

Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health Partnerships: Results of San Diego's Interprofessional Collaborative Practice Learning Academy and Curriculum for Mental Health Providers Working with the Justice Involved

Level

Intermediate

CE

CPA/BBS/BRN/CJER

Track

Clinical

Bio

Geoff Twitchell, PhD

Geoff is a licensed clinical psychologist with training and expertise in severe mental illness and addiction. He has worked in the area of forensics for the past 10 years, first as Treatment Director for San Diego County Probation and now in a new role in Sacramento County as Forensic Behavioral Health Division Manager. Geoff serves as liaison to county justice partners including Sheriff's Department, Public Defender, District Attorney's Office and Superior Court. Priority areas include system design, mental health diversion, and bridging public safety and behavioral health cultures for optimal client outcomes in the areas of recidivism, substance use and mental illness. Training incorporates the Interprofessional Collaborative Practice model and competencies. Geoff holds a clinical faculty appointment at the University of California San Diego. He received his Bachelor's from the University of Washington, his doctorate from Michigan State University and a Postdoctoral Fellowship at UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs.

Mack Jenkins, Chief Probation Officer (retired)

Mack's career in the justice system spans more than forty years. He retired as the chief probation officer for San Diego County. Over the course of his career Mack has developed expertise in the application of evidenced-based practices for community supervision and gained more than 25 years of experience working in drug courts and collaborative justice programs. He has served on a number of national boards including the National Association of Drug Court Professionals and Council of State Governments (CSG)/Justice Center. Mack is a past President of the Chief Probation Officers of California and former Vice President of the American Probation and Parole Association. He sits as a gubernatorial appointee on California's Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health which advises the Governor's office and state legislature on the intersection between the criminal justice system and behavioral health. He is also a legislative appointee to the California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA) Board of Directors. CALPIA oversees the operation of more than 120 businesses employing roughly 4000 prison inmates in the California prison system. Mack is a former Senior Policy advisor with the CSG Justice Center and works currently as a criminal justice consultant. He is an adjunct instructor in criminal justice and holds a Bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the

University of California, Irvine along with a Master's degree in criminal justice from California State University, Long Beach.

Narrative

The criminal justice (CJ) system continues to evolve through clinical research and the application of science (e.g., RNR model) while a large number of individuals with behavioral health (mental illness/substance use disorder) issues continue to touch this system. The role of community corrections (CC) professionals now includes not only accountability, but also treatment to facilitate recidivism reduction through recovery and behavior change. Collaboratively applying RNR principles with behavioral health professionals in treatment is key and requires interdisciplinary training to bridge these two distinct cultures. Optimal client outcomes include both recidivism reduction and psychiatric stabilization, which requires an active partnership between criminal justice and behavioral health professionals. Now, mental health providers must use evidence-based practices to target attitudes and behaviors that lead to criminal behavior in addition to psychiatrically stabilizing these complex clients, a task that many are unprepared for. We describe San Diego's development and initial outcomes of a six-day learning academy modeled on the Interprofessional Collaborative Practice (IPC) framework and competencies with the goal of cross-training mental health providers in best practices when working with the justice involved, including those with mental illness. Evaluation ratings post training revealed significant improvements in all four ICP competency areas including interprofessional communication and treatment skills. Results indicate that successful and sustainable partnership through intentional cross-training utilizing an ICP framework can build a common language and a new, client-centered and more comprehensive approach that is shared between the two fields and benefits individual clients and also the communities where they live through increased public safety.

Learning Objectives

Identify three components of the Risk Need Responsivity model applicable to behavioral health providers.

Differentiate three roles and functions of community corrections professionals and their behavioral health partners.

Explain three key factors of the Interprofessional Collaborative Model and related competencies.