

A CONFERENCE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH LEGAL ADVISORS COMMITTEE

# MHLAC

## TAKING THE CRIMINAL OUT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Has the **Criminal Justice Reform Act** of 2018 kept its promises to Massachusetts residents with **mental health** needs who are at risk of **incarceration** or incarcerated?

Where should **advocates** look next to **reform** the juvenile/criminal justice **systems**?

*A look at people with mental health  
needs in Mass. after the Criminal Justice Reform Act*

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**NOVEMBER 14,  
2019**

**8:45AM—5:00pm**

**MCLE**

**10 Winter Place**

**Boston, MA 02108**

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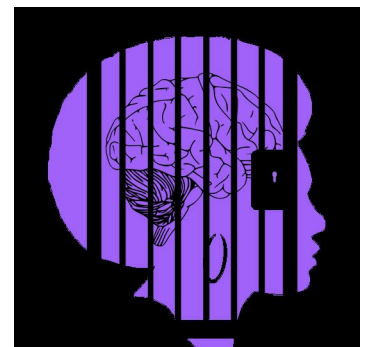
**Adult Criminal**

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**Mental Health**



## CONFERENCE AGENDA

**8:30 - 9:00**     **REGISTRATION & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

**9:00 - 9:05**     **WELCOME**

**9:05 - 9:35**     **REFORMING THE JUVENILE AND ADULT JUSTICE SYSTEMS - AN INTRODUCTION TO THE TOPIC NATIONALLY AND IN MASSACHUSETTS**

*Our morning speaker will address current reform efforts for people with mental health issues involved in the juvenile justice and criminal justice systems on the national level and how Massachusetts can learn from those efforts.*

**Christine Cole**, Executive Director, Crime and Justice Institute, Community Resources for Justice.

**9:35 - 10:45**     **EARLY INTERVENTIONS FOR CHILDREN AT RISK OF JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT**

*What reforms can we make now to avoid the DCF to DYS to prison continuum? The panel will focus on meeting the mental health needs of youth, including those in foster care, who have experienced trauma.*

Panelists:

**Coco Holbrook, Esq.**, Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee, Facilitator

**Lisa Newman-Polk, Esq., LCSW** -- Speaking about advocating for parole for men convicted of murder by contextualizing their childhood difficulties and trauma.

**Kate Lowenstein, Esq, MSW**, Multisystem Youth Program Director, Citizens for Juvenile Justice -- Speaking about intervening in the pipeline to halt the disproportionate representation of youth in DCF and DYS custody in the carceral system.

**Joseph Leavey**, President and Founder, Communities for People -- speaking about CFP supports for foster children such as their teen community living programs, issues affecting foster children across MA—or acute points of need.

**Sandra McCroom**, President & CEO, Children's Services of Roxbury -- speaking about the multiple ways in which CSR services strive to disrupt and end the cradle to prison pipeline, such as the Youth Permanency Connections program in partnership with DCF and the youth development program and barriers to these efforts.

**10:45 - 11:00**     **MORNING BREAK**

**11:00 - 12:10**     **SCHOOL-BASED REFORMS IN THE CJRA AND FUTURE ADVOCACY FOR ADOLESCENTS**

*The CJRA contains several provisions intended to reduce or eliminate schools' reliance on police when addressing school discipline matters. This panel will review the implementation of these reforms and discuss efforts to further redress Massachusetts' school-to-prison pipeline.*

Panelists:

**Matthew Cregor, Esq.**, Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee, Facilitator

**Lisa Thureau, Esq.**, Founder & Executive Director, Strategies for Youth -- Providing a local and national perspective.

**Angela Brooks, Esq.**, Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General of Massachusetts - Speaking about tracking implementation.

**Bishop Talbert W. Swan, II, M.Div.**, President, Springfield NAACP -- Providing a local perspective.

**12:10 - 1:00**     **LUNCH BREAK**

**1:00 - 2:00**     **APPLYING THE ADA'S INTEGRATION MANDATE TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM EFFORTS IN MASSACHUSETTS**

*Our midday speakers will discuss the application of the ADA's integration mandate to criminal justice reform, in theory and in Massachusetts specifically.*

**Robert Fleischner, Esq.** will speak about the application of the *Olmstead* decision, interpreting the ADA's Integration Mandate, to the services offered (or not offered) to those involved in the juvenile and adult justice systems.

**Danna Mauch, Ph.D.**, President & CEO, Mass. Association for Mental Health will speak about the extent to which Massachusetts is meeting its obligations under *Olmstead* in practice and where advocates should focus their attention to ensure further compliance.

**2:00 - 3:10**     **EXPANDING ADULT DIVERSION FROM THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

*These panelists will discuss efforts across the state to expand diversion of people from the criminal justice system, at all the intercept points. Panelists will address the role of first responders confronting people with mental illness, the idea of creating a physical location to divert people with mental illness, and the work of Mass. Probation Services.*

Panelists:

**Jennifer Honig, Esq.**, Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee, Facilitator

**Marisa Hebble, MPH**, Manager, Mass. Community Justice Project (CJP), Mass. Trial Court -- Discussing the CJP which facilitates collaborations at the community level to better connect the criminal justice system and behavioral health treatment, healthcare, recovery and community support systems in order to reduce risk of justice-involvement and improve outcomes among persons with mental health and/or substance use disorders.

**Sarah E. Abbott Ph.D. LSW**, Jail Diversion Program Director at Advocates--Speaking about creating the first Co-Responder Training and Technical Assistance Center and about co-responder teams of police and clinicians across the state.

**Danna Mauch, Ph.D.**, President & CEO, Mass. Association for Mental Health -- Addressing the Middlesex County Restoration Center Commission, which examined creating a physical place that people could be diverted to and served pre-arraignment.

**Pamerson Ifill**, Deputy Commissioner of Pretrial Services Division, Massachusetts Probation Services -- Describing the work of Mass. Probation Services in diverting pretrial detainees.

**3:10-3:25      AFTERNOON BREAK**

**3:25- 4:40      DIVERTING ADULTS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS IN THE CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM FROM RESTRICTIVE HOUSING AND PROMOTING THEIR REENTRY INTO SOCIETY**

*These panelists will address the services that should be afforded incarcerated persons with mental illness in solitary confinement, when seeking parole, and during re-entry.*

Panelists:

**Phillip Kassel, Esq.**, Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee, Facilitator

**Kristen Dame, MA, LMHC**, Northeast Regional Supervisor for Social Service Advocates, Committee for Public Counsel Services -- Discussing, based on her observations as a clinician in the Departmental Disciplinary Unit in Walpole MA, the impact of prolonged solitary confinement, as well as what faces such people upon release.

**Jennifer Honig, Esq.**, Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee -- Discussing recent litigation challenging the treatment afforded prisoners in the Bristol County House of Correction.

**Bonita Tenneriello, Attorney**, Prisoner's Legal Services -- Discussing the Criminal Justice Reform Act's origin, requirements, and, based on her experience on the newly created Solitary Confinement Oversight Committee, implementation issues.

**Donald Perry**, Local organizer, advocate and consultant for criminal justice reform-- Discussing the vulnerabilities of parolees with mental health issues to revocation and bad outcomes, as well as efforts to improve parole practices.

**Opal Stone, MBA**, Director of Reentry Services, Advocates -- Discussing problems specific to ex-prisoners and parolees with mental illness and successful efforts to assist prisoner reentry through the provision of intensive case management services.

**Christine Cole**, Executive Director, Crime and Justice Institute, Community Resources for Justice -- Setting Massachusetts work on these issues in a national context, comparing it to what other states have done and suggesting tactics that have worked elsewhere and could be incorporated here.

**4:45 CLOSING REMARKS**

