

Criminal Justice and Mental Health Project

Report Revisions for November 16, 2017 Commission Meeting

In response to public comments received in writing and heard during the October 26, 2017 Commission meeting, the criminal justice and mental health project report was modified under the direction of Commissioner and Subcommittee Chair Brown. Major modifications include:

- Expanded sections of the report on mental health stigma, discrimination, and racial/ethnic and cultural disparities, including being more specific by changing “diverse communities” to “African American, Latino, Native American, and LGBTQ communities,” and adding additional information about the factors that increase risk of criminal justice involvement for LGBT communities.
- Highlighted project activities that included the Commission’s Client and Family Leadership Committee and Cultural and Linguistic Competency Committee, including presentations to the committees and how the committees were included in the process to review the draft report.
- Expanded sections on effective outreach and engagement strategies, including emphasis on the importance of identifying, reaching, and engaging people with mental health needs before a crisis, hospitalization, or criminal justice involvement.
- Strengthened sections of the report to reflect capacity concerns, including collaboration with community partners and more detail about blending and leveraging public and private funds, such as hospital, nonprofit, and foundation funding.
- Strengthened sections of the report to emphasize the importance of addressing housing as a key factor to preventing incarceration or diverting people from the criminal justice system, including highlighting a range of possible housing options.
- Expanded training of correctional staff to include strategies to support correctional staff mental health, including stress management and peer support.
- Clarified that people may also be found incompetent to stand trial due to a developmental or cognitive disability from a traumatic brain injury or other condition – not necessarily a mental health need.