

Identifying the Defendant with Mental Illness: How Collaboration Can Improve Outcome and Reduce Recidivism

Date: Thursday, May 10, 2012

Time: 9:00 am-3:00 pm

Place: CT Central State University, 1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT 06050-4010
(860) 832-1964 (or 1967) – Seminar at Memorial Hall in the Connecticut Room

Time	Schedule Format	Presenter
9:00-9:30	Registration	
9:30-9:45	Welcome and Personal Experience with NAMI-CT	Joe Lopez, Esq. New Haven JD
9:45-10:00	Panel Member Introductions	Each panel member introduces his/herself
10:00-11:00	Identifying and Assisting Clients with Mental Illness	Louise Pyers, NAMI-CT
11:00-11:10	Break	
11:10-11:30	Working with Traumatized Clients	Katie Heffernan, LCSW New Haven JD
11:30-12:00	Family Member Experience NAMI Resources	Tom Burr, NAMI-CT
12:00-1:00	Lunch	
1:00-1:30	DMHAS Jail Diversion Community Forensic Division	Betsy Graziano, DMHAS
1:30-2:00	Pre and Post Sentencing Supports	Gary Roberge, CSSD
2:00-2:10	Break	
2:10-2:25	Discussion	Joe Lopez
2:25-2:45	Consumer Experience	Yolanda Herring, Mental Health Consumer and Peer Specialist
2:45-3:00	Wrap Up and Future Directions	Joe Lopez

Seminar Objectives

At the completion of this program, the participant will:

- Become familiar with NAMI-CT, and the ways in which the organization can provide support, education and advocacy to people with mental illness and their families,
- Understand how stigma impacts access to mental health treatment for defendants living with a mental illness,
- Understand the neuro-biological underpinnings of mental illness and identify symptoms that can cause a person to enter the criminal justice system,
- Identify jail diversion programs within the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Service (DMHAS), as well as other supervised criminal justice avenues, that support treatment over incarceration,
- Define the barriers that interfere with a public defender's desire and ability to collaborate with the mental health system,
- Discuss several ways in which public defenders, DMHAS and Court Support Services can collaborate to increase access to mental health services and reduce recidivism for clients living with mental illness, as well as how NAMI-CT can be an informational resource to public defenders, defendants and their families.