



*Building bridges between
criminal justice & behavioral health
to prevent incarceration*

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To: Partners Serving the Justice Involved with Behavioral Health Needs
From: Stephanie Welch, Executive Officer, Council on Mentally Ill Offenders
Subject: Invitation for Participation April 5, 2017

On behalf of COMIO, please join us for the following workshop:

***How Lived Experience Can Prevent Crisis and Incarceration &
Promote Recovery and Wellness***

April 5, 2017

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Board of Parole Hearings Executive Board Room

1515 K Street, 5th Floor, Suite 550

Sacramento, CA 95814

Teleconference: 1-888-363-4734, Access Code: 3232557

COMIO is a 12-member appointed council charged with identifying best practices to prevent the incarceration of individuals with behavioral health challenges. In 2016 COMIO's annual legislative report contained the following recommendation:

Promote the use of peers who are formerly justice-involved as an essential element of the service team. Encourage counties to hire and train the formerly justice-involved. All efforts to expand the use of peers in the workforce, including strategies that support Medi-Cal reimbursable services, should include peers who have been justice-involved.

In 2017 COMIO is hosting issue-specific workshops to examine critical issues in more depth with key partners. The workshop on April 5th is intended to explore a variety of ways that individuals with lived experience can aid in preventing crisis, act as system navigators, and support effective programming for individuals with behavioral health needs who have justice-involvement. Moreover, the workshop aims to hear from individuals working in these programs regarding what they feel is needed to further support the expansion and adoption of such services. Representatives from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), California Chapter, The California Association of Mental Health Peer Run Organizations (CAMHPRO) and others who work specifically with the justice-involved will be presenting.

Questions to explore:

- What is peer support and why are such services important?
- How can individuals with lived experience - families, peers, mentors, and caregivers participate in the prevention of crisis, incarceration and relapse?
- What evidence exists to document the positive impact (recovery and wellness) of using individuals with lived experience?
- What needs to be done, barriers to remove or incentives to provide, to better support the use of services led by individuals with lived experience?

Outcome: COMIO intends to take the information and ideas shared in this workshop, conduct follow-up information gathering, and develop a written brief that can be used widely among various stakeholders and partners. Additional and specific recommendations for the 2017 legislative report may come from this workshop.

We hope you can join us. In-person interaction is preferred but conference call-in capacity is available. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments at 916-324-7021 or Stephanie.welch@cdcr.ca.gov. To learn more about COMIO please visit: <http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/COMIO/>.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Welch
Executive Officer, Council on Mentally Ill Offenders (COMIO)