

Who Should Attend

Jail and court personnel who regularly encounter individuals with mental illness are the intended audience for this training. All personnel working in a jail or correctional setting will benefit from the course content. Typical participants include correctional officers, probation officers, correctional facility supervisory personnel, intake and processing personnel and any other staff that interacts with incarcerated individuals, or with those on parole/probation.

Training Content

Personal participating in this course will be able to:

- ✓ Identify the major mental illnesses and their typical characteristics.
- ✓ Recognize the impact of untreated mental illness on the staff and other inmates of a correctional facility.
- ✓ Utilize improved techniques to manage individuals with mental illness.
- ✓ Be better able to prevent crisis situations, and better handle them when they do occur.
- ✓ Empathize with persons who have psychiatric disabilities.
- ✓ Identify risk factors for suicide in correctional settings.

For more information about bringing this free training to your facility, please contact NAMI Ohio. NAMI Ohio will work with you to present to a single facility or as a regional training.



Ohio's Voice on Mental Illness

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Working with People with Mental Illness in the Criminal Justice System

Jail and Court Personnel Training



*A Free One Day Training
for
Criminal Justice Personnel
Presented by
NAMI Ohio*

The Impact of Individuals with Mental Illness on Your Local Jail and Court System

A large number of individuals incarcerated today suffer from psychiatric disorders that are severe enough to warrant mental health care. However, less than a third of these individuals receive the care they need. In fact, America's jails and prisons are now housing more individuals with mental illness than are our country's psychiatric hospitals.

The result of lack of treatment and disjointed mental health services is a strain on the criminal justice system and a sense of frustration as individuals with serious psychiatric disorders are constantly cycling in and out of the criminal justice system. The symptomatic behaviors associated with serious mental illness requires a disproportionate amount of staff time and attention, further burdening a system that is stretched beyond capacity.

NAMI Ohio, with support from the Ohio Department of Mental Health, has developed a one-day training curriculum that is designed to assist local justice facilities and personnel in better managing this challenge.

Mental Illness and Criminal Justice

FACT: Individuals incarcerated in Ohio's jails and prisons have four times the rate of mental illness than does the general population.

FACT: Individuals incarcerated in Ohio's jails and prisons have seven times the rate of substance abuse than does the general population.

FACT: Between 25% and 40% of individuals with mental illness will pass through the criminal justice system at some point.

FACT: Over half of all inmates with a mental illness report three or more prior sentences.

FACT: Most jail inmates with mental illnesses are charged with non-violent offenses.

FACT: As many as 50% of incarcerated persons with mental illness have experienced physical abuse in their lifetime.



Facts About Mental Illness

- ☞ Mental illness has nothing to do with intelligence—in fact, many people with mental illness are especially gifted.
- ☞ Mental illness can happen to anyone—it is an equal opportunity illness.
- ☞ Symptoms of mental illness come and go—a person's symptomatic behaviors may be due to changes in medications, stress levels or any number of biological factors.
- ☞ Mental illness can be successfully treated but not cured—it is like other chronic illnesses such as diabetes that can be managed with a combination of medication, other treatment options and lifestyle changes.
- ☞ Mental illness is long term—often it emerges in a person's late teens or early twenties. However, it can occur in childhood or later in life.
- ☞ Mental illness is not contagious but is very stressful for those who care for the person with the illness—persons with mental illness may be difficult to interact with and may have difficulty in social situations.
- ☞ Mental illness is often difficult to diagnose and treat correctly—misdiagnosis, missed diagnosis and finding the right balance of medications causes a person to experience symptomatic behaviors longer than is often the case with other illnesses.