

Council on Mentally Ill Offenders (COMIO) 2016 Work Plan

Overview:

Since 2001, California, through the Council on Mentally Ill Offenders (COMIO), has recognized that individuals living with mental illness are at risk of becoming criminally involved without access to support and needed services. COMIO is a 12 member council chaired by the Secretary of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and is composed of key state departments and appointed expert representatives from criminal justice and mental health. Together the Council's purpose is to *investigate, identify, and promote* cost-effective strategies that:

- Prevent adults and juveniles with mental health needs from becoming offenders;
- Improve services for adults and juveniles with mental health needs who have a history of offending; and
- Identify incentives to encourage state and local criminal justice, juvenile justice, and mental health programs to adopt such approaches.

In 2015 the Council prioritized the following areas to make recommendations:

- Diversion of persons with mental health needs from the criminal justice system;
- Improvement of first responder training for encounters with persons with mental illness; and
- Prevention of youth with mental health needs from becoming involved in the juvenile justice system.

In order to develop recommendations, COMIO established three time limited committees - Diversion, First Responder Training, and Juvenile Justice Prevention. While the committees meet independently they are interrelated and share similarities such as all looking to identify best practices. In other words, making progress in one area leads to related impacts in another area. For example, improving availability and quality of mental health training impacts adults and juveniles and increasing service capacity supports providing alternatives to jails and emergency departments for newly trained first responders.

COMIO provided a comprehensive annual report, including recommendations on these priorities, to the Legislature which can be accessed at <http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/COMIO/>.

In 2016 the Council is tasked with conducting activities to fulfill their purpose and further address the priorities identified in 2015. The council will continue to use the three committee structure to conduct its work and use a work plan to focus and structure their actions. This work plan was reviewed and adopted at the January 21, 2016 meeting. Minor changes from council member comments are reflected in the adopted work plan provided here. Most notably the First Responder Training committee will now be referred to as the Training committee to reflect the full

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inclusion of the training needs of all partners in the criminal justice sector, including first responders. Recognizing the complexity of the issues, the rapidly changing environment, and the need to seize opportunities for progressive change, the work plan may be updated as necessary on an on-going basis.

The work plan will consist of 3 elements:

- Effectively Communicating and Conducting COMIO’s Mission and Work
- Investigating, Identifying, and Promoting Cost Effective Strategies and Best Practices
- Providing Incentives for Adoption of Cost Effective Strategies and Best Practices

Effectively Communicating and Conducting COMIO’s Mission and Work

AREA	Objective	Activities	Output/Product/ or Outcome	Due Date
Communication Plan	Develop a comprehensive communication plan to effectively promote the mission and purpose of COMIO	1. Develop messaging and tools for COMIO members regarding 2015 report and recommendations	Executive Summary, Fact Sheet a	January 2016
		2. Widely and effectively disseminate 2015 annual report	Print and mail to identified key audiences and	February 2016
		3. Provide regular updates via email to key external stakeholders	E-newsletter, Presentations	On-going 2016
		4. Enhance website as a primary communication and resource tool	Improvements and updates to web content	April 2016
			Increased traffic to the website/ improved google analytics	September 2016
Relationship	Strategically involve and	1. Identify strategic partners and	Strengthen ad-hoc	March 2016

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<p>Building/ Collaboration</p>	<p>support critical COMIO partners and collaborators</p>	<p>collaborators and determine if and how COMIO can offer support – including participating in their workgroup/ committee structures</p> <p>2. Invite appropriate partners and collaborators to ad-hoc committees and workgroups to strengthen on the ground expertise</p> <p>3. Continue to act as a resource for information to our partners in the Administration and the Legislature</p>	<p>committee participation</p> <p>Share and promote other’s aligned work</p> <p>Council members to participate in meetings as needed</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>On-going</p>
<p>Capacity Building/ Form and Structure</p>	<p>Determine an effective yet feasible model for future council meetings, including ad-hoc committee or workgroup components</p> <p>Investigate strategies to support COMIO capacity building</p>	<p>1. Research best practices models for other state councils and commissions and seek input from members and stakeholders</p> <p>2. Maximizing Partnerships with other State and Local Government partners, and associated entities such as research and public policy entities, etc.</p> <p>3. Student Assistant(s)</p> <p>4. Explore whether and how to pursue strategies that support capacity building for COMIO to conduct its work</p>	<p>Present findings for deliberation for future changes</p> <p>Participate as capacity and priority permits</p> <p>Increased support</p> <p>Present findings</p>	<p>July 2016</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>ASAP</p> <p>July 2016</p>

	<p>efforts to the existing mental health system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Are existing local mental health delivery systems user-friendly and qualified to work with criminally involved persons with mental illness arrested in the community? 	<p>innovating and diverting prior to arrest or trial</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The role Public Guardians play in diversion and support improvements ➤ Barriers to providers serving the target population (e.g. restrictions on services due to criminal status) ➤ Policy and legislative barriers that need to be addressed for the above <p>5. Participate in planning and implementation efforts for service expansion, and for them to target populations at risk of incarceration. (e.g. Health Home Pilot, Certified Behavioral Health Clinics)</p>	<p>Crisis and Coordination Services are Prioritized</p>	<p>November 2016</p>
<p>TRAINING</p>	<p>Continue to learn more about the training delivered to first responders, correctional staff, probation staff, and parole staff.</p> <p>Support high quality Mental Health Training for <i>first responders</i> and <i>community</i> correctional staff which include county probation officers, state parole agents, and state, county and city correctional officer.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote contents of existing annual report 2. Build on what has already been accomplished with focus on enhancing understanding of the training needs of a full range of first responders including fire and emergency services 3. Investigate the training being provided to law enforcement and how COMIO can be a resource for those interested in improving their training, especially those working at the community level 	<p>Dissemination</p> <p>Report Findings</p> <p>Dissemination, support collaboration</p>	<p>February 2016</p> <p>June 2016</p> <p>On-going</p>

	Identify strategies to support the mental well-being of first responders themselves.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Act as a conduit for multiple training entities, facilitate sharing of best practices including the use of data to inform training strategies 5. Investigate what is being done to support the mental well-being of first responders 	Report Findings	September 2016
			Report Findings	November 2016
PREVENT JJ SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT	Continue to promote promising practices in prevention and early intervention programs that could significantly reduce criminal justice contact for youth with trauma and other mental health needs.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote existing contents of annual report and send to identified prevention partners. 2. Investigate added value role COMIO can provide in the Continuum of Care Reforms being implemented by the CA Dept of Social Services 	Dissemination	February 2016
	Collaborate with Diversion and Training Committees, when appropriate, to include the needs of juveniles/ youth in their activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Investigate the content and availability of training to support youth with mental health needs who are or who are at risk of incarceration 	Participation, if warranted, in implementation activities	On-going
	Promote strategies to address the racial and ethnic disproportion of youth of color in the juvenile justice system.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Identify and promote resources to address the racial and ethnic disproportion of youth of color in the JJ system made available by the Board of State and Community Corrections and others to support implementation of effective strategies 	Report Findings	September 2016
				Report Findings

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Providing Incentives for Adoption of Cost Effective Strategies and Best Practices

Priority Area	Objective	Activity	Output/ Product/ or Outcome	Due Date
DIVERSION	Raise Awareness of Model Programs	Model Program Local Site Visit or Educational Forum	COMIO Best Practices Award	November 2016
TRAINING	Raise Awareness of Model Programs	Model Program Local Site Visit or Educational Forum	COMIO Best Practice Award	November 2016
PREVENT JJ SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT	Raise Awareness of Model Programs	Model Program Local Site Visit or Educational Forum	COMIO Best Practice Award	November 2016