

January 21, 2016

**TO:** Honorable Members of the Council on Mentally Ill Offenders (COMIO)

**FROM:** Judge Stephen V. Manley, COMIO Member  
Brenda Grealish, COMIO Member  
Jessica Cruz, COMIO Members  
Stephanie Welch, COMIO Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Work Group Recommendation on 2016 COMIO Best Practices Awards

**MOTION:** **Support Work Group Recommendation to Select COMIO Best Practice Awardees**

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After careful consideration, it is the recommendation of this work group that COMIO no longer administer an application process for programs to be considered for a Best Practices Award.

In December 2015 this work group met to discuss the purpose of the COMIO Best Practices Awards and to determine if the process of honoring programs was aligned with that purpose. The work group determined that in selecting model programs that exemplify recommendations COMIO has made, there is more of an opportunity to raise awareness about the kinds of programs that should be replicated, especially if awards can be issued in a venue that can engage key stakeholders and decision-makers.

In 2016, as part of the COMIO workplan, the work group is recommending that COMIO select honorees with model programs that:

- Demonstrate the types of best practices COMIO has identified in the 2015 Annual Legislative Report;
- Provide opportunities for learning and exchanging knowledge; and
- Are consistent with existing criteria for a COMIO Best Practice Award, which include being
  - Collaborative in nature
  - Demonstrating measurable success
  - Having relevance to COMIO's purpose
  - Making a difference

Depending upon the honoree(s) and capacity, COMIO will award one Best Practices Award in each of the three prioritized program areas from the FY 2015-16 Annual Legislative Report: Diversion, First Responder Training, and Juvenile Delinquency Prevention. Moreover, awards will be provided in a way that seeks to offer an educational opportunity for stakeholders and decision-makers, increasing understanding of the impact of such programs.

**Recommendation: COMIO Best Practices Award Programs shall be selected for the purpose of raising awareness about the strategies and outcomes associated with best practices that are highlighted in COMIO's Annual Legislative Reports.**