



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, THE BENCH, AND BEYOND

from the Illinois Judicial Branch

Illinois Mental Health Task Force update and action plan implementation

Since the month of May was established as Mental Health Month in 1949, advocates across the country have led its observance and spread the word that mental health is something that impacts all social systems. Courts are in a unique position to move beyond advocacy by bringing communities together to communicate, collaborate, and improve justice system and community responses that improve public health and safety issues that often emanate from undertreated or untreated mental health disorders.

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Leading change in competency to stand trial systems

Evaluating and reforming competency to stand trial processes and procedures has emerged as a prominent national discussion, prompting the State Justice Institute to work alongside and support the Conference of Chief Justices and Conference of State Court Administrators CCJ-COSCA National Task Force to Examine the State Court response to Mental Illness to develop several resources designed to assist state courts in assessing potential opportunities for system improvements.

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Illinois Problem-Solving Court update

The Illinois Problem-Solving Courts (PSCs) continue to expand through the state of Illinois in 2023. In 2023, all existing PSCs in Illinois obtained certification through the Illinois Supreme Court. In all, 117 PSCs have been certified, with more emerging courts submitting applications for initial certification.

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WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE HOTLINES?

988	Suicide Prevention & Mental Health Crisis Lifeline Free, confidential and available 24/7/365
911	Medical & Public Safety Emergencies Free and available 24/7/365
211/311	Resource Support Line (Housing, Food, Etc.) 311 is for Chicago and Cook County 211 is available in select Illinois counties Free and available 24/7/365
1-866-359-7935 Illinois Warm Line	For non-emergency emotional support, recovery education, self-advocacy support and referrals Free and available Mon-Sat, 8am-8pm
Local Mental Health/ Substance Use Hotlines	Non-emergency resource for individuals who need help finding behavioral health services Various hours of operation

Illinois at the early intercepts

For those court and justice partners unfamiliar with the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM), or in need of a brief refresher, the SIM was originally developed over several years in the early 2000s by Policy Research Associates, in conjunction with the SAMHSA's GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice.

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Update on State of Illinois behavioral health and justice initiatives

As Chief Behavioral Health Officer for the State of Illinois, I am deeply heartened by the restorative justice model being implemented across the state. Both Deputy Governor Sol Flores and Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton are champions for intervening early to prevent people from unnecessarily becoming involved with the criminal justice system.

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A new service offered by the Illinois Helpline for Opioids and Other Substances





The Supreme Court of Illinois Judicial College
& Illinois Mental Health Task Force

Live Webcasts

Civil Mental Health Proceedings Series



For more information or comments, please contact Scott Block,
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