

W2D - Perspectives from Professional Experts: Meeting the Challenge of Jail Diversion for the Unserved and Underserved

Brenda Grealish, MA, Acting Deputy Director, Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services

Honorable James Bianco, Los Angeles County Superior Court Mental Health Court

Geoff Twitchell, PhD, Director of Treatment and Clinical Services, San Diego County Probation

Kathleen Lacey, LCSW, MSW, Program Director, UCSF/Citywide Case Management – San Francisco

Aimee Miller, Behavioral Health Director

Level: Intermediate

Track: Words to Deeds

Room: Cypress

CE: CPA/BBS/BRN (1.5)

POST TBD, MCLE TBD

Narrative

Forensic experts will present collaborative best practices regarding the latest jail diversion programs addressing the Unserved and Underserved from their individual professional perspectives. Professional expertise will be shared by leaders in the judicial, probation, social work/case management, and behavioral health fields. Attendees are encouraged to ask questions to improve their own professional effectiveness.

Bio

Brenda Grealish, MA, Acting Deputy Director, Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services

Honorable James Bianco, Los Angeles County Superior Court Mental Health Court

Judge James Bianco has been a Superior Court Judge for the past 10 years, following three years as a Superior Court Commissioner. For the past five years, Judge Bianco has served as the Site Judge of the Mental Health Courthouse, where he supervises operations of four mental health courtrooms, which adjudicate cases involving criminal competency, conservatorships, LPS hospital hearings, involuntary medication petitions, and mentally disordered offenders. He has worked in the criminal justice system for over 28 years.

Judge Bianco earned his B.A. in Economics from Stony Brook University, and his J.D. from USC Gould School of Law in 1987. During 17 years in practice, Judge Bianco served as criminal defense attorney in state and federal courts; he also practiced for several years as a criminal prosecutor and as a civil litigator.

Judge Bianco frequently teaches other judges about mental health, and ethics. He has taught criminal procedure at the USC Gould School of Law, and taught an externship seminar at UCLA Law School.

Geoff Twitchell, PhD, Director of Treatment and Clinical Services, San Diego County Probation

Kathleen Lacey, LCSW, MSW, Program Director, UCSF/Citywide Case Management – San Francisco

Kathleen Connolly Lacey, LCSW, is the Director of University of California San Francisco's Citywide Case Management Forensic Program that provides assertive community treatment to 400 criminal justice-involved individuals with mental illness in the community. She was instrumental in implementing San Francisco's successful response to the state of California's first Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction Grant. A founding member of San Francisco's Behavioral Health Court, she provides clinical expertise to the courts and the community. With over 25 years experience working in the criminal justice system and 20 years focused on the needs of individuals with serious mental disorders, she has expanded the focus of treatment to include: an emphasis on cultural and gender specific services; a comprehensive Dialectical Behavior Therapy program; a Full Service Partnership Program through San Francisco's Mental Health Services Act funds; a comprehensive Supported Employment program; mental health services for the San Francisco Sheriff Department's No Violence Alliance Program and the Adult Probation Department; and the recent creation of a Misdemeanor Behavioral Health Court in SF. She graduated from Gonzaga University in 1989 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Philosophy and Speech Communications; received her Masters in Social Welfare from the University of California, Berkeley in 1997 and has practiced as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker since 2001.

Aimee Miller, Behavioral Health Director

Learning Objectives

1. Participants will be able to describe at least one current collaborative best practice jail diversion program for the unserved and underserved population.
2. Participants will be able to assess at least one successful professional approach to collaborating with forensic program team members.
3. Participants will be able to apply at least one successful collaborative technique in own organization.