



State of South Dakota Unified Judicial System



Office of the State Court Administrator

Telephone: (605) 773-3474
FAX: (605) 773-8437

500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

June 18, 2019

RE: Summit on Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Those with Mental Illness

Criminal Justice System Stakeholder:

The Unified Judicial System and system partners invite you to attend a Summit on Improving Criminal Justice Responses to those with Mental Illness at the Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center in Oacoma on August 13-14.

With the help of local and national experts, the Summit panels and speakers will examine key decision points in the criminal justice system, starting with the first interaction with law enforcement and concluding with reentry back into the community from jail. The Summit is designed to help participants identify local challenges, existing local resources, and priorities for action. By doing so, each community will leave the conference with a unique action plan to help improve the local response for individuals with a mental illness in the criminal justice system.

One of the purposes of the summit is to increase local collaboration. Participation of the various stakeholders will help each community identify their local strengths and needs, as well as the creation of a local action plan. Our goal is that each community send a multidisciplinary team that includes individuals from the various facets of the justice system. Your involvement in your local process makes you an asset to your team and gives you a unique perspective that can be used to improve the system's response and better serve the community, as well as the individual with a mental illness.

The suggested team composition includes, but is not limited to, the following representation:

- Police
- Sheriff's Office
- Jail Administration
- Judges
- Prosecutors
- Defense Attorneys
- County Commissioners
- Mental Health Providers
- Legislators
- Probation Officers

Our Mission: Justice for All

Our Vision: We are stewards of an open, effective, and accessible court system, worthy of the Public's trust and confidence.

Summit on Improving Criminal Justice Responses to those with Mental Illness

August 13, 1-5:15pm
August 14, 8-4pm
Arrowood Resort and Conference Center
1500 Shoreline Drive
Oacoma, South Dakota 57365

Purpose of Conference

The purpose for convening is to increase local collaboration to better address mental illness in the criminal justice system by engaging law enforcement, jails, courts, and mental health providers.

Conference Objectives

- ❖ Determine local challenges in each community;
- ❖ Identify existing local mental health resources;
- ❖ Develop action plans to better connect people to mental health services at different points in the criminal justice system

Conference Outcome

Participants will leave with a detailed community action plan to disrupt the cycle of criminal justice system involvement among people with serious mental illness. The action plan may include steps to increase opportunities to divert and connect people to mental health services before arrest, in the early part of the court process, and/or when they are released from jail.

Conference Partners

- Unified Judicial System
- Department of Social Services
- State Bar of South Dakota
- South Dakota Municipal League
- South Dakota Police Chiefs' Association
- South Dakota Council of Community Behavioral Health
- Minnehaha County Commission
- South Dakota Sheriffs' Association
- South Dakota State's Attorneys Association

Tuesday, August 13

1:00 Welcome *Chief Justice David Gilbertson*

1:15 Guest Speaker *38th Lt. Gov. Matt Michels*

Session 1: Law Enforcement Challenges and Gaps

Law enforcement contact with an individual with mental illness poses unique challenges to law enforcement when the individual is experiencing a mental health crisis. In a rural state, such challenges can be compounded by geographic difficulties when there are limited resources outside of placing the individual into custody. Session 1 explores ways that law enforcement can be better equipped to address such a situation in a way that is more beneficial for the officer, as well as the individual.

1:40 Panel *Chad Mosteller, Tessa Mitchell, and Sheriff Mike Milstead*

Participants will learn about Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training and the new statewide CIT Coordinator available to coordinate CIT training in local communities. Additionally, participants will learn about an online crisis response training resource currently in development.

2:15 Work Session 1 Introduction *TBD*

2:20 Work Session: Law Enforcement

Teams will be asked to identify and discuss the following items:

- Law enforcement challenges in responding to crises
- Law enforcement gaps in responding to crises

3:00 Report Out *Greg Sattizahn*

3:15 Break

Session 2: Jail Mental Health Resources and Challenges

By default, some jails have become a frequent provider of mental health services. However, jails are often not fully equipped to handle the needs of individuals with serious mental illness (SMI). Session 2 focuses on jail detention. The work session will challenge participants to consider what services are available to their local jails and what community resources might be available to assist jails.

3:30 Session 2 Introduction *Commander Rob Yantis*

3:40 Work Session: Jail Detention

Teams identify:

- Available resources for jails to provide MH services
- Jail challenges in detaining people with SMI

4:20 Report Out *Greg Sattizahn*

4:35 Panel *Sheriff Kurt Hall and Dr. Tom Stanage*

Partnering is one way that rural communities can overcome regional challenges. In South Dakota, there are several examples of local organizations working together to improve the responses to mental illness. During this panel, Faulk County's Sheriff Hall and Dr. Stanage of Lewis and Clark Behavioral Health Services will discuss how local collaboration has improved access to mental health services in local jails.

5:00 Wrap-up

Greg Sattizahn

5:15 Day 1 Concludes

Wednesday, August 14

8:30 Welcome *Greg Sattizahn*

8:35 Opening Speaker *TBD*

Session 3: Initial Court Hearing Decision-Making Tools

Interaction with the judicial system is a vital point for any individual involved in the justice system. Defendants with mental health concerns call for unique considerations. Session 4 will present participants with ideas about how initial court hearings can be an opportunity to connect people to services.

8:40 Panel *Judge Patrick McCann, Judge Jeffrey Connolly, TBD*

During this panel, participants will learn how judges in Codington County use mental health information from the jail in court, how the Pennington County Mental Health Court helps individuals post-adjudication, and diversion practices.

9:25 Work Session: Initial Court Hearing

Teams identify:

- Tools and resources judges have available for decision making
- Community-based options or supports judges have available for people with SMI released pretrial

10:00 Report Out *Greg Sattizahn*

10:30 Guest Speaker *Doris Fuller, Treatment Advocacy Center*

11:00 Break

Session 4: Community Reentry From Jail

One way to break the cycle of recidivism for individuals with a mental illness leaving a correctional facility is to connect them to mental health services. Session 4 will explore community mental health resources and ways to connect individuals to these resources.

11:10 Introduction to Session 4 *Terry Dosch*

11:15 Work Session: Reentry

Teams identify:

- Community mental health resources
- How people leaving jail are currently connected to those resources

11:50 Report Out *Greg Sattizahn*

12:00 Lunch

1:30 Guest Speaker *Former Sheriff Gary Raney, Former Ada County (Idaho) Sheriff*

Session 5: Putting it All Together: Creating a Community Action Plan

2:00 Introduction to Session 5 *Minnehaha County Commissioner Cindy Heiberger*

Building off all prior sessions, Session 5 is an opportunity for participants to create a community-specific action plan to address local priorities.

2:15 Work Session: Putting it All Together

Teams Identify:

- Teams do priority setting exercise
- Teams discuss possible solutions using structured questions
- Teams put together a community action plan using template

3:15 Report Out *Greg Sattizahn*

3:45 Conclusion *Greg Sattizahn*

4:00 Summit Concludes