

2020-2021 National Convenings Summary

NATIONAL JUDICIAL TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE STATE COURTS' RESPONSE TO MENTAL ILLNESS

Working with Other National Partners

Much impressive work related to the needs of individuals with serious mental illness and other behavioral health issues is already being done by many agencies and organizations across the country. The members of the Task Force are committed to working with others who are involved in these issues to maximize resources and avoid the duplication of effort. One initial effort has been to build a network of partner organizations to identify common goals, available resources, and opportunities for collaboration.

Convenings of National Organizations and Foundations During 2020

[American Bar Association's Criminal Justice and Mental Health Committee](#) Co-Chairs Virginia Murphrey and Guy Arcidiacono

[Center for Court Innovation](#) – Executive Director Courtney Bryan

[Corporation for Supportive Housing](#) - President and CEO Deborah De Santis

[Council of State Governments Justice Center](#) (CSG-JC) – Director Megan Quattlebaum

[Council on Criminal Justice](#) – President and CEO Adam Gelb

[Group for the Advancement of Psychiatry](#) – Co-Chairs Dr. Jacqueline Feldman and Dr. Ken Minkoff

[Judges and Psychiatrists Leadership Initiative](#) – Justice Kathryn Zenoff, Dr. Michael Champion, Dr. Sarah Vinson

[Matthew Ornstein Memorial Foundation](#) – President Judith Harris Ornstein

[Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute](#)- President and CEO Andy Keller, Senior Executive VP of Policy John Petriola

[Mental Health Colorado/Equitas Foundation](#) – President and CEO Vincent Atchity

[National Association of Counties](#) – Executive Director Matthew Chase

[National Association of Drug Court Professionals](#) (NADCP) – Chief Operating Officer Terrance Walton

[National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors](#) (NASMHPD) – Executive Director Dr. Brian Hepburn

[National Conference of State Legislatures](#) – Ms. Amber Widgery, Program Principal, Criminal Justice Program and Michael Hartman, Research Analyst, Civil and Criminal Justice

[National Governor's Association](#) – Policy Analyst, Public Safety and Legal Counsel Program, David Engleman

[Pew Foundation](#) – Senior Director, Government Performance Yolanda Lewis, Project Director, Mental Health and Justice Tiffany Russell

[Philanthropy Roundtable](#) – Director of Health Programs Anna Bobb

[Policy Research Associates](#) – Travis Parker, Program Area Director

[S2i Mental Health Strategic Impact Initiative](#) - New York University Furman Center Professor Ken Zimmerman

[Sozosei Foundation](#) – CEO Dr. William Carson, Executive Director Melissa Beck

[State Justice Institute](#) – Executive Director Jonathan Mattiello, Senior Policy Advisor Michelle White



Convenings of National Organizations and Foundations During 2021

[American Psychiatric Association Foundation](#) – Amy Porfiri, MBA, APA Foundation Interim Executive Director; Christopher Chun-Seeley, MSW, Program Director, School and Justice Initiatives

[American Psychological Association](#) – Arthur C. Evans, Jr., PhD-Chief Executive Officer and Executive Vice President

Black Psychiatrists of America – Dr. Benjamin Roy, M.D.

California Judicial Council – Dr. Michael Roosevelt, Deanna Adams

[Mental Health America](#) – Paul Gionfriddo, President and CEO

[National Alliance on Mental Illness](#) – Daniel H. Gillison, Jr., Chief Executive Officer

National Association of Black Psychiatrists – Dr. Theopia Jackson, President

[National Association of Black Social Workers, Inc.](#) – Melissa Smith Haley, National President; Dr. Zakiya Newland, President Nassau/Suffolk ABSW Chapter; Dr. Renata Hedrington-Jones, NABSW Vice-President

[National Council of Behavioral Health](#) – Charles Ingoglia, President and CEO, Brett Beckerson

National Judicial Task Force –Dr. Sarah Vinson, GA Psychiatrist and Dr. Kenneth Rogers, SC Psychiatrist

The Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute Summarized the Key Themes that Emerged from the 2020-2021 Convenings. A more complete descriptions of these themes is available on the Behavioral Health and the Courts Website at www.ncsc/behavioralhealth.

- The critical role of the judiciary.
- The development and continued reliance on strategies within the justice system.
- The emergence of a broader systemic framework to prevent entry to the justice system.
- The emergence of philanthropic interest in creating solutions that can be brought to scale.
- A focus on recovery, rather than symptom relief, as the goal of treatment.
- A focus on intervening as early as possible, which means intercept zero (community services) of the sequential intercept model is the key intercept.
- A focus on assuring access to good quality care, regardless of geographic location.
- An emphasis on education of both judges/justice system participants and clinicians so that each understands the values and key concepts that inform the other.
- The importance of peers as part of the system of care.
- The pervasive impact of racism that contributes to the overrepresentation of Black and Brown people in the justice system.
- Reliance by the judicial system on psychological tests that have not been validated for use with persons of color.
- The impact of having a small number of mental health professionals of color.
- The importance of infusing cultural values into community systems.
- An emphasis on educating judges and other participants in the justice system.