

2021 Criminal Justice Advisory Board Conference
The Changing Face of Criminal Justice
Virtual Conference
April 20-22, 2021

Session Descriptions Day Two
Wednesday, April 21, 2021

9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Morning Plenary Session

9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

From Prison Cells to Ph.D.

In this session, Dr. Stanley Andrisse will take you on his journey from the criminal justice system to Assistant Professor at Howard University College of Medicine. Dr. Andrisse will discuss his experiences and the power of education for people with criminal records to move beyond their experiences with the system and reach their full potentials. Furthering one's education is not only healthy to the individuals but to their families and the community, by increasing income and reducing crime.

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Break

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

First Set of Breakout Sessions

LIFE after Life

This presentation comes from the hearts and minds of men who entered Pennsylvania's State Correctional Institutions as juveniles and exited as men dedicated to creating safer communities by empowering other returning citizens to build new lives based on accountability and transformation. These men will open your eyes to the trauma experienced prior to incarceration, the survival techniques required to maintain sanity and optimal wellness while incarcerated and the overwhelming support needed to navigate this journey called REENTRY. Individuals with lived experience in the criminal justice system should always be welcomed to the table to lead the discussion on what defines successful reentry, quality programs and valuable resources.

First Set of Breakout Sessions (Continued)

Community MH 101

Community MH 101 will focus on reentry planning and the community mental health system by identifying types of support services, methods of treatment, timelines for referral and necessary criteria for an individual to be referred to the community mental health system. There will be discussion on special considerations that may be necessary for reentry planning for individuals who are a part of one or more specialized populations. Time for Q & A will be provided.

As we see a positive shift toward the focus of providing comprehensive mental health care in the justice system, it's important that we consider the best practices for reentry of individuals with mental health and ensuring that those working in the system are aware of what exists in the community to support individuals upon release. It is critical that appropriate reentry planning and linkage to the community MH system be completed for individuals returning to our communities. In keeping with the theme of the conference, we will identify what treatment options exist that could be used pre/post incarceration, or even in lieu of incarceration. We will identify best practices for reentry planning- including timeline for referrals, needed documentation, and criteria for community mental health housing and programming. Our presenters are equipped to comment on hard to place populations and what planning may be needed in those cases, as well as resources for those populations.

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Lunch

2:00 p.m. – 3:15p.m.

Second Set of Breakout Sessions

Police-Initiated Diversions to Services in an Urban Environment

The City of Philadelphia's Police-Assisted Diversion program creates an opportunity for certain police contacts to lead to immediate service connections meant to address complex unmet health needs in our neighborhoods. This session will detail the circumstances behind the program's implementation, the process of developing partnerships between the law enforcement and behavioral health communities, the diversion process from start to finish, successes, challenges, and plans for sustainability and growth.

Police diversions to social services reduce the rate of racial, ethnic, and economic disparities in the criminal justice system by offering people from marginalized communities who have contact with the police for low-level, non-violent offenses the opportunity to avoid the elements of the criminal justice system that can multiply their inequality such as court costs, fines, incarceration, supervision, and the potential to have arrest warrants issued. Instead, the PAD program works with people in real time to get their complex unmet health needs addressed along with short-term stabilization around the means of survival. These health-centered police contacts create collaborative partnerships between the law enforcement and behavioral communities and have the added benefit of improving police/community relations in areas where there is a long historical precedent of mistrust with law enforcement.

Second Set of Breakout Sessions (Continued)

Drug Treatment Programs for Criminal Justice Populations

The justice system offers a variety of treatment programs at the county and state levels. This session discusses programs offered in state correctional facilities and county jails. With grants provided from many different resources, county programs are offered the ability to expand their medication assisted treatment efforts as well as increase programming options. These county grant participants are eligible to receive trainings that are covered by grant funds to expand knowledge in trauma-based treatment, co-occurring disorders, gender responsiveness treatment, ASAM and Self-Management and Recovery Training (SMART). The different levels of care that are offered will be covered as well as specialized populations that the criminal justice system works to serve.

Cops and Kids: Improving Relationships between Law Enforcement and Youth of Color through Dialogue and Education

This session will introduce participants to the Pennsylvania DMC Youth/ Law Enforcement Curriculum, a full day training for law enforcement and youth developed by experts in juvenile justice, psychologists and law enforcement to improve relationships between officers and adolescents. The program brings officers and young people from the community together for facilitated discussions, teaches officers about adolescent brain development, youth trauma and de-escalation techniques, and provides youth with information about safe stops and police procedures. Used since 2009, the curriculum has been used by seven counties in Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania State Police Academy and the Philadelphia Police Academy as well as jurisdictions in Connecticut, Florida, New York and Tennessee. It has been approved for 6 PA Municipal Police Officer CLEE credits and use of the program in Pennsylvania supported by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

PA DMC Youth/ Law Enforcement Corporation director Rhonda McKitten will discuss the curriculum structure, the process for replicating the program in Pennsylvania jurisdictions and the outcomes for youth and officers. Laura B. Chisholm, Lehigh County's DMC Coordinator, will discuss Lehigh's adoption of the DMC Curriculum and the experiences of officers, trainers and youth in sustaining the program from its inception in 2016 to the present. Ms. Chisholm will share Lehigh County's experiences – both the benefits and challenges- and the collaboration that has allowed Lehigh to successfully sustain the program.