2004.
- In 2007, received approval to include **CPS services as a Medicaid-reimbursable** component of mental health rehabilitative services.
- Has a **two-tiered correctional system**, with the centralized Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (DOC) operating facilities at the state level and autonomous counties operating jails at the local level.

*Source: Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, Pennsylvania's Department of Corrections: Certified Peer Support Specialist Program.*

# Forensics Peer Support

Of the **31 states** for which CPPP collected data, **five are home to a peer support program that operates in a correctional facility**. Only one state, Pennsylvania, is home to a large state-level public initiative as well as programming at the local county level. In **12 of the surveyed states**, forensic peer support is available in some **other criminal justice context** (e.g. mental health courts, see pull-out box on page 9). Additionally, **12 of the surveyed program or agency contacts** indicated that their state is actively considering **expanding its peer support programming into state or local correctional facilities**.

# Nebraska

- County level programs
- Private non profit organizations
- Future opportunities?

# Mission Statement

MASSIVE will provide education, support and learning opportunities for individuals who are justice involved or at risk of becoming involved in this system. Primary interventions include: peer support groups on incarceration prevention, community reentry, behavioral health, diversion, and finding a purpose beyond oneself through volunteering. Group members discuss barriers, recovery, employment options, dealing with trauma, and being a contributing member of society.

# MASSIVE Guiding Principles

- Unity
- Self-Determination
- Collective Work and Responsibility
- Cooperative Economics
- Purpose
- Creativity
- Faith

# Principles in Action

- ① Who
- ② What
- ③ When
- ④ Where
- ⑤ Outcomes
- ⑥ Future

QUESTIONS????

For more information contact

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