

4/5/2017 Data-Driven Justice: Disrupting the Cycle of Incarceration

Presenters:

- **Tristia Bauman**, Senior Attorney, National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty
- **David Schwindt**, Officer, Iowa City Police Department, Iowa City, Iowa
- **Jessica Peckover**, Jail Alternatives Coordinator, Johnson County, Iowa

- **Jennifer MacDonald**, Senior Advisor to the Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Policy and Services, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs
- **Cicely Burrows-McElwain**, Military and Veteran Affairs Liaison, Division of Regional and National Policy, Office of Policy, Planning and Innovation, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA), Department of Health and Human Services
- **Jennie Simpson**, Office of Policy, Planning and Innovation, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA), Department of Health and Human Services
- **Chris Traver**, Senior Advisor for Information Sharing, Division of Data and Improvement, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services
- **Sherri Morgan**, Health Information Privacy Specialist, Health Information Privacy Division, Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- **Lindsey Knotts**, Policy Director, United States Interagency Council on Homelessness
- **Carmen Facciolo**, Senior Policy Advisor, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, Department of Justice

Key Takeaways: Federal agencies are committed to supporting communities as they advance data-driven justice strategies that target individuals who are high utilizers, including veterans, the homeless and substance abusers.

Tristia: The National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty (NLCHP) will be releasing a toolkit on the McKinney-Vento Act, which is a federal program that allows non-profit organizations, cities, counties and state governments to obtain vacant federal property and use that property for an eligible homeless purpose. For more information on this program and the toolkit, NLCHP will be hosting a webinar on April 25th at 2 pm EDT. Register for the webinar [here](#). For more information, please contact Trista Bauman at tbauman@nlchp.org.

David and Jessica: Johnson County, Iowa is using Loom, a data sharing platform, to combine data from multiple entities to better address the needs of the county. The county had easy access to jail and calls for service data, but needed hospital data to better identify high utilizers. The county set up a meeting with the hospital and found spikes in hospital visits. The county focused on this first, looking at both jail and hospital data and finding high utilizers in the combined data.

The challenge in accessing hospital data is explaining the positive impacts of shared data so that it benefits the hospital and its services.

Jennifer: Data-Driven Justice has gained momentum at the federal government thanks to the work of the Initiative. A collection of federal agencies, including the Departments of Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Justice, and Veterans Affairs want to support this work. The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness is also involved. This work group of federal agencies will be incorporated into the Interagency Task Force (ITF) on Service Members and Veterans Mental Health, which is co-chaired by leaders from the Department of Defense, Department of Veterans Affairs, and Department of Health and Human Services. DDJ fits into the priorities of the IFT, especially on community partnership to improve access to services and outcomes for service members and veterans.

Collectively, the federal work group will work toward aligning departments' policies to support and reinforce the work local governments do every day. Each representative on the task force provided information on how their office or division supports DDJ, including on-going activities:

- SAMHSA: [Service Members and Veterans and Families' Technical Assistance Center](#) focuses on veterans in the justice system and ways to bring a military and veterans cultural competency lens to the sequential intercept model.
- ACF: The Division for Data Improvement promotes data sharing, analysis and research to develop evidence-based human services programs. They primarily focus on bridging the human services community to other related communities through data-sharing technology and coordination, including the justice system. They have been focusing on reentry and access to housing. They are also working to address the human services side of the opioid epidemic.
- Office of Civil Rights: Support DDJ by addressing the misperceptions of HIPAA as a barrier and developing and providing guidance on the use and sharing of individual identifiable healthcare information that is held by healthcare entities subject to HIPAA. They are the enforcement agency for the HIPAA privacy and security rules. [Click here](#) to learn more about the FAQs and guidance that OCR has developed.
- USICH: Coordinate the federal response to homeless by maximizing the resources of 19 different federal agencies. Along with their federal partners, USICH works on strategies to improve collaborations between the criminal justice, homelessness systems and health care systems to decrease the cycle of homelessness and justice system involvement. USICH also works to reduce the criminalization of homelessness by diverting people from jail and increase the use of data sets to identify super utilizers who are then connected to housing opportunities.
- DOJ: Looking at how current and future programming fits into DDJ. One example of a program they fund is the National Prosecutor Diversion Initiative, which provides technical assistance to prosecutors and criminal justice partners on using data-driven methods to divert high-utilizers. Current solicitation funded by the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, which has a specific category for DDJ. An underutilized

resource is the National Problem Solving Justice Initiative, which provides technical assistance to community and problem solving courts and linking high-utilizers with “off ramps” from the justice system.

Questions and Answers

Q. For hospitals, what are the key messages that resonate with them when seeking their buy-in for local “super utilizer” projects?

A. Often, emergency rooms are packed and operating overcapacity, and they are interested in knowing is who is in the emergency room and whether the emergency room is the best place to serve their needs. With data, you can show them that maybe certain individuals don’t need to be in the emergency room and that they could have their needs better served elsewhere. What the data shows is that a particular individual needs mental health attention rather than an emergency room visit. We found this to be the biggest selling point.

Q. Is HUD either formally and informally in the ITF working group?

A. Yes, they are interested and will be part of the working group moving forward. HUD is deeply engaged in the work of USICH and in creating housing opportunities for those with criminal justice involvement. HUD is also invested in supporting data integration at the local level.

Q. What is the sequential intercept model and what are some resources that SAMHSA has for communities to learn more about the model and how they can use it?

A. The model depicts five intercepts in the criminal justice system at which people can be diverted: (1) law enforcement; (2) pretrial; (3) jails and courts; (4) reentry; and (5) community connections. There is more information on the sequential intercept model on the SAMHSA’s GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation website: [Click here](#). The sequential intercept model provides system level actions that can be taken and provides locals with an assessment opportunity to to increase diversion opportunities.