

# **Law Enforcement And The Mentally Ill**

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© 2012 by the author, and presented at the  
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# EMERGING INTEREST



IACP NATIONAL POLICY SUMMIT\*

Building Safer Communities: Improving Police Response to  
Persons with Mental Illness

May 2009

\* Co-sponsored by BJA, JEHT Foundation, and SAMHSA


**DECRIMINALIZING**



**MENTAL ILLNESS**



- PROBLEM
- BACKGROUND
- SEQUENTIAL INTERCEPT MODEL
- EMERGENCY RESPONSE MODELS
- HONOLULU MODEL



**PROBLEM :  
FINDING AN ALTERNATIVE TO  
CRIMINALIZATION OF THE  
MENTALLY ILL**

WHO CARES?

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM:**

**LIABILITY FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS  
AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENICES**

**BURDEN ON THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM  
(Courts, Jails, Prisons)**

**FINANCIAL COST TO SOCIETY  
\$60 BILLION PER YEAR**



**PROBLEM :**  
**FINDING AN ALTERNATIVE TO**  
**CRIMINALIZATION**  
**OF THE MENTALLY ILL**

**WHO CARES?**

**LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS:**

- **DANGER TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS**  
1999 STUDY OF 174 POLICE DEPARTMENT IN 42 STATES  
SHOWED THAT 7-10% OF ALL POLICE INTERACTIONS  
INVOLVE INTERACTION WITH SMI PERSONS
- **OVER HALF OF ARRESTS AT HPD IN 2011 WERE HOMELESS,  
MENTALLY ILL OR BOTH**
- **EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED PERSONS ARE 5.5 TIMES AS  
LIKELY (550% MORE LIKELY) TO BE INVOLVED IN THE  
MURDER OF POLICE OFFICERS**



**PROBLEM :  
FINDING AN ALTERNATIVE TO  
CRIMINALIZATION OF THE  
MENTALLY ILL**

**WHO CARES?**

**THE COMMUNITY:**

**PERCEPTION OF DANGER  
UNCOMFORTABLE  
FEAR – ANXIETY  
COST OF CARE**



**PROBLEM :  
FINDING AN ALTERNATIVE TO  
CRIMINALIZATION OF THE  
MENTALLY ILL**

**WHO CARES?**

**MENTALLY ILL PERSONS:**

**SMI ARE 11.5 TIMES (1,150%) MORE LIKELY TO  
BE VICTIMS OF CRIME THAN THE GENERAL  
POPULATION**

**90% OF SUICIDES LINKED TO MENTAL ILLNESS**





# **TURNING THE TIDE: FROM HOSPITALIZATION TO INCARCERATION**

STATE MENTAL HOSPITALS FORMED IN 1890

“DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION”

Began in 1955

558,239 severely mentally ill inpatients

National census: 164 million



By 1994 . . .

71,619 SMI inpatients

National Census: 260 million

1955 SMI adjusted for 1994 census =

885,010 or

92% reduction from 1955



By 2003 . . .

only 49,437 inpatient psychiatric beds  
2012: inpatient psychiatric beds  
estimated at 100,000



## People with Mental Illness in Jails and Prisons:

1996: 283,800 (BJS, July 1999)

2005: 1,255,700 (BJS, Sep 2006)



**PRIOR TO  
DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION:**

**LESS THAN 1% OF THOSE  
INCARCERATED WERE  
MENTALLY ILL**



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#hawa33106

**TODAY**

**21 TO 24 PERCENT IN JAILS  
AND PRISONS ARE  
SERIOUSLY MENTALLY ILL  
(SMI)**

**OVER 90% IN SOME  
FACILITIES ARE MI**

# TODAY

OVER 450,000 INDIV WITH SMI  
INCARCERATED

VIRTUAL 1:1 RELATIONSHIP  
BETWEEN DECREASE IN  
INPATIENT PSYCHIATRIC  
PATIENTS AND INCREASE  
IN JAILED INDIV W/SMI



# A Systematic Approach to the Criminalization Problem

- **There is no single solution to the problem we are calling “criminalization of people with mental illness”**
- **The problem must be attacked from multiple levels**
- **The “Sequential Filters” Model (Sequential Intercept Model) is a series of filters. Each filter provides a point to “catch” an individual with mental illness. Over time the filter rate should increase earlier in the sequence.**

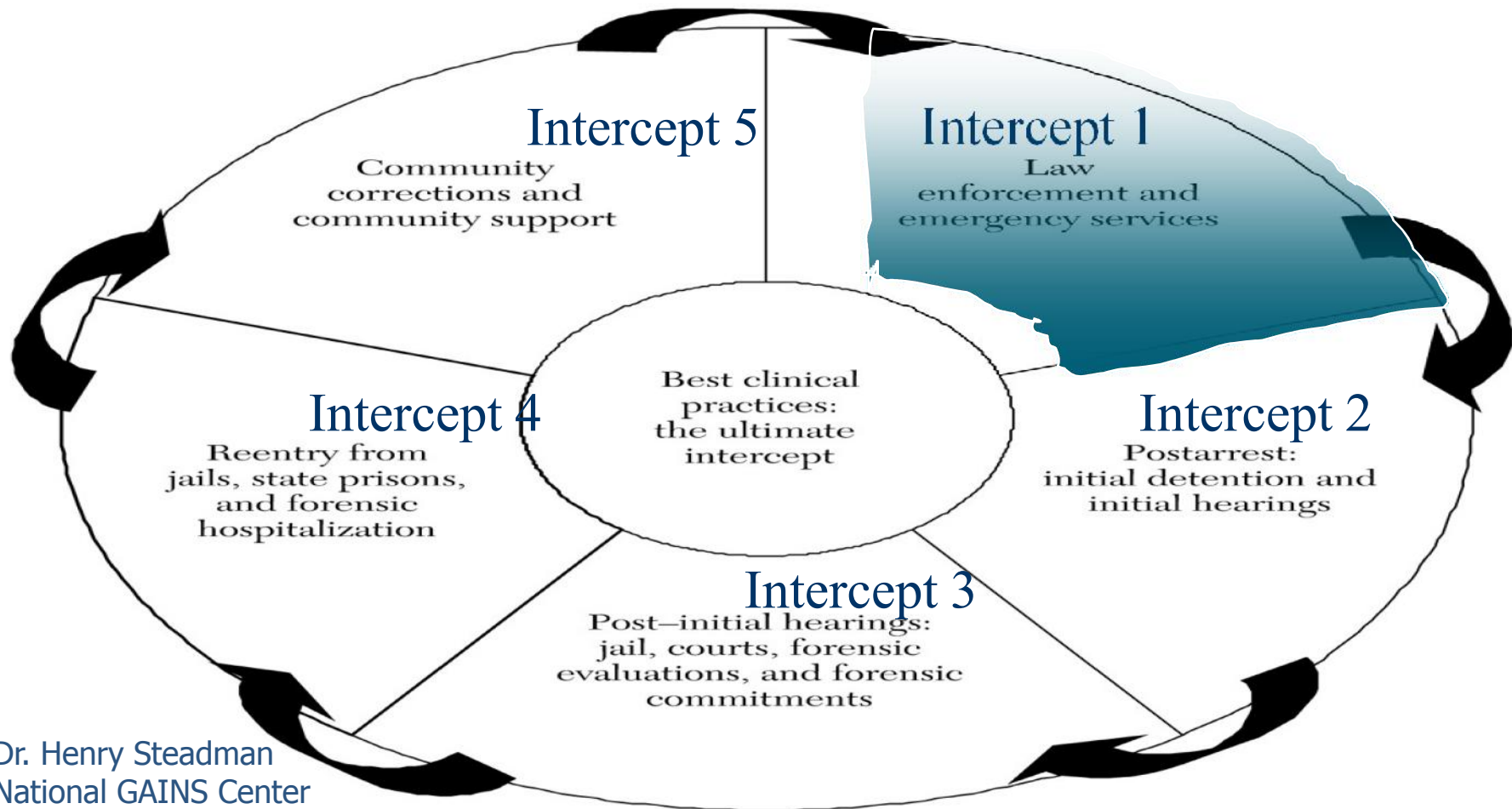




# SEQUENTIAL INTERCEPT MODEL

*Figure 2*

The Sequential Intercept Model from a revolving-door perspective with best practices at the core



Dr. Henry Steadman  
National GAINS Center

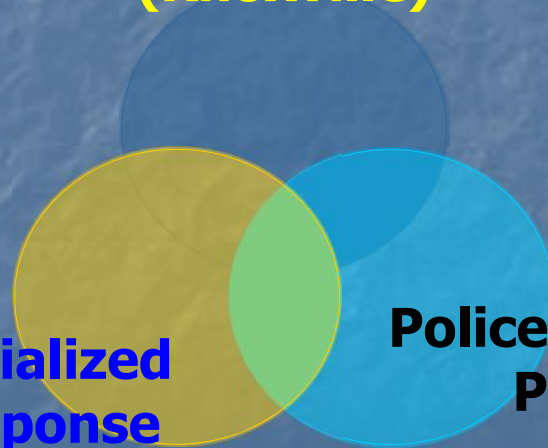


# Emergency Response Models

**Mental health-based specialized  
Mental health response  
(Knoxville)**

**Police-based specialized  
Mental health response  
(Birmingham)**

**Police-based specialized  
Police response  
(Memphis)  
(CIT)**



# HONOLULU MODEL

## A HYBRID MODEL

**Police-based  
Specialized Police -  
Specialized Mental Health  
Response**





# IMPACT ON LAW ENFORCEMENT

- 7-10% OF ALL POLICE INTERACTIONS INVOLVE SMI
- HPD ESTIMATES 19,000 TO 26,000 INTERACTIONS W/SMI PER YEAR



# PROJECT OUTREACH

- HPD EMPLOYED AN OUTREACH WORKER IN 1996
- FOCUSED ON JAIL DIVERSION FOR SMI AND HOMELESS



SEPTEMBER 2006 – Mission reassigned to Police  
Psychologists

**HPD EMERGENCY PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES/  
JAIL DIVERSION PROGRAM**

(EPSJDP)



# COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT

STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

3 MEDICAL CENTERS

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

INSTITUTE OF HUMAN SERVICES



## HAWAII REVISED STATUTE

REQUIRES POLICE OFFICERS  
TO CALL FOR ASSISTANCE:

IMMINENTLY DANGEROUS  
GRAVELY DISABLED  
OBVIOUSLY ILL  
SUICIDAL





- ALL POLICE OFFICERS TRAINED IN ENGAGING PERSONS IN CRISIS
- POLICE PSYCHOLOGIST ON-CALL 24/7



- APPROVE INVOLUNTARY EMERGENCY PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION
- REFER TO CRISIS MOBILE OUTREACH SERVICES
- REFER TO CASE MANAGER
- AUTHORIZE RELEASE

# POLICE OFFICER TRAINING



## GOALS FOR TRAINING:

- RECOGNIZE MENTAL ILLNESS AND SEVERE EMOTIONAL DISTURBANCE
- DE-ESCALATE CRISIS SITUATIONS
- PROCEDURES FOR GETTING PIC APPROPRIATE SERVICES

# POLICE OFFICER TRAINING



## GUIDANCE FROM CASE LAW:

- ❑ ENABLE OFFICERS TO RECOGNIZE “UNUSUAL, BIZARRE, AND ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR”
- ❑ ALTERNATIVE TO STANDARD FIELD TACTICS
- ❑ CONDUCT LIVE SCENARIO TRAINING



# POLICE OFFICER TRAINING

- RECRUIT CLASS
- ANNUAL RECALL TRAINING
- ON-LINE REFRESHER TRAINING



# POLICE OFFICER TRAINING

- 7-module multi-modal training program for dealing with persons-in-crisis
- The training includes in-class, intranet, and live scenario training.



# POLICE OFFICER TRAINING

(2007) **The Role of the Police Psychologist and Recognizing Persons-in-Crisis** –  
This module focuses on recognizing different types of mental illness and the policies and procedures of the EPSJDP, as well as basic “do”s and “don’t”s of dealing with PICs..



# POLICE OFFICER TRAINING

(2009) Understanding and Responding to the Risks of Interacting with Persons-in-Crisis (PICs) – This module provides an introduction to de-escalation techniques, but focuses on helping officers understand the psychological dynamics of these interactions, and how standard procedures can decrease safety and increase risks of violence.





# POLICE OFFICER TRAINING

(2011) **Suicide Risk Recognition, Prevention and Intervention** - This module focuses on teaching police officers how to recognize persons (civilians and officers) who are thinking of suicide, and what to do to get them the help they need.



# POLICE OFFICER TRAINING

## (2012) Trauma Informed Crisis

Responding - This module focuses on recognizing signs of trauma and understanding how trauma impacts behavior in both citizens and police officers.



# POLICE OFFICER TRAINING

## (2013) Responding to Domestic Violence -

This module will focus on how to de-escalate domestic violence situations, recognize mental illness and trauma, and how to better utilize the services of the EPSJDP in situations of domestic violence.



# POLICE OFFICER TRAINING

(2014) **Responding to Emotionally Disturbed or Mentally Ill Juveniles** - The focus will be on recognizing mental illness and emotional disturbance in juveniles, which presents much different than in adults, and how to better utilize the services of the EPSJDP for juveniles.

# POLICE OFFICER TRAINING



(2015) Responding to Emotionally Disturbed or Mentally Ill Elderly Persons - The focus of this module will be on recognizing and dealing with persons with dementia and other age related forms of mental illness, and how to better utilize the services of the EPSJDP for the elderly.



# APRN-RX PROJECT

A Post-booking Initiative

ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED  
NURSES WITH PRESCRIPTIVE  
AUTHORITY ASSIGNED TO HPD CENTRAL  
RECEIVING DIVISION



# PHARMACY PROJECT

ESTABLISH A "SUITECASE" PHARMACY  
WITHIN THE CENTRAL RECEIVING  
DIVISION WITH PSYCHOTROPIC  
FORMULARY

# HAWAII GOVERNOR'S SPECIAL ACTION TEAM 2012

## STATEWIDE INITIATIVES

STREAMLINE THE MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM  
INCREASE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

STREAMLINE THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM  
INCREASE JAIL DIVERSION PROGRAMS



# ALOHA

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