

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MENTAL ILLNESS AND INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY TRAINING

First Annual Mental Health and the Court Summit
September 14, 2023

Commission Charge and Designation

Commission Framework – "Training Provisions"

- Train and assist communities to identify those people who are part of the criminal and civil justice systems (justice system) who routinely come into contact with those with mental illness
- Recommend measures to ensure that all those who work in or are involved with the justice system are properly trained on how to detect and respond to mental illness



Committee Members

- Alecia Armstrong- Crisis Clinician
- Karen Barber, DMH General Counsel
- Therese Corsones, VT Court Administrator
- Nicholas Deml, DOC Commissioner
- Brigid Lynch, VT Legal Aid/Mental Health Law Project
- Andrew Manitsky, VBA Representative



Committee Members (contd.)

- Kirsten Murphy- Executive Director of the VT Developmental Disabilities Council
- Colleen Nilsen-Chief of Mental Health/Vermont DOC
- Samantha Sweet-AHS/DMH
- Monica White-DAIL Commissioner
- Thomas A. Zonay, Chief Superior Judge (Chair)



Committee Training Session Planning

- What type of trainings would be helpful?
- Who was target audience?
- Who would present them?
- What would be the best format for them?



Planned Trainings

- Mental Health 101
- Co-occurring disorders 101
- Intellectual disabilities 101
- Mental health within DOC



Format of Trainings

- Webinars
- 1 hour in length
- Recorded and available for later viewing
- Allow questions during presentation



Target audiences for trainings include:

- Vermont Judiciary Judges and staff
- Department of Mental Health
- Department for Children and Families
- Department of Aging and Independent Living
- Department of Corrections
- Department of Public Safety



- Law enforcement agencies in every community
- Attorneys in public and private sectors
- Non-profit community mental health agencies
- Private mental health care providers



Mental Health 101 – The Presentation

- One hour webinar held on July 18, 2023
- Presented by:
 - Karen Barber, General Counsel for DMH
 - Allie Nerenberg, Care Management Director for DMH
 - Rachel Muñoz - the Emergency Services Director at United Counseling Service



Mental Health 101 Training – Topics

- How persons enter into the mental health system
- The court screening and subsequent assessment process to determine the need for in-patient treatment
- What occurs when an individual is deemed to meet, or not meet, the criteria for hospital level of care.



Mental Health 101 Training – Topics

- The different levels of care
- How many beds exist at the various levels of care and how they are accessed
- What services which can be provided by Designated Agencies
- Orders of Non-hospitalization and how those are handled by the Designated Agencies and DMH



Mental Health 101 Training – Attendees

- Attendees from virtually all target audiences
- Approximately 100 attended live session
- Recording is on Judiciary YouTube channel and to date has 182 views
- Link to access recording can be accessed on Commission webpage on Vermont Judiciary website
www.vermontjudiciary.org



Committee - Moving forward

- Upcoming meeting to discuss future training sessions
 - Co-occurring disorders 101
 - Intellectual disabilities 101
 - Mental health within DOC
 - Others?
- Expect next session to be presented this Fall



Questions?

