

# The Miami Model




# **Jail Diversion Programs**

**Designed and implemented to divert people with serious mental illnesses away from the criminal justice system into community-based treatment and services.**

# FACTS

- **Sixty-four percent (64%) of people in local jails suffer from behavioral health diagnoses**
- **Approximately 15% have significant mental illness**
- **Incarcerated eight times longer**
- **Cost seven times higher**
- **Increased risk for co-occurring substance use, suicide and early death**

# Recovery...



Mental  
illness  
is not  
a choice...

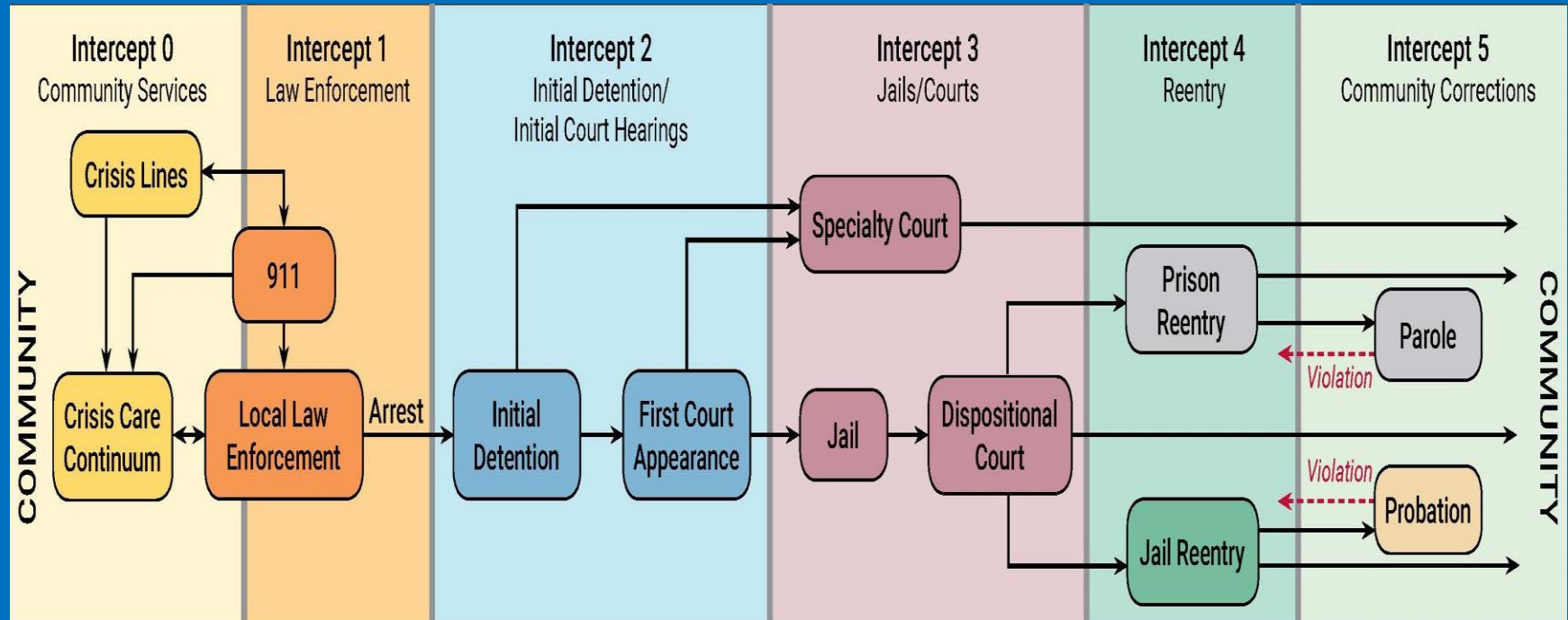
But  
recovery  
is.

# Dimensions of Recovery

- ***Health:*** overcoming or managing one's disease(s) as well as living in a physically and emotionally healthy way
- ***Home:*** a stable and safe place to live
- ***Purpose:*** meaningful daily activities, such as a job, school, volunteerism, family caretaking, or creative endeavors, and the independence, income and resources to participate in society
- ***Community:*** relationships and social networks that provide support, friendship, love, and hope

(SAMHSA, 2011)

# Sequential Intercept Model



# Cross System Collaboration

- Judges
- The Court
- Public Defender
- State Attorney
- Law Enforcement
- Consumers and Families
- Department of Corrections
- Mental Health Providers
- Social Security
- Foundations
- DCF

# Pre-Booking

- **CIT officers receive special training to respond to crisis calls involving persons with suspected mental illness**
- **When appropriate, CIT officers transport individuals with mental illness to community mental health facilities for evaluation, treatment, and referrals instead of making an arrest**



# CIT Data

Decreased Arrests

Decreased use of force

Decreased officer injuries

# POST-BOOKING

- **Originally established to divert nonviolent misdemeanor defendants with SMI and possible co-occurring substance use disorders**
- **Program expanded to serve defendants that have been arrested for less serious felonies and other charges as determined appropriate**

# Eligibility and Goals

- **Serious Mental Illnesses**
- **Misdemeanor (except traffic)**
- **Felony-3<sup>rd</sup> degree & some 2<sup>nd</sup> degree felony case(s) with 3 or less prior felony convictions**
- **Improve psychiatric outcomes (stabilization, functioning, recovery) in the least restrictive setting**
- **Decrease recidivism**

# Post Booking Diversion

- Jail In-Reach
- Misdemeanor Jail Diversion

County Criminal

Domestic Violence

AOT

Felony Jail Diversion

Pre-adjudication and post adjudication/probation

Entitlement Unit- SOAR

Miami-Dade Forensic Diversion Center

Peer Specialists

Miami Center for Mental Health and Recovery

# Team Approach

- **Team Leader**
- **Intake Specialist**
- **Court Case Management Specialist**
- **Peer Specialists**

# Successful Community Re-Entry and Recovery

- **Individuals voluntarily agree to services**
- **Linkage to a comprehensive array of community-based treatment, support, and housing services**
- **APIC Model to provide transition planning for all program participants**
- **Upon stabilization, legal charges may be dismissed or modified in accordance with treatment engagement**

# Evidence-Based Practice

- Assessment and Screening
- Reentry Transition Planning
- Trauma Informed
- Interventions

# Peer Specialists

- Due to their life experience, peers are uniquely qualified to perform the functions of the position
- Peer support specialists work as members of the jail diversion team
- Primary responsibility is to assist jail diversion participants with community re-entry and engagement in continuing treatment and services



# Outcomes

- **Decreased arrests**
- **Decrease in jail bed days and associated costs**
- **Increased Public Safety**
- **Increased Income attainment**
- **Increased stable housing**
- **Increased recovery outcomes**

# Summary

**Developing jail diversion systems  
will keep more people  
with mental illnesses  
out of jail  
and  
get them the help they need.**

# For More Information

Cindy A. Schwartz, MS, MBA  
cindyaschwartz@gmail.com