National Judicial **Opioid Task Force** and National Judicial Task Force to **Examine State** Courts' Response to Mental Illness Overview and Recommendations



NJOTF Report

NJTFMH Report



REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OCTOBER 2022 REVISED FEB 2023

National Judicial Task Force to Examine State Courts' Response to Mental Illness



National Judicial Opioid Task Force

Recommendations

1. Judicial Leadership

- 2. Collaboration
- 3. Treatment and Services to Address Opioid Use Disorder
- 4. Court-Based Programs and Strategies to Address Opioid Use Disorder
- 5. Judicial Education Regarding Opioid Use Disorders
- 6. Legislation and Funding for Opioid and Other Use Disorders

Recommendations

LEAD

Create and support a state-level, inter-branch mental health task force and encourage and support local judges and courts in the creation of local or regional mental health task forces.

Consider the appointment of a behavioral health director/administrator and a team within the Administrative Office of the Courts to develop and implement improved court responses for courtinvolved individuals with serious mental illness;

Recommendations

EXAMINE

Utilizing the recommended models and best practice and policy recommendations of the Task Force undertake an assessment of the court system including state laws, court rules, policies, practices, and procedures across all case types involving individuals with serious mental illness.

Recommend and encourage judges to exercise their "power to convene" and support courts and communities in the use of the Leading Change Guides and Sequential Intercept Model to map resources, opportunities, and gaps, and develop plans to improve court and community responses to serious mental illness;

Recommendations

EDUCATE

Provide and support opportunities for the education and training of judges and court professionals on all aspects of serious mental illness and effective court responses.

Distribute and make available the tools, resources, and recommendations developed by the Task Force to all state and local judges and court professionals;

Recommendations

ADVOCATE

Support state efforts to utilize a public health model rather than a criminal justice approach to guide behavioral health policies, practices, and funding, including efforts to, when appropriate, deflect or divert cases involving individuals with mental illness from the court system and into treatment.

Advocate for funding and resources needed to implement a continuum of diversion programs, treatment, and related services to improve public safety as a more humane and cost-effective approach.

The Sequential Intercept Model



SAMHSA Sequential Intercept Model

https://www.samhsa.gov/criminal-juvenile-justice/sim-overview