



Message from Dr. Wolff:



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### *Our Mission*

**The Center for Behavioral Health Services & Criminal Justice Research** seeks to improve the availability and effectiveness of services for individuals with mental illnesses who are involved with the criminal justice system.

The Center encourages researchers and stakeholders to work together to ensure that people with mental illness, with and without co-occurring substance use problems, receive access to evidence-based treatment services, employment and housing opportunities, and public benefits that will increase their prospects for living and thriving in the community.

The over-representation of persons with serious mental illnesses in the U.S. criminal justice system continues to be a widespread unresolved crisis. The first generation of mental health and criminal justice interventions that serve justice-involved people with serious mental illnesses started the essential work of recognizing and understanding the disproportionate representation of people with serious mental illnesses in the criminal justice system. These first generation interventions, however, have been ineffective in reducing the prevalence of persons with SMI in the criminal justice system.

Researchers at CBHS&CJR have produced this monograph which draws upon history, the literature, new research, and individuals providing first generation interventions, to supply an understanding of the performance of existing interventions, and the complex set of individual and environmental factors affecting this population. Ultimately, the monograph outlines a blueprint for effective change that presents the goals, unifying principles, and key components to shape the next generation of interventions.

This monograph breaks new ground in order to provide more effective responses to justice-involved individuals with serious mental illnesses and is a result of the collaboration between researchers and the practice community. Please accept this monograph with my compliments, and thank you for your interest in the important work being done at CBHS&CJR.

All my best,

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