



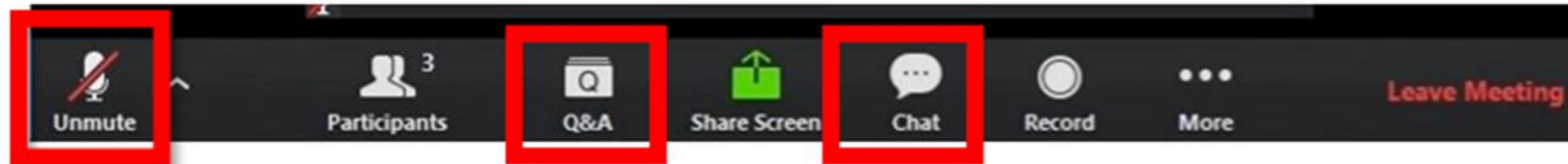
NATIONAL
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SJLA Learning Series December 2023 Event: Community Connections: Working With Justice-involved Individuals

Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2023
12-1 p.m. ET

Thank you for joining! The webinar will begin at the top of the hour.

How To Ask A Question



All functions are located at the bottom of your screen

- Ask questions by using the Q&A function (you will not be able to unmute)
- Use the chat for discussion & interactive activities



SJLA Community Norms

- Practice empathy: discussions around social justice and equity touch on sensitive topics that require us all to be understanding of each other's backgrounds and experiences.
- As you participate in today's webinar, please remember to stay committed to openness and learning.

Chat Norms:

- We may have differing opinions on ideas, but **those differences should always be discussed respectfully to facilitate education and growth.**
- Insulting, bullying, inflammatory, and offensive language will result in removal from the webinar.
- If you have any questions or concerns or are experiencing issues in the group, feel free to reach out to one of the moderators privately in the chat or by emailing SJLA@thenationalcouncil.org. We are here to help!



Frequently Asked Questions

- **All Learning Series events are recorded and will be made available to view on demand, along with a copy of these slides, on our SJLA webpage** within 48 hours following the event's conclusion.
- **The SJLA Workbook is not required to participate in the Learning Series**, however if you are interested in purchasing a copy it is available on our SJLA website.
- The SJLA Learning Series **is not CEU accredited**.
- **There will not be a certificate of completion for attending the SJLA Learning Series**. However, if you would like proof of attendance for your employer, please email SJLA@thenationalcouncil.org and we would be happy to provide you with an email verification.



Today's Presenter



Jennifer Seib, LMHC, CASAC
Senior Vice President of Strategic Initiatives
BestSelf Behavioral Health, Inc.

Pronouns: she/her/hers





Description

In this SJLA Learning Series event, we will focus on the prevalence and impact of substance use and mental health challenges for justice-involved individuals.

Our speaker will discuss the challenges faced by individuals who are justice-involved and by those working with this specialized population in behavioral health care settings.

We will highlight jail-based treatment and peer services, reentry, opioid treatment programs working in collaboration with jails and prisons, housing, and a program helping bridge the gap between drug and mental health courts and CCBHCs. Lastly, we will explore current approaches that are working and strategize future solutions.

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Learning Objectives

Participants will:

1. Understand the importance of working with justice-involved individuals with substance use and/or mental health challenges.
2. Explore challenges and barriers behavioral health care providers may face when working with this special population.
3. Identify effective strategies and programs for working with justice-involved individuals in behavioral health care settings.



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Working with Justice Involved Individuals

JENNIFER SEIB, LMHC, CASAC

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Challenges for Justice-Involved Individuals with MH/SU Concerns - Incarcerated Individuals

- Individuals with behavioral health issues are overrepresented in jails and prisons
- Arrest and incarceration often destabilizes a person
 - Loss of employment, housing, interrupted or loss of access to physical and behavioral health care, family, supports, etc.
- Individuals with MH/SU challenges stay in jails longer, have increased risk of self-harm and receive more frequent punitive responses
- There is a high prevalence of trauma occurring prior to and during incarceration. Significant risk of re-traumatization during incarceration, especially for those in marginalized groups.
- Upon release, they are at greater risk of re-incarceration, emergency dept. use, hospitalization, homelessness, and death by overdose

Risk of Overdose Death Post Release

- About 60% of State and Federal prisoners have Substance Use Disorder (SUD), often Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)
- Individuals with SUD – likelihood of death of overdose increases 12-fold the 2 weeks post incarceration
- Individuals with OUD –risk of overdose death is 40 times that of the general population
- There is also an increased risk of suicide among individuals reentering communities post incarceration

Community Corrections Programs

- Community Corrections Programs monitor and supervise a justice-involved person in the community
 - Probation
 - Parole
 - Treatment Courts



Challenges for Justice-Involved Individuals with MH/SU Concerns – Community Corrections Programs

- May have many steps to follow or things to do/change to be considered in compliance with the criminal justice supervision
- Likely required to be in a behavioral health treatment program
- May be required to be abstinent of all substances
- Poor communication between community corrections program and treatment providers can add extra challenges to the individual
- One's behavioral health provider not incorporating justice involvement into treatment planning

Challenges for Behavioral Health Care Providers Working with Justice-Involved Individuals

- Understanding the criminal justice system and how the justice-involved person is impacted
- Knowing how to assess and incorporate into treatment planning
- Information sharing with the community corrections program or other criminal justice professionals
- Biases
- Being seen by the justice-involved individual as an extension of criminal justice system = difficulty in building a therapeutic relationship

Addressing the Concerns

- Jail-Based Treatment Programs and Services
- Reentry Services
- MOUD for Incarcerated Individuals, including methadone access
- Justice-Involved Program
- Housing

Jail-Based Treatment Programs and Services

- Treatment started while a person is in jail or prison can begin the process of therapeutic change and continuing treatment upon reentry into the community can sustain these gains
- Jail-Based Program Team Consists of:
 - Supervisor
 - Counselors
 - Peers

Jail-Based Treatment Programs and Services

- Jail-Based Program Team Provides:
 - Individual and Group Counseling
 - Interactive journaling
 - Seeking Safety and Living in Balance (groups)
 - Assessment and referral to MOUD services
 - Address criminogenic factors and recidivism risk
 - Recurrence Prevention Planning and Discharge Planning
 - Peer Services
 - Communication and Coordination with Correctional Staff
 - Follow up with individuals 30 days post release

Jail-Based Treatment Programs and Services

- Reentry Team Consists of:
 - Supervisor
 - Case Managers
 - Outreach Specialist
 - Peers

Jail-Based Treatment Programs and Services

- Reentry Team Provides:
 - Intensive Case Management in preparation for release – setting up appointments, housing, transportation, ensuring they have their ID and reinstated health insurance upon release, etc. – and post release
 - While individuals are still incarcerated – provide groups – MISSION-CJ
 - Peers meet with individuals while incarcerated, attend court with them, and provide supports post release
 - Team follows individuals for 1 year post release and provide support throughout the transition period
 - Continued outreach to those who are transferred to DOCCS and will pick up working with them if/when released back to community

Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) and Coordination with Jails and Prisons

- Incarcerated individuals wishing to continue with methadone maintenance or begin methadone maintenance can do so
- BestSelf OTP works directly with Erie and Niagara County Jails and New York State Dept. Of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) - Collins Correctional Facility, State Prison, to provide methadone to individuals within those facilities
- Note – these facilities provide buprenorphine products through their own medical units, so incarcerated individuals seeking MOUD have choice



Justice-Involved Program

- BestSelf has this program in place to help bridge the gap that exists between our clinic-based services and the community corrections programs, as well as provide additional support to our clinicians who are working with justice-involved clients
- Newer program – rooted in the understanding that collaboration between the behavioral health care provider and criminal justice professionals improves health and social outcomes for justice-involved people... and we have work to do here
- We want to make sure that our clinicians have a holistic approach and a better understanding of the client's experience within the criminal justice system and how that impacts various aspects of their life

Justice-Involved Program

- We want to have a positive impact on how community corrections programs view individuals with MH/SU challenges who are working with us in treatment and be able to understand their challenges and gains
- Justice-Involved Team Consists of:
 - Supervisor
 - Court Liaisons
 - Support Staff
 - Also works collaboratively with several other departments across the organization

Justice-Involved Program

- Justice-Involved Program Team Provides:
 - Support to clinicians in working with justice-involved individuals and communication with local drug and mental health courts
 - Attend drug and mental health courts to speak on behalf of the individual's treatment, speak with the individual while at court to provide support and additional guidance, as needed, and support the individual's treatment goals
 - Provide trainings
 - Work with Champions

Housing

- Housing Specialists, in coordination with the Reentry team, will meet with individuals while incarcerated to review housing options available and begin the process to obtain housing
 - Several different types of housing options are available with different eligibility criteria

Resources

- Principles of Community-based Behavioral Health Services for Justice-involved Individuals: A Research-based Guide A bridge to the possible – SAMHSA
- *Justice-Involved Individuals, Mental Health, and the Revolving Door*, APA, September 2022 Content Author: K. Maravet Baig-Ward, M.D, Ph.D.

Q&A and Open Discussion



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SJLA LinkedIn Networking Group

The Social Justice Leadership Academy's (SJLA) LinkedIn networking group is a space created for Learning Series participants to connect with one another outside of our monthly events.

This group is intended to serve as a networking hub for individuals seeking to advance social justice within their organizations. By joining this group, you are indicating that you are open to networking with other SJLA participants.



<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12879319/>

Scan the QR code or click the link above to join!



Evaluation

Please provide your feedback on this SJLA Learning Series webinar event at the link below. Scan the QR code or type the URL into your browser.



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SJLA2023Session6>



Thank You!

