NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007

Promising Practices for Improved Record Reporting

Many states faced challenges in creating state estimates for the NIAA records report over the three years of data collection. Often, these challenges in estimating were direct results of structural or reporting problems of actual NICS records. This brief presents a strategy that at least one state has implemented to address that problem.

Estimation Problem
Inability to create accurate estimates of available mental health records.

Reporting Problem
Records are not being sent to the repository (consistently/at all), therefore they are not getting reported to the NICS index.

Strategy
Create an technology solution at the court level that will automatically transfer mental health records to state police.

Automate Mental Health Record Transfer to Repository

About this strategy

In most cases, records are submitted to the NICS Index through the state repository. Often, and for a number of reasons, it is difficult for repositories to obtain the mental health records that are critical to include in NICS. One solution to this problem is to install a process that automates record transfer for the courts to the repository.

- **Who it may work for:** States who have mental health records available at the courts, but have trouble transferring them to the repository

- **Costs**: Cost of installing the technology and equipment as well as setting up the process

Why this strategy makes a difference

An automated records transfer process not only increases the number of records available, but also imposes quality control and eliminates the extensive time that manual entry requires. This leads to a huge increase in both the number and quality of records being made available to NICS.

Who's Doing It? Virginia

Virginia received a NARIP grant to improve their NICS reporting and are installing infrastructure at the 40 district courts to allow for automated transfer of mental health records to the VA State police.

For more information:

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