

RESPONDING PROACTIVELY OR PUNITIVELY: Rethinking Prosecution by Service Providers of Those They Serve

Date: Thursday, November 16, 2017
Location: MCLE, Boston, MA
Host: Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee

Registration now open at www.mhlac.org/Upcoming_Training.htm



People with mental health issues receiving services across a range of institutional settings increasingly face the possibility of being arrested and criminally charged for behaviors for which their treatment program is designed to provide care.

Youth face this problem in schools or in residential programs. Adults experience this problem in hospital emergency rooms and psychiatric inpatient units. It is also a problem in Massachusetts prisons and in jails.

Our expert panelists will discuss:

- the efficacy and ethics of pressing criminal charges against people with mental health issues and the effect on treatment, recovery, and rehabilitation;
- whether pressing charges is ever justified and whether it helps maintain institutional order and prevent violence;
- policies/practices and training various settings can implement to minimize or eliminate this practice;
- whether there are allies among facility administrators and employees and within the district attorney offices and courts who can help; and,
- when charges are filed, how we can best defend people with mental health issues in the criminal court setting and through the civil litigation process.