



# MAINE CRIMINAL JUSTICE/MENTAL HEALTH BRIEFS

## ASSESS, PLAN, IDENTIFY, COORDINATE (APIC)

Policy makers in Maine and around the country face the serious challenge of addressing the needs of people with mental illness involved in the criminal justice system. There are a number of strategies that can be used to ensure a successful transition from jail. These reentry strategies gauge inmates' needs and connect them to appropriate services. The following is a description of a type of reentry strategy which is considered a best practice approach by the GAINS Center, which works to help states develop collaboration among criminal justice, substance abuse and mental health systems.

### Assess, Plan, Identify, Coordinate (APIC)

APIC is a transitional planning tool for inmates with co-occurring mental health and substance-abuse disorders which was developed using the results of multi-site studies of jail mental health programs as guidance. This four step tool integrates the mental health, criminal justice, and substance-abuse treatment systems. Even those inmates who are incarcerated for very short periods (72 hours or less) can benefit from the tool. Throughout the process, inmate feedback and involvement is necessary in order to create the most appropriate transition plan.

**Assessing** the inmate's inmates psychosocial, behavioral, and medical needs and strengths, as well as public safety risk of the inmate includes gathering all useful information that is necessary to create a transition plan. The inmate's ability and willingness to pay for mental health services also need to be considered, as well as any special needs such as cultural identity, primary language, gender and age.

Developing a treatment **plan** which addresses an inmate's short and long term needs includes connecting the inmate with appropriate services, involving family members in planning process, and initiating benefit applications/reinstatements. It also includes ensuring the inmate is on proper medication, has proper clothing, food, housing and resources to obtain adequate nutrition, transportation to appointments, and has plans for child care if needed.

**Identifying** community and correctional programs for post-release services includes locating specific community resources and forwarding the discharge summary to the appropriate provider. This step includes ensuring that the inmate has treatment and support services that are appropriate for his/her level of disability, motivation for change, and availability of resources, and also that his/her belongings are returned upon release.

**Coordinating** includes supporting a case manager to act as a boundary spanner. The inmate, jail provider, and community agency cooperatively assign the case to community treatment agency, and that the contact information for the person responsible for care of the inmate between release and follow-up appointment is communicated. This step includes insuring that the inmate knows the details regarding his/her first follow-up appointment, and knows who to contact if there are problems or if an appointment needs to be changed.

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### Diversion Re-Entry Steering Committee

The Committee is established to oversee the implementation of a joint action plan of action to address the needs of people with mental illness who are involved in the criminal justice system. The Diversion/Re-Entry (DRE) Steering Committee will focus on diverting people with mental illness from the criminal justice system and improving re-entry planning from prison or jail.

Maine Association of Criminal Defense  
Lawyers (MACDL)  
Maine Chiefs of Police  
Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
Maine Coalition to End Domestic  
Violence  
Maine Criminal Justice Academy  
Maine Department of Corrections  
(MDOC)  
Maine Department of Health and  
Human Services (DHHS)  
Maine Judicial Branch  
Maine Mental Health Association  
Maine Pre-Trial Services  
Maine Prosecutors Association  
Maine Sheriff's Association  
NAMI Maine  
Parents Of Murdered Children – Maine  
Volunteers of America Northern New  
England (VOA-NNE)

