

Fulton County **Justice and Mental Health Task Force**

A Collaboration of Justice, Behavioral Health, and the Community



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Why a Definitions Focus Group?

- Stepping Up Initiative
- Need common definitions for concepts in 4 Goals—
 - Reduce the number of people with mental illnesses admitted to jail
 - Reduce their length of stay
 - Increase connections to treatment
 - Reduce recidivism



Definitions Focus Group Process

- Summer 2017 – Surveys sent to all stakeholders TWICE
- Summer/Fall 2017 – Focus Group met THREE times



Definitions Studied

1. Mental Illness
2. Developmental Disability
3. Serious & Persistent Mental Illness
4. Substance Use Disorder
5. Co-Occurring Disorder
6. Recidivism/Recidivist
7. Length of Stay



I. Mental Illness

A disorder of thought or mood, which significantly impairs judgment, behavior, capacity to recognize reality, or ability to cope with the ordinary demands of life.



2. Developmental Disability

A severe, chronic disability of an individual that

- is attributable to a **significant** intellectual disability, or any combination of a significant intellectual disability and physical impairments;
- is manifested before the individual attains age **22**;
- is likely to continue **indefinitely** ...



2. Developmental Disability (cont'd)

- results in substantial **functional** limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activities: self-care; receptive and expressive language; learning; mobility; self-direction; and capacity for independent living; and
- reflects the person's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic **services**, individualized supports, or other forms of assistance which are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated.



3. Serious & Persistent Mental Illness

Defined as having, at any time during the past year, a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder that causes **serious** functional impairment that substantially **interferes** with or limits one or more major life activities. Serious mental illnesses include major depression, psychotic disorders, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and other mental disorders that cause serious impairment, such as PTSD. SPMI includes mental illnesses with complex symptoms that require ongoing treatment and management. SPMI is distinguished by severity of symptoms that include, but are not limited to:



3. Serious & Persistent Mental Illness (cont'd)

- a. High use of acute psychiatric hospitals or crisis/emergency services including mobile, in-clinic or crisis residential (e.g., three or more admissions per year) or extended hospital stay (60 days within the past year) or psychiatric emergency services.
- b. Persistent, recurrent, severe or major symptoms that place the individual at risk of harm to self or others (e.g. command hallucinations, suicidal ideation or gestures, homicidal ideation or gestures, self-harm).



3. Serious & Persistent Mental Illness (cont'd)

- c. **Distorted perceptions** of reality, often accompanied by delusions and/or hallucinations. Frequent deficiencies of concentration, persistence or pace resulting in disruption of role performance, including inability to complete tasks or structured activities commonly found in occupational, home or educational settings.
- d. **Co-existing substance use disorder** of significant duration (e.g., greater than 6 months) or co-diagnosis of substance abuse



3. Serious & Persistent Mental Illness (cont'd)

- e. High risk for or a recent history of **criminal activity** due to mental illness (e.g., arrest and incarceration).
- f. Marked difficulties in maintaining **social** functioning (i.e. regard for safety of self or others, use of leisure time, applying appropriate social skills, lawfulness and adherence to social norms); or persistent inability to establish or maintain a personal social support system (i.e. establishing and maintaining social relationships, interpersonal interactions with primary partner, children or other family members, friends and neighbors).



3. Serious & Persistent Mental Illness (cont'd)

- g. Chronically homeless (e.g., one extended episode of homelessness for a year or four episodes of homelessness within three years).
- h. Functional impairments such as hygiene, employment, and ability to maintain a safe, stable living environment.
- i. Non-compliance with medication therapy, treatment, and supervision requirements.



4. Substance Use Disorder

The recurrent use of alcohol and/or drugs that causes functional impairment, such as health problems, disability, and failure to meet major responsibilities at work, school, or home. A diagnosis is based on evidence of impaired control, social impairment, risky use, and pharmacological criteria.



5. Co-Occurring Disorder

Mental illness in combination with substance use disorder that results in functional impairment.



6. Recidivism/Recidivist

An individual who is re-incarcerated or re-convicted in Fulton County within 24 months of arrest, release, or conviction. In this context, 'release' means from custodial care, including but not limited to, pre-trial release, post-sentence release, or final disposition.



7. Length of Stay

The duration of a single episode of detention or incarceration in the custody of a county or municipal jail or detention center. Length of stay is calculated by counting from the date of booking through the date of release.



Q & A



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