

Making Jail the Last Resort 2017

The Eleventh Judicial Criminal Mental Health Project (CMHP)-Jail Diversion Programs in Miami-Dade County has been recognized as a model of excellence. Under the direction of Judge Steve Leifman, the project was established in 2000 to divert individuals with serious mental illnesses and co-occurring substance use disorders away from the criminal justice system and into comprehensive community-based treatment and support services. The program operates CIT pre-booking diversion and post-booking diversion serving individuals booked into the jail and awaiting trial. All participants are provided with individualized transition planning including linkages to community-based treatment and support services. Other programs and supportive services, such as utilizing Peer Specialists, the SOAR Entitlement Unit and the Miami-Dade Forensic Alternative Center have been developed and implemented to ensure successful recovery and community integration outcomes can be achieved with the appropriate assistance and support.

Educational Objectives

1. Participants will be able to identify program components of a successful jail diversion program: pre-booking and post-booking.
2. Participants will be able to describe creative solutions to program barriers.
3. Participants will be able to identify community need and the necessary stakeholders to implement a successful jail diversion program.