

NEWSLETTER

Q & A



Kristin Schillig

Project Director,
Fulton County Justice and
Mental Health Task Force,
Superior Court of Fulton
County, Georgia

As the Project Manager for the Justice & Mental Health Initiatives at Superior Court of Fulton County, what are some of the important projects that you all are doing under these initiatives?

About 5 years ago, our county adopted the Stepping Up Initiative, a national initiative to reduce the number of people with mental illness in jail. Local leaders wanted to do something about the volume of people with mental illness in our jails, and the Stepping Up Initiative offered us the framework that we felt like we needed.

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MAKE IT MOBILE

**Brandywine Counseling and
Community Services Meeting
People Where They Are**

People experiencing opioid use disorders (OUD) often face challenges accessing medication-assisted treatment (MAT), particularly in rural communities where services are fewer and farther apart. MAT involves one of three medications approved for OUD treatment—methadone, buprenorphine, or naltrexone—along with counseling or behavioral therapies. In Delaware, Brandywine Counseling and Community Services (BCCS) has been working to help communities flourish for over 30 years. The organization has grown its program services and locations over the decades, sustaining its core mission to provide substance use and behavioral health treatment that respects the dignity of its clients.

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Best of 2021: Staff Picks

As 2021 comes to a close, SAMHSA's GAINS Center would like to take a moment to revisit some of our favorite products. This year SAMHSA's GAINS Center has disseminated content on reentry planning; diversity, equity, and inclusion; Crisis Intervention Team training; and more. GAINS Center webinar content is accessible on [SAMHSA's YouTube channel](#), and GAINS Center eNewsletters are archived [for on-demand viewing](#).

In keeping with tradition, GAINS Center staff have selected their favorite products from 2021, highlighting communities, agencies, and individuals that are actively transforming the behavioral health and justice systems to better serve individuals with needs related to mental and substance use disorders. We hope you'll join us in reflecting on this momentous and productive year.

If you know someone interested in receiving future GAINS Center content, invite them to [join our email list](#).



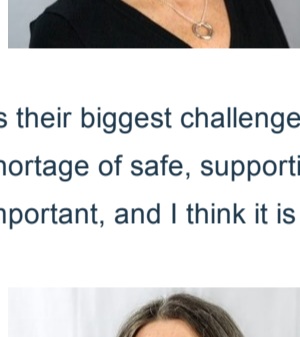
Chanson D. Noether, MA

Director of SAMHSA's GAINS Center

Selection: [CJCares Community Paramedics: Reducing Frequent Emergency Service Use by Connecting High Utilizers to Appropriate Care Services](#)

"This article shines a light on the role of emergency medical technicians and other non-law enforcement first responders

in crisis response. Programs like CJCares, that provide training and continuing education to people in those roles on appropriate responses to people with mental and substance use disorders in crisis, can effectively enhance crisis response in communities. Models such as CJCares can be essential to cross-system efforts to divert people from the criminal justice system to treatment and support services and highlight the importance of considering integrating these roles as an effective diversion tool at Intercept 0."

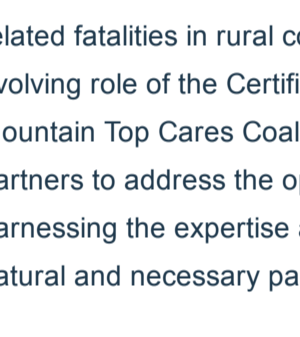


Lisa Callahan, PhD

Senior Research Associate

Selection: [Early Diversion: Addressing the Critical Need for Housing and Strategies to Overcome Barriers to Improve Housing Access](#) [PDF]

"Everything starts, and ends, at housing. There isn't a program we visit or work with that doesn't identify housing as their biggest challenge. Any awareness the GAINS Center can bring to the critical shortage of safe, supportive housing for people who are justice involved is very important, and I think it is a message we need to lead with, in all of our work."

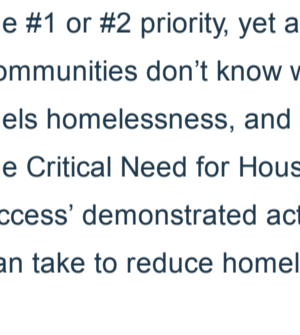


Maureen McLeod, PhD

Senior Research Associate

Selection: [Peers and Volunteers Supporting Recovery: Mountain Top Cares Coalition Battles the Opioid Epidemic in Rural New York](#)

"High poverty rates, geographic and social isolation, stigma, limited access to primary care physicians, and a reduction in dedicated treatment beds have contributed to a dramatic surge in opioid use and related fatalities in rural communities across the nation. This article describes the evolving role of the Certified Recovery Peer Advocates Corps, peer organizers of the Mountain Top Cares Coalition. The Corps's promising efforts at linking cross-system partners to address the opioid epidemic from multiple perspectives provides a model for harnessing the expertise and skill sets of trained persons with lived experience as natural and necessary partners in this endeavor."

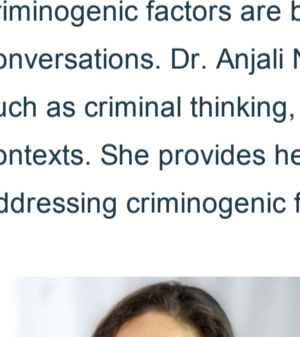


Dan Abreu, MS CRC LMHC

Senior Project Associate

Selection: [Addressing the Critical Need for Housing and Strategies to Improve Housing Access](#) [YouTube]

"Across the communities we work in conducting Sequential Intercept Model Mapping Workshops, housing for individuals who are justice involved is consistently listed as the #1 or #2 priority, yet addressing housing seems overwhelming, and many communities don't know where to begin to address this issue. However, incarceration fuels homelessness, and homelessness fuels incarceration. The webinar 'Addressing the Critical Need for Housing and Strategies to Overcome Barriers to Improve Housing Access' demonstrated actionable, data-driven approaches that communities and states can take to reduce homelessness and provide people with real hope for recovery."

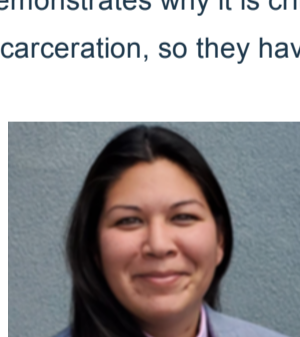


Melissa Neal Stein, DrPH, MPH

Senior Research Associate

Selection: [Developing an Equity Lens in Criminal Justice Practices](#)

"The criminal justice field has made strides in addressing the criminogenic factors in correctional and reentry programs. However, cultural considerations for how criminogenic factors are both perceived and addressed have been missing from conversations. Dr. Anjali Nandi provides critical insight into how criminogenic factors, such as criminal thinking, could be misapplied in cross-cultural conversations and contexts. She provides helpful guidance in applying an equity-informed lens to addressing criminogenic factors that can maximize the benefit of this approach."

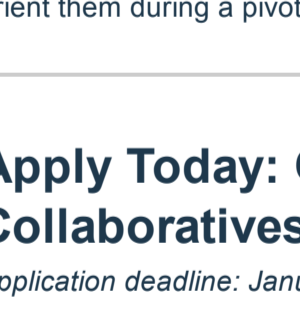


Erika Ihara, MA, MS

Project Associate

Selection: [Supporting Women's Reentry: Understanding and Addressing the Needs of Women Reentering the Community](#) [YouTube]

"Given the prevalence of significant trauma among women with substance use disorders—and a host of other challenges women can face upon release from jail and prison—this webinar demonstrates why it is critical to support women with a history of substance use and incarceration, so they have agency in their own recovery."



Violette Cloud, Esq., MS

Diné (Navajo)/Southern Ute

Project Associate

Selection: [Transportation After Incarceration: Where the Rubber Meets the Road for Sustainable Reentry](#)

"I had the honor of interviewing members of the Anti-Recidivism Coalition's Ride Home team and was struck by their passion for service to returning citizens and their openness about their lived experience. Offering transportation upon reentry for returning citizens generates a cascade of positive outcomes. To be greeted by a friendly face after a long period of confinement acts as a human anchor for someone reentering the community, helping to orient them during a pivotal transition period."

Apply Today: Criminal Justice Learning Collaboratives

Application deadline: January 28, 2022

SAMHSA's GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation, operated by Policy Research Associates, Inc., is continuing to provide direct training and technical assistance to jurisdictions across the nation to better support people with behavioral health needs who are involved in the criminal justice system. The GAINS Center is currently soliciting applications from jurisdictions interested in collaborating with subject-matter experts through Criminal Justice Learning Collaboratives (LCs) designed to explore three topics:

- **Integrating Civilian-Led, Co-response, and Specialized Police Response Models**
- **Equity and Inclusion in Drug Treatment Courts**
- **Transition Reentry Strategies**

[Learn More about the LCs and Apply](#)

Resource Spotlight

- [SAMHSA Announces Harm Reduction Grant Program](#)
- [Treatment Improvement Protocol 33: Treatment for Stimulant Use Disorders](#)
- [SAMHSA Releases 2020 National Survey on Drug Use and Health](#)
- [Improving Behavioral Health Services in the Time of COVID-19 and Racial Inequities](#)
- [Examining Implementation of the Los Angeles County Office of Diversion and Reentry Supportive Housing Program](#)

Flashback on Treatment



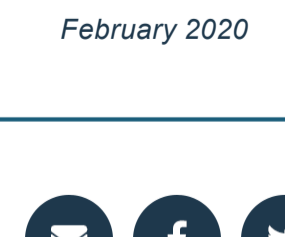
[Changing Lives—and the Justice Process—through Collaborative Tribal County Treatment Courts](#) | March 2021



[Realizing the Cost Savings and Public Health Benefits of Medication-Assisted Treatment in Jails and Prisons](#) | October 2020



[What a Substance Use Treatment Center Medical Director Learned from His Recovery](#) | April 2020



[The Emerging Public Health Role of Public Safety Professionals in Improving Access to Substance Use Treatment in the Community](#) | February 2020