



Leading Change: Improving Illinois Courts' Response to Mental Illness and Co-Occurring Substance Use Disorders

Since its inception in 2019, the Illinois Mental Health Task Force (IMHTF) has embraced a comprehensive approach to engagement in various activities; including planning and hosting an Illinois Mental Health Summit, participating in state and local behavioral health and justice initiatives, and facilitating regional workshops leading up to the development of an Illinois Action Plan.

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Leading Change: Illinois Innovations Series

Developed by the Statewide Behavioral Health Administrator and the Special Supreme Court Advisory Committee for Justice and Mental Health Planning's Education Subcommittee, the *Leading Change: Illinois Innovations Series* will highlight pioneering "Illinois-based" approaches and strategies that support strategic initiatives within the Illinois Mental Health Task Force Action Plan.

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Leading Change at the 2024 Judicial Education Conference

The biennial Education Conference is the flagship program of the Supreme Court of Illinois Judicial College. The week-long program is held over two sessions, winter and spring, and brings together over 800 participants each session, including the entire judiciary and invited justice partners.

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[Promoting civil pathways to outpatient mental health care](#)

The reality of accessing mental health care is such that the majority of services are provided to individuals in a community or outpatient setting. In Illinois, there are two common conduits for outpatient care: involuntarily or through an agreed care and custody order. Outpatient admission can be sought as a stand-alone remedy for an individual residing in the community already, or for someone who is inpatient at a mental health facility (whether voluntary or involuntary).

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[Leading change in fitness to stand trial systems](#)

Of the countless ways in which mental illness and the justice system intersect within the Illinois Courts, one of the most direct is when courts and judges are involved in an order for evaluation and ultimate determination of a defendant's fitness to stand trial. As courts and mental health authorities across the nation face increasing cases involving the fitness of defendants, system improvements and reforms have emerged as a prominent national discussion.

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[What's happening in the world of problem-solving courts?](#)

The Problem-Solving Court (PSC) Unit within the Probation Services Division of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (AOIC) continues to provide technical assistance to PSCs across the state as well as continually improve their functions internally. The PSC Unit continues to provide in-person training to courts around the state, on a variety of topics, including Sanctions, Incentives and Therapeutic Adjustments, Team Member Roles and Dynamics, Ethics, and many more.

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*For more information or comments, please contact Scott Block,
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