

Criminal Justice Involvement: The Challenges of an Approach to Obtain Data And Address Clinical Needs in the District of Columbia

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Overview and Systems Issues

Patricia J. Dunston, Ph.D.

Grant Specialist

D.C. Department of Mental Health



Criminal Justice Indicator

- # Background of indicator.
 - # Rational for monitoring consumer involvement with criminal justice system.
 - # Overview of approaches used by other jurisdictions.
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District of Columbia System

- # Constraints imposed by the District of Columbia's management information systems
 - # Challenge of making a system's issue relevant to clinicians and consumers
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Consumer Perspective

Stephen Jenner

Consultant, D.C. State Indicator Grant

D.C. Department of Mental Health



Consumer Concerns Regarding Criminal Justice Indicator

- # How will disclosure of arrests affect my relationship with the clinician?
 - # Will sharing this information with the clinician benefit me?
 - # Does the clinician realize that consumers also are often victims of crime?
 - # Why should I be forthcoming in answering this question?
-

Data Collection Methodology

Jogues Prandoni, Ph.D.

Deputy Director Forensic Services

Saint Elizabeths Hospital



Criteria in Developing Questionnaire

- # Must be perceived as relevant by consumers and clinicians
 - # Provide clinicians information that would assist them in meeting consumers mental health needs
 - # Readily integrated into intake process
 - # Make limited demands on clinicians' time
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Process of Developing Questionnaire

- # Occurred over 6 month period
 - Reviewed approaches adopted by other states
 - Consulted with Bristol Observatory
 - Consulted with clinical staff
 - Developed draft questionnaire
 - Revised and piloted questionnaire
 - Developed final version
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Criminal Justice Questionnaire

Consumer involvement
in criminal justice system
as:

- Victim of crime
- Witness to crime
- Defendant
 - Charged with crime
 - Convicted of crime

Frequency

Prior convictions

Category of offense

- Property

- Person

- Drug/alcohol relate


Pending legal matters

Questionnaire Methodology

- # Initial screening administered at intake
 - # Semi-annual follow up screening
 - # Addressing problems associated with self-report
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Implementation

Mel Gilley, Ph.D., ABPP
Supervisory Psychologist (Retired)
D.C. Department of Mental Health



Integrating Questionnaire Into Community Mental Health Services

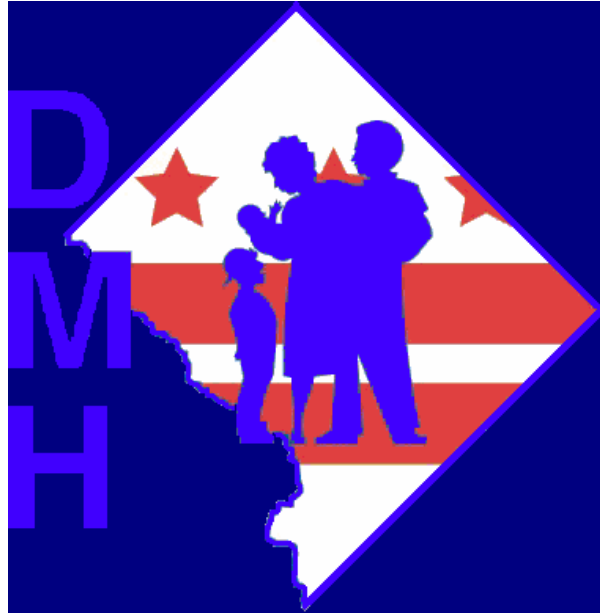
Clinical issues:

- Stress of being a defendant, victim or witness
 - Approaching the subject of criminal justice involvement with consumers
 - Gathering legal history information within the clinical interview
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Integrating Questionnaire Into Community Mental Health Services

Staff concerns:

- Value of questionnaire
 - Demands of participating in data collection
 - Helping staff deal with feelings about offenders, victims, witnesses
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Handouts
Screening Forms and Procedures

Adult Legal History of Consumer
Initial Screening

Consumer Name: _____ **DMH Number:** _____

Date of Birth: _____ **Sex:** 9 Male 9 Female

CSA Program: _____ **Unit:** _____

1. As an adult, have you been involved with the police / criminal justice system as a:
Victim 9 Yes 9 No
Witness 9 Yes 9 No
Defendant 9 Yes 9 No

2. If Yes, how many times have you been involved with the police/criminal justice system as a:
Victim _____
Witness _____
Defendant _____

3. If prior involvement as a defendant, have you been convicted of a crime as an adult?
9 No - Go to Question 8
9 Yes - How many times? _____

4. If prior convictions, how many times have you been convicted of:
Property Crimes _____ Year(s) Convicted _____
Crimes against Persons _____ Year(s) Convicted _____
Drug/Alcohol related Crimes _____ Year(s) Convicted _____

5. If prior convictions, how many times have you been incarcerated or placed on probation/
parole? _____

6. Are you currently on probation or parole? 9 Yes 9 No

7. If yes, when does your probation/parole expire? _____
(month & year)

8. Do you currently have any legal matters pending before the court or probation/parole
authority? 9 Yes 9 No

9. If yes, please describe:

Completed by: _____ **Date:** _____

(Staff Member)

Mail completed form to Patricia Dunston, Ph.D., Deputy Director Planning and Coordination, using the attached self-addressed envelope.

Adult Legal History of Consumer
Semi-Annual Screening

Consumer Name: _____ **DMH Number:** _____

Date of Birth: _____ **Sex:** 9 Male 9 Female

CSA Program: _____ **Unit:** _____

1. Have you been involved with the police / criminal justice system in the past six months as a:

Victim	9 Yes	9 No
Witness	9 Yes	9 No
Defendant	9 Yes	9 No

2. If yes how many times have you been involved with the police / criminal justice system in the past six months as a:

Victim	_____
Witness	_____
Defendant	_____

3. If involved as a defendant, list charge(s) and date(s) _____

4. Do you currently have any legal matters pending before the court or probation/parole authority? 9 Yes 9 No

5. If yes, please describe:

Comments/Additional Information:

Completed by: _____ **Date:** _____

(Staff Member)

Mail completed form to Patricia Dunston, Ph.D., Deputy Director Planning and Coordination, using the attached self-addressed envelope.

**State Mental Health Indicator Grant Performance
Criminal Justice Indicator
Procedures for Data Collection**

The District of Columbia's Department of Mental Health is participating in the Sixteen State Performance Indicator Grant. Consumers' involvement with the adult criminal justice system at the time of admission/readmission and during the course of treatment is one of the measures the Department will be monitoring. The following procedures will be used to collect data on this critical aspect of our consumers' lives.

10. Initially consumer's involvement with the adult criminal justice system will be monitored only for clients who are new admissions or readmissions to DMH-CSA operated adult outpatient programs.
11. Data will be collected using forms developed by the Department that rely on consumer self-report.
12. The *Initial Screening* will be completed by a staff member at intake once a decision is made to admit the consumer to a DMH program. The information will provide baseline data regarding the consumer's past involvement with the criminal justice system as a victim/witness/ defendant and current probation/parole status.
13. Upon completion, the intake unit will use the self-addressed envelope attached to the form to mail the *Initial Screening* to:

Patricia Dunston, Ph.D.
Deputy Director, Planning and Coordination
Department of Mental Health
Room 118: Administration Building
Saint Elizabeths Campus
14. The Office of Planning and Coordination will notify each CSA program when consumers are due to complete the *Semi-Annual Screening*.
15. Upon receipt of the notification, the case managers will query the consumer using the *Semi-Annual Screening* to determine if he/she has been involved with the police/criminal justice system as a victim/ witness/ defendant during the most recent time period.
16. Upon completion of the *Semi Annual Screening*, the case manager will use the self-addressed envelope attached to the form and mail it to Patricia Dunston, Ph.D., Deputy Director, Planning and Coordination.
17. Should a consumer choose not to provide the case manager the information necessary to complete the *Semi Annual Screening*, the case manager will indicate the consumer's choice on the form and mail it to Planning and Coordination.

18. Forensic Services Administration's Legal Services Division will track DMH clients registered to CSA programs who are referred to the Division following an arrest or conviction. Legal Services will record the consumer's name, DMH number, date of arrest / conviction, the alleged offense/conviction/violation and furnish this information to the Office of Planning and Coordination on a monthly basis
19. The Department of Mental Health's Jail Liaison will track DMH clients registered to CSA programs who are admitted to the jail. She will record the consumer's name, DMH number, and obtain basic information on the reason for detention and furnish this information to the Office of Planning and Coordination on a monthly basis.
20. The Office of Planning and Coordination will compare the information obtained from the Legal Services Division and the Jail Liaison to the consumer self reports provided by CSA to obtain an estimate of the accuracy of consumer's self reports.
21. The Office of Planning and Coordination will enter survey information into a database and analyze the results. The office will provide quarterly reports of survey findings to the clinical programs responsible for data collection.