



Oregon Center on
Behavioral Health &
Justice Integration

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Crook County tackles mental illness in community, jail

Workshop draws public safety, justice officials for countywide intercept mapping

Prineville — Local leaders zeroed in on the intersections of mental health and justice at a workshop held on Aug. 27.

Crook County's public safety, mental health, advocacy and justice officials — among others — gathered at the session to brainstorm and develop integrated strategies addressing the needs of adults in the justice system who have co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders.

The program, "Sequential Intercept Mapping," (SIM) developed by New York-based Policy Research Associates, Inc. (PRA), helps communities identify existing community resources, service gaps, and opportunities for improved coordination and communication between professionals in mental health, substance abuse, and criminal justice.

Oregon Center on Behavioral Health & Justice Integration (OCBHJI) coordinated the training. The session followed up on Crook County's first SIM mapping, which was conducted in 2016.

The "Center" is a statewide program in which Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Inc. (GOBHI) has a partnership with the Oregon Health Authority to provide specialized training and technical assistance for behavioral health and justice partners to increase knowledge and improve practices aimed at reducing the number of people with serious behavioral health needs who become incarcerated.

"Thank you to GOBHI for a very nice training on Monday. I am proud that we were able to have in-depth and meaningful discussions surrounding our local public safety due to how well attended the SIM discussion was," said Crook County District Attorney Wade Whiting.

"Our Local Public Safety Coordinated Council actively recruited a diverse group of individuals to review and strength our SIM model. With the added input, I believe our SIM is that much more accurate and defined for future use."

During the workshop, participants developed a map detailing the flow of criminal justice contact from arrest to incarceration, referral and access to services, and points for diversion from the justice system across Crook County. They considered strategies for system changes implemented by other United States communities.

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