



## Seminole County, Florida: Improving Services for Adults with Mental Illness

## Objectives of the Cross-Systems Mapping Exercise

The Cross-Systems Mapping Exercise had three primary objectives:

1. The development of a comprehensive picture of how adults with mental illness, substance abuse and co-occurring mental health and/or substance use disorders flow through the Seminole County criminal justice system along five distinct intercept points: Law Enforcement and Emergency Services (Intercept 1), Initial Detention/Initial Court Hearings (Intercept 2), Jails and Courts (Intercept 3), Community Re-entry (Intercept 4), and Community Corrections/Community Support (Intercept 5).
2. The identification of gaps, resources, and opportunities at each intercept point for individuals in the target population.
3. The development of priority areas for activities designed to improve system and service level responses for individuals in the target population.

The Seminole County Cross-Systems Map created during the workshop is on the last page of this document.

## Resources and Opportunities

There are several features of the Seminole County Systems Map that are particularly noteworthy. These include, but are not limited to the items listed below.

Existing Cross-Systems Partnerships include:

CJMHSAPublic Safety Planning Council and Mental Health Task Force

Established Diversion Programs

- Drug Court
- Mental Health Court
- Veteran's Court

Baker Act Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among community partners

Seminole County Strengths Identified:

Long history of working together in various planning committees and task forces

Emphasis on diversion for people with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders from the criminal justice system

Implementation of mental health screening at the jail with the support of the Sheriff's Department

Exploration of future implementation of risk assessment tool

Strong working relationship between the local jail and local mental health provider, Seminole Behavioral Healthcare (SBH)

SBH accepts all Baker Act assessments and admissions and does not experience over-crowding

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training for all law enforcement officers and dispatchers in Seminole County

The Mental Health Task Force is in the process of planning for establishing an assessment center in Sanford, FL for a reentry program for first-time offenders or first/second contacts in

criminal justice system with mental health and/or substance use problems that links these individuals to services

## **Seminole County Cross-Systems Map Narrative**

The following information reflects the information gleaned during the *Cross-Systems Mapping Exercise*. These participant notes include a description of potential interventions at each intercept point in the Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health System as perceived by the participants during the mapping process. Gaps in service delivery and resource opportunities are identified at each intercept point. These notes may be used as a reference in reviewing the Seminole County Cross-Systems Map and as a tool in developing a formal strategic action plan and/or future Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among community stakeholders and local planning entities.

### **Intercept I: Initial Contact w/ Law Enforcement, Prevention Programs, or Emergency Services**

Examining tools for risk assessment to be implemented in the jail are underway

### **Intercept III: Jails / Courts**

#### Identified Gaps – Jails/Courts (Intercept 3)

Develop a dedicated team from SBH for mental health court (I.e. Forensic Intensive Case Management Team - FICM or Modified Assertive Community Treatment Team - ACT team)

#### Identified Strengths

Mental Health Court – takes violation of probations (VOPs), felonies, and misdemeanors (up to 45-50 persons, but typically around 30-45) – 3 FTEs from SBH provide case management for mental health court, but not a dedicated mental health court caseload, and 1 probation officer tracks all behavioral clients on a weekly basis

Drug Court – several tiers, felony only (40-50) – different judges

Veteran's Court – currently at 19, small, manageable caseload with strong communication and service availability by the VA

### **Intercept IV: Re-Entry**

#### Identified Gaps – Re-entry (Intercept 4)

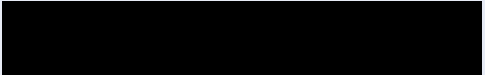

SBH needs more of a presence in jail for identification and screening

#### Identified Strengths

Focus on individuals with chronic illness in jails (complex health conditions)  
Chief Medical Director is allowed to



**Priority Area: Secure Marchman Act Services  
[Intercept 1]**

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action Step</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>
Develop a Secure Marchman Act Unit	Examine feasibility: Use of existing facilities and costs to operate	 8.3e ii 	

**Priority Area: Forensic Substance Abuse/Mental Health Team  
[Intercept 3]**

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action Step</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>
Interagency collaboration	Develop an integrated team: Hire coordinator, employment specialist, housing specialist, and peer support	Seminole Behavioral Healthcare (Charlotte Giuliani) and Mental Health Task Force	Inc -8 re f Inc -  

## Summary

A process such as the Cross-Systems Mapping workshop can result in the acknowledgment of a challenging list of service gaps. In this respect, Seminole County is much like most Florida counties and indeed like many jurisdictions in the United States. At the same time, Seminole County is very unique and has important strengths.

First, the individuals who participated in this workshop represented most of the major stakeholders necessary to accomplish change in this area.



Utilization of this readily available data may also assist in strengthening future grant applications to assist in sustainability of current programs and specialty courts.

It is critical that the planning process not lose the momentum created to date. Planning meetings involving all relevant stakeholders should be conducted on a regular basis and assigned priority by stakeholders. As agreed, this effort needs to be focused on the target population and the action plan needs to be refined with concrete assignments and timetables. In addition, there are a number of potential resources available to Seminole County to accomplish some of the tasks identified during the workshop as next steps.

Leadership – It is incumbent upon the Seminole County Mental Health Task Force to continue to provide the leadership needed to keep “decision makers” at the table.

In closing, we would like to thank the Seminole County Mental Health Task Force and its’ partners for allowing the CJMHTSA Technical Assistance Center to facilitate this workshop. In particular, we would like to thank Dr. Valerie Westhead and Charlotte Giuliani for their organizing and leadership efforts. Finally, we would like to express gratitude to all the local stakeholders who took

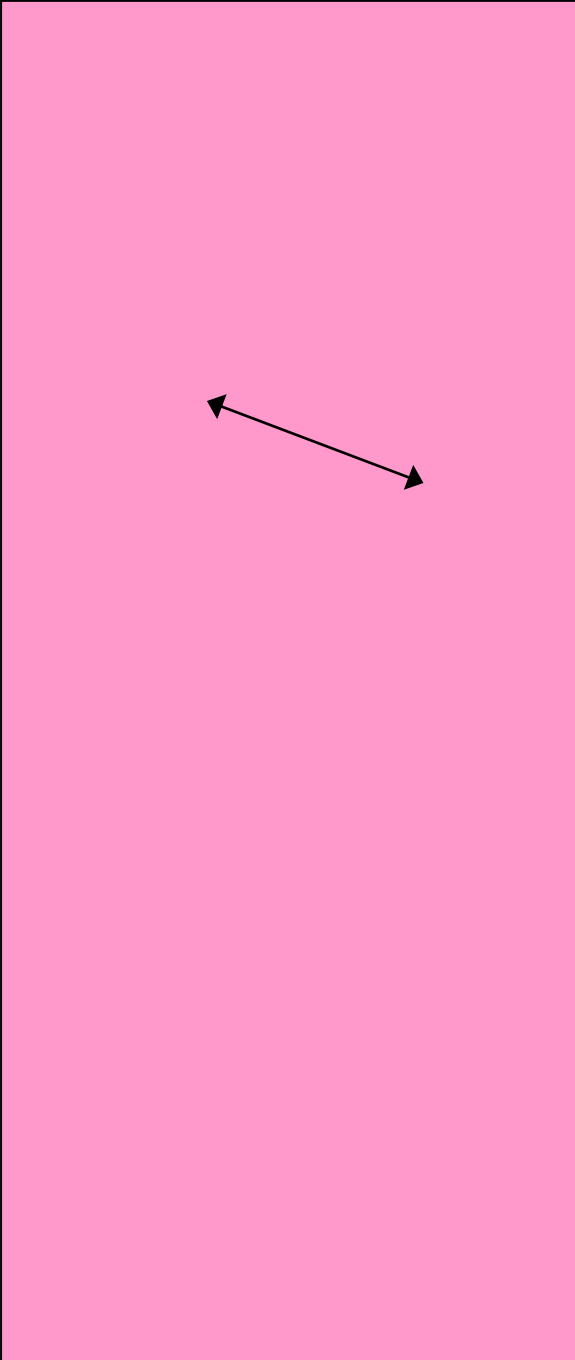
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## List of Workshop Participants

Name	Organization	Title	Phone #	Email
Meg Johnson	Probation	Probation Officer	407-665-6027	<a href="mailto:mjohnson@seminolecountyFL.gov">mjohnson@seminolecountyFL.gov</a>
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Elizabeth Vergara	Seminole County Sheriff Office	Manager Grants Admin.	407-665-6742	<a href="mailto:evergara@seminolesheriff.org">evergara@seminolesheriff.org</a>

Intercept 1:  
Law Enforcement

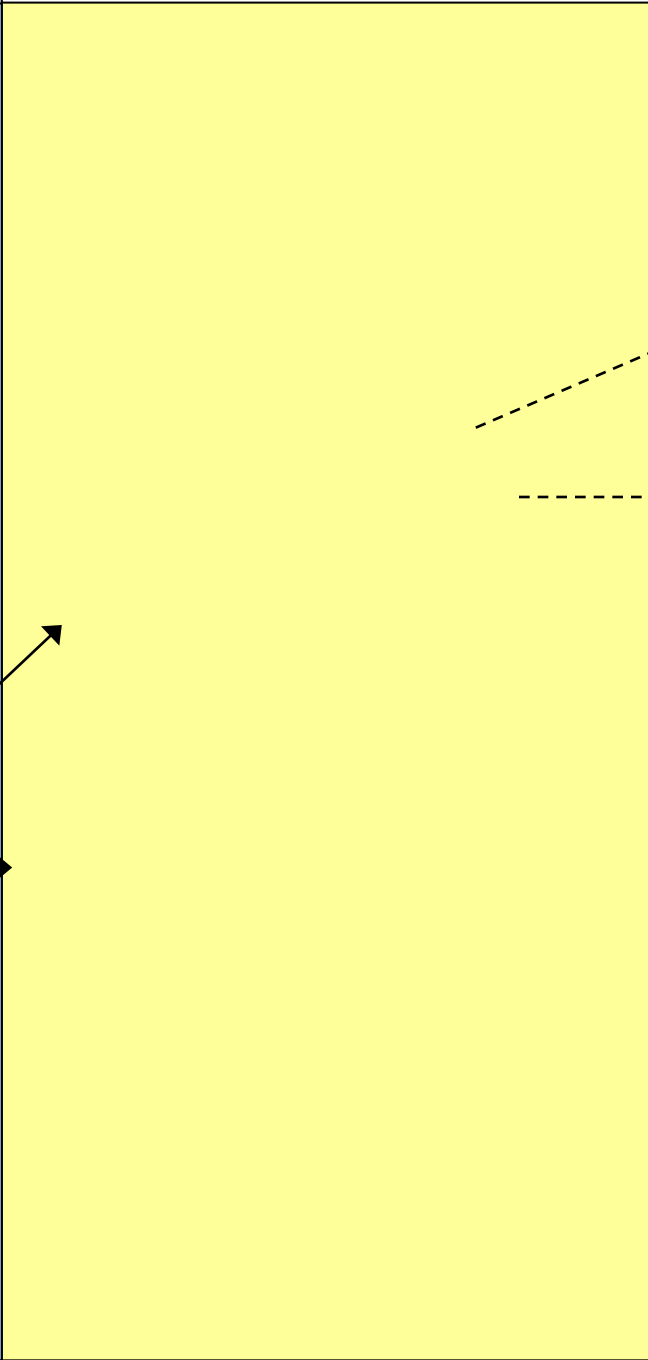


Intercept 2:  
Initial Detention and Court Appearance

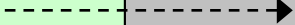
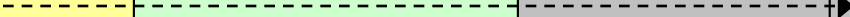
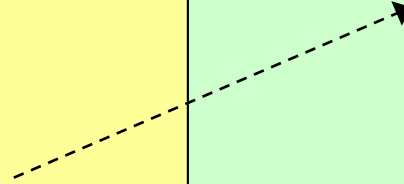
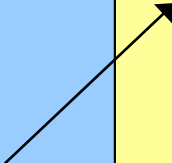
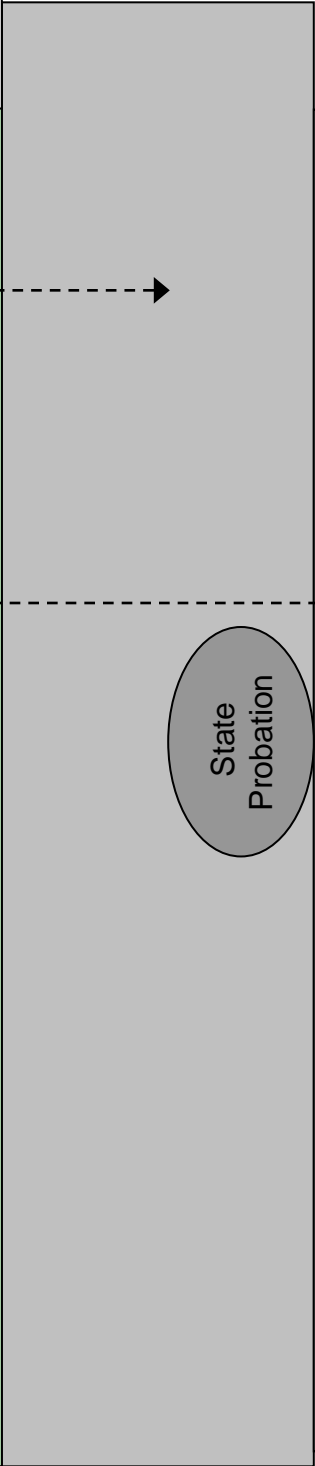
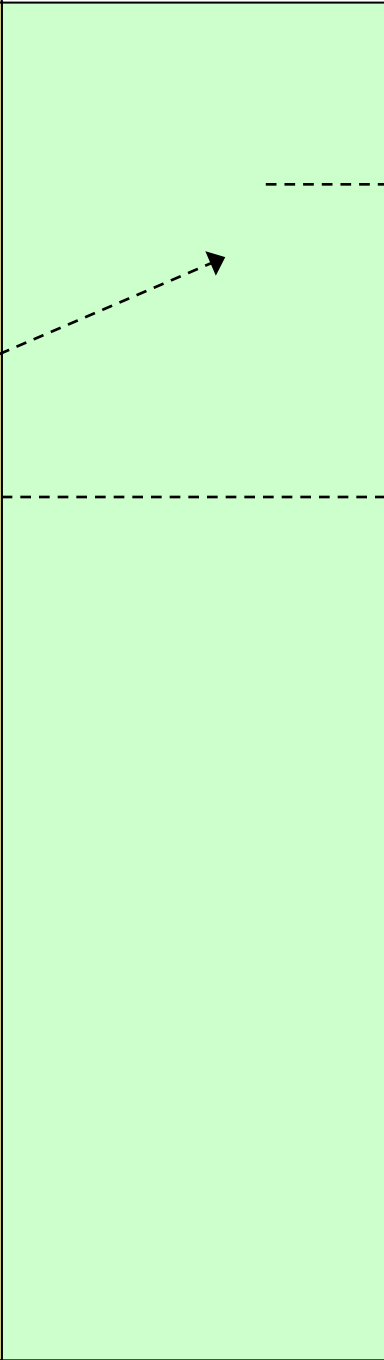
Initial Court Appearance

- x If arrested by 3am, will see Judge by 1:30pm
- x 10% will bond out before initial appearance
- x Set Bond Conditions
- x If unable to pay, returns to jail to await trial / sentencing (often true for MI population)
- x ROR (May request ROR so can be BA upon release)
- x 0 D \Plead out

Intercept 3:  
Jails and Courts



Intercept 4:  
Re-Entry



State Probation

Community (Limited Array of Services)