LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER: IMPLEMENTING INTEGRATED TREATMENT FOR JUSTICE INVOLVED INDIVIDUALS WITH CO-OCCURRING MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE DISORDERS

CLINICALLY INFORMED CASE MANAGEMENT: THINKING DIFFERENTIALLY ABOUT COURT VIOLATIONS

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The Queens TASC Mental Health Program

- Post-plea, pre-sentence diversion program providing assessment, case management and court supervision services to individuals with co-occurring disorders charged with felonies and misdemeanors (both in the Queens Felony and Misdemeanor Mental Health Courts as well as decentralized diversion).
- Individuals take a plea under the condition that they will enter treatment in the community in lieu of incarceration. If individual <u>violates</u> the conditions of release, they receive an alternative prison sentence.

The Queens TASC Mental Health Program

- Although Queens TASC refers individuals to treatment in the community, several steps have been taken to improve treatment outcomes for individuals with Co-occurring disorders:
 - Develop special relationships with treatment providers, both residential and outpatient treatment programs.
 - Train case managers and treatment providers on *Thinking for a Change*: cognitive-behavioral curriculum developed by the National Institute of Corrections that concentrates on changing the criminogenic thinking of offenders (cognitive restructuring, social skills and problem solving skills development)
 - Clinically-informed case management

Importance of Initial Assessment

- Thorough psychological assessment and risk assessment & management conducted by the same agency doing the case management.
- Clear relationship between substance abuse and other psychiatric diagnosis (which one is primary, are psychiatric symptoms always induced by substances, are relapses triggered by psychiatric decompensations): important to get a good history!
- Risk Assessment & Management: what are the risk factors for what: psychiatric decompensation, relapse, violence, recidivism.
- Conditions under which individual may become at increased risk and management plan.

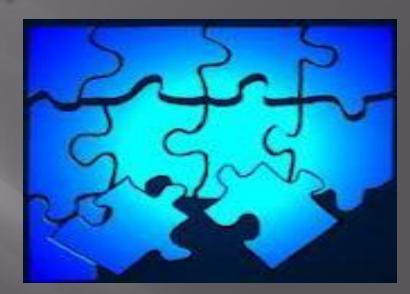
Court Violations

A challenge when supervising court-mandated individuals with co-occurring disorders (MHCs, probation/parole supervision) is making decisions regarding whether a certain behavior should be considered a violation of the conditions of release.

- A positive toxicology?
- An act of violence?
- Non-compliance with medication?
- Failure to attend counseling sessions?
- Lack of motivation for treatment?

Thinking differentially: What may explain this behavior? Cases:

- Diagnosis/Vulnerabilities
 - History!
- Circumstances/Triggers
 - Incident details
- List of possibilities
 - Evidence for and against
- Intervention targets underlying condition
 - Not just overt behavior



Case 1: Mr. B

18 y/old Hispanic male, no prior arrests, history of Cannabis abuse and 3 state hospitalizations for depression and suicidal ideation.

 Shortly before his arrest, Mr. B witnessed his cousin being shot in the head in the lobby of his apartment building

Case 1: Mr. B

- Pled guilty to Robbery-II and mandated to attend outpatient MH treatment and school.
- After 2 months, Mr. B stopped attending school, received a violation and was remanded

Case 1. Mr. B: differential thinking

Differential thinking about this violation



- 65 y/o AA veteran male
- Pled guilty to Burglary-II and Criminal Trespass-II in QVC. Mandated to 1 year in treatment
- Reports uneventful childhood, graduated college, no problems in school.
- Reports having held 3 full-time government jobs (sanitation, mail and transit conductor), and 3 years with US Army. Retired 10 years ago: currently spends time watching TV and helping senior citizens in the neighborhood.

Reports being the CEO of a company and having millions of dollars.

- Denies any MH or substance abuse history.
 However, found unfit, diagnosed with Bipolar
 Disorder NOS and described as having grandiose delusions and hypomania.
- Initially no collateral information available. Sister finally contacted. According to her, Mr. W left one day in 1997 to go to the store and never returned. He was found 10 years later.

- Treatment course: after plea, referred to residential MICA tx through the VA, made intake on 8/16/11. On 8/17/11, he left the premises for a few hours but returned independently.
- On 8/22/11, a violation was submitted to court after leaving on 8/20/11. Mr. W went to his sister's. Judge gave him another opportunity and he went back to program.

On 8/29/11, Mr. W was reported for making rude comments to other veterans, presenting fraudulent resident pass to VA security, appearing grandiose, and not taking medication.

 On 8/30/11 he tested positive for alcohol and was violated.

Case 2: Mr. W: differential thinking

Differential thinking about this violation

