The Mentally III and California Criminal Justice:

Mental Health Implementation Task Force

Judge Richard J. Loftus, Jr.
Superior Court of Santa Clara County
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Sacramento, CA

It is now conventional wisdom that the justice system has demonized the mentally ill with mass incarceration

Then and Now

 In the 1950's, .67% of the American adults were held in either jails or mental institutions. 75% were in mental institutions.

Today, that same % is in custody, but 97% are in jail/prison.

Mentally III in Custody

- --The number of Mentally III in custody in CA has doubled since 2000
- --In California 9,000 Mentally III will be released from prison in 2015—many more from county jails

Incompetent to stand trial has overwhelmed the state hospital system

Task Force for Criminal Justice Collaboration on Mental Health Issues

Members represented

- Dept. of Mental Health
- Mental Health Directors
- Sheriffs
- Probation Chiefs
- Dept. of Corrections
- National Alliance on Mental Illness
- Police Chiefs
- District Attorneys
- Public Defenders
- Disability Rights
- County Counsel

Public Hearings

- Sacramento
- Los Angeles



874 Comments 66 Commentators

137 Recommendations

- Community-based services
- Enhanced case-processing practices
- Policies and procedure at correctional facilities
- Community supervision
- Juvenile practices
- Education

Mental Health Issues Implementation Task Force

Realignment

Mandatory Supervision Parole Supervision Prop 47

What we have done

Legislation

Rules of Court

Education

Communication

Collaboration

Support Legislative Changes



Revised Rule of Court 10.951 (1/1/2014)

- Add to regular, required criminal court meetings:
 - 1. County Mental Health Dept. Director
 - 2. County Alcohol & Drug Dept. Director
 - 3. Sheriff
 - 4. Police
 - 5. Parole
 - 6. Conditional Release Programs (CONREP)

Revised Rule of Court 10.952 (1/1/14)

The Presiding Judges or Criminal Supervising Judge in conjunction with justice partners are encouraged to adopt a local protocols for cases involving offenders with mental illness and/or cooccurring disorders utilizing evidenced based practices with the goal to reduce recidivism, provide better outcomes, safety and costs.

Judicial Education Revised Curriculum Developed Educational Tools



Collaboration with Justice Partners



Collaboration

- Los Angeles District Attorney's Mental Health Advisory Board Report
 - A Blueprint For Change
 - Plan notes it supports the Recommendations of the Task Force
 - Two of the Intercept Plans are chaired by Judges

What happens next

- Presentation of the Final Report to the Judicial Council –Dec 10,2015
 - Recommendations:
 - Continue this work through standing Advisory Committees
 - Expand the number of judges on these committees
 - Annually audit progress

What is yet to be done

- Assist Courts and Department of State
 Hospitals in addressing the crisis of the
 Incompetent to Stand Trial
- Develop legislative proposals on juvenile competence, early intervention and diversion, discharge planning
- Devise protocols for probation and parole supervision
- Address mental health issues for veterans, family and dependency cases

What is yet to be done

- Educate and address issues related to elderly populations: elder abuse, domestic violence, dementia, incarceration
- Continue to support legislative changes that address the issues of the mentally ill in the justice system
- Continue to collaborate with our justice partners concerning the mentally ill in the Justice System, treatment options, housing, common formularies,

What we cannot do

- Put in place working agreements between Probation/Parole and community service providers (#63)
- Screening on initial admission (#40)
- Coordinate drug formularies)#52)
- County Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol adopt integrated approaches for delivering services to MI and Co-Occ. (#2). Etc.

The Task Force for Criminal Justice Collaboration on Mental health Issues: Final Report

is available at:

http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/Mental_Health_Task _Force_Report_042011.pdf

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