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Leverage Resources

THERE ARE MANY RESOURCES THAT advocates should leverage in their efforts to address the overrepresentation of people with mental illness in the criminal justice system. In fact, sometimes it may feel like there are too many, as the volume of reports, Web sites, and organizations working on this issue can be overwhelming. This section explains some of these available resources, but advocates interested in criminal justice and mental health issues should pay particular attention to two initiatives that are directly targeted at this issue: The Criminal Justice/Mental Health Consensus Project and the GAINS Center for Evidence-Based Practices.

Though the Consensus Project and GAINS Center are administered separately, the two initiatives are closely coordinated, and advocates should be able to identify the resources they need by contacting either

one. Becoming familiar with their Web sites and signing up online for their regular email updates is the best way for advocates to stay abreast of developments in this field. The remainder of this section describes some of the reports, technical assistance, information about promising programs, and funding sources of which advocates should consider making use.

The Consensus Project
COORDINATING ORGANIZATION
Council of State Governments
www.consensusproject.org
(212) 482-2320

The GAINS Center
COORDINATING ORGANIZATION
Policy Research Associates
www.gainscenter.samhsa.gov
(800) 311-GAIN

Reports

There are several landmark reports and other materials with which advocates should familiarize themselves, some of which are described below:

Criminal Justice/Mental Health Consensus Project Report

Published in 2002, the *Consensus Project Report* outlines 23 events, or decision points, along the criminal justice continuum at which communities can take steps to better respond to people with mental illness, and discusses at length the four overarching issues of collaboration, training, building an effective mental health system, and evaluation.

Courage to Change

This 1999 GAINS Center publication remains one of the most helpful guides to developing cross-systems collaborations around criminal justice, mental health, and substance abuse treatment issues.

Jail Diversion for People with Mental Illness: Developing Supportive Community Coalitions

This publication, a joint effort between the GAINS Center and the National Mental Health Association that came out in 2003, highlights the role of advocacy organizations in promoting jail diversion in communities across the country.

Finding the Key

This 2001 paper, authored by the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, examines the importance of ensuring that people with serious mental illness are enrolled in federal entitlement programs as they leave prison or jail, describing these federal programs' complex and interrelated rules, and providing some ways for state and local officials to use them more effectively.

Surgeon General's Report on Mental Health

Written in 1999, the *Report of the Surgeon General on Mental Health* remains the most comprehensive account of the state of mental illness and mental health care in the United States.

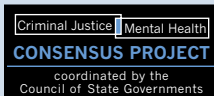
Report of the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health

The 2003 *Report of the New Freedom Commission* is the first presidential-commissioned report on mental health care since the late 1970s. The report calls for transformation of a fundamentally broken system, and outlines six key goals to which mental health care in the United States should aspire.



Technical Assistance

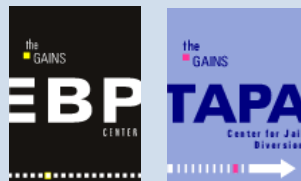
Advocates should tap the technical assistance resources available through the national organizations described below. These organizations can provide materials and information on relevant programs, recommend speakers or other experts, and in some cases even provide on-site consultations:



The Consensus Project

Since the release of the *Consensus Project Report* in 2002, the Council of State Governments (coordinator of the Consensus Project) has provided on-site and off-site technical assistance to jurisdictions across the country including providing materials, funding speakers, and offering guidance in program development.

The Consensus Project
Council of State Governments
40 Broad St.
New York, NY 10004
Tel: (212) 482-2320
Fax: (212) 482-2344
E-mail: editors@consensusproject.org
<http://www.consensusproject.org>



The National GAINS Center

The National GAINS Center, established in 1995 to collect and disseminate information about effective mental health and substance abuse treatment services for people with co-occurring disorders who come in contact with the justice system, provides consultation and technical assistance on a wide array of criminal justice and mental health issues.

National GAINS Center
Policy Research Associates
345 Delaware Ave.
Delmar, NY 12054
Tel.: (800) 311-GAIN
Fax: (518) 439-7612
<http://www.gainscenter.samhsa.gov>



National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice

The National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice promotes improved policies and programs for youth with mental health disorders in contact with the juvenile justice system. Center staff provides materials about various policy issues, identifies best practices across the country, and provides consultants who offer specialized training and expertise on a wide range of topics.

National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice
Policy Research Associates
345 Delaware Ave.
Delmar, NY 12054
Tel.: (866) 9NC-MHJJ
Fax: (518) 439-7612
<http://www.ncmhjj.com>





NAMI

NAMI is one of the largest mental health advocacy organizations in the country. The national office supports affiliates by serving as a clearinghouse and coordinator of state and local activities, and providing resources and technical assistance when needed. Advocates who are not involved in a NAMI affiliate should visit <http://www.nami.org> to find one in their area. NAMI affiliates looking to launch an advocacy initiative related to criminal justice should contact the national office for support.

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI)
NAMI Support, Technical Assistance, and Resource Center (STAR)
2107 Wilson Blvd, Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201-3042
Tel.: (703) 600-1108 or
(866) 537-7827
Toll-free TDD: (888) 344-6264
Fax: (703) 600-1112
E-mail: star@nami.org
<http://www.nami.org>



National Mental Health Association

The National Mental Health Association (NMHA) is the country's oldest and largest nonprofit organization addressing all aspects of mental health and mental illness. With more than 340 affiliates nationwide, NMHA works to improve the mental health of all Americans through advocacy, education, research, and service. The national office holds yearly conferences and provides technical assistance to local affiliates and community advocates on a wide range of policy issues. NMHA also manages one of the five federally funded consumer/peer-run technical assistance centers.

National Mental Health Association
2001 N. Beauregard St.,
12th Floor
Alexandria, VA 22311
Tel.: (800) 969-6642
Fax: (703) 684-5968
<http://www.nmha.org/>



Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law

The Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law is the nation's leading legal advocate for people with mental illness. Providing technical support on mental health law issues, policy advocacy, and public education, the Center pursues the following objectives: advance community membership; promote self-determination; respond to - and refocus attention on - the shortcomings of the mental health system; and preserve individuals' rights. Founded in 1972, the Bazelon Center was known as the Mental Health Law Project until 1993.

Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
1101 15th Street, NW,
Suite 1212
Washington, D.C. 20005
Tel.: (202) 467-5730
Fax: (202) 223-0409
Email: webmaster@bazelon.org
<http://www.bazelon.org/>



National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD)

NASMHPD advocates for the collective interests of state mental health authorities and their directors at the national level; analyzes trends in the delivery and financing of mental health services; and identifies public mental health policy issues and best practices in service delivery. The association apprises its members of research findings and best practices, fosters collaboration, provides consultation and technical assistance, and promotes effective management practices and financing mechanisms.

National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
66 Canal Center Plaza, Suite 302
Alexandria, VA 22314
Tel.: (703) 739-9333
Fax: (703) 548-9517
<http://www.nasmhpd.org/>



Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA)

DBSA is a patient-directed organization focusing on the most prevalent types of mental illness—depression and bipolar disorder. The organization provides information about mental illness, supports research, coordinates a grassroots network of more than 1,000 patient-run support groups across the country, and advocates in Washington, D.C. on behalf of people living with mood disorders. DBSA also partners with consumers and service delivery systems on consumer-provider and recovery training through its *Peer-to-Peer Resource Center*.

Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA)
730 N. Franklin St., Suite 501
Chicago, IL 60610-7224
Tel.: (800) 826-3632
Fax: (312) 642-7243
E-mail: peersupport@DBSAlliance.org
<http://www.peersupport.org>



National Empowerment Center

The National Empowerment Center is a federally funded organization run by consumers that provides information and support regarding mental health services across the country. The center develops materials, sponsors conferences, sends speakers to conferences and meetings, and maintains a national directory of mutual support groups, drop-in centers, and statewide organizations.

National Empowerment Center
599 Canal St.
Lawrence, MA 01840
Tel.: (800) 769-3728
Fax: (978) 694-9117
<http://www.Power2u.org>





National Mental Health Consumers' Self-Help Clearinghouse

The clearinghouse offers assistance and advice to consumers interested in establishing self-help networks. Their assistance covers topics such as fund-raising, how to start a self-help group, and systems advocacy, and is provided online, through events and conferences, and via a regular newsletter.

National Mental Health
Consumers' Self-Help
Clearinghouse
1211 Chestnut St., Suite 1207
Philadelphia, PA 19107
Tel.: (800) 553-4539
Fax: (215) 636-6312
E-mail: info@mhselfhelp.org
<http://www.mhselfhelp.org>



Consumer Organization and Networking Technical Assistance Center (CONTAC)

CONTAC, run by the West Virginia Mental Health Consumer's Association, Inc. (WVMHCA), provides informational materials; on-site training and skill-building curricula; electronic and other communication capabilities; and networking and customized activities promoting self-help, recovery, leadership, business management, and empowerment. CONTAC representatives have expertise in cultural and ethnic diversity, peer-support services, programming, research, evaluation, and other areas.

Consumer Organization and
Networking Technical Assistance
Center (CONTAC)
West Virginia Mental Health
Consumers Association
P.O. Box 11000
Charleston, WV 25339
Tel.: (888) 825-TECH (8324)
(304) 345-7312
Fax: (304) 345-7303
E-mail: usacontac@contac.org
<http://www.contac.org>



Information About Programs

Advocates often find themselves researching strategies from communities across the country in order to inform their local efforts. Their search can be aided by the Consensus Project online Program Profiles database, available at <http://www.consensusproject.org/programs>.



Funding

Perhaps the most common questions advocates face is where to find funding for new initiatives. Providing a comprehensive list of funding sources is impossible, but below are some potential funding sources that may help advocates in this area:

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

SAMHSA is the lead federal agency for substance abuse and mental health treatment policy. The three SAMHSA centers—the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS), the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), and the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP)—have all provided grants related to criminal justice issues at some point. Most recently, the Targeted Capacity Expansion Jail Diversion Program provided grants in 2002, 2003, and 2005 to a total of 20 jurisdictions to support jail diversion programs. Information about current SAMHSA grants is available at <http://www.samhsa.gov/grants/index.aspx>.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance

The Bureau of Justice Assistance, part of the Office of Justice Programs in the U.S. Department of Justice, has recently begun providing grants related to criminal justice and mental health issues. The Mental Health Courts Program provided funding to more than 35 jurisdictions to launch mental health courts in 2002 and 2003. Although that program has not been refunded, BJA will likely remain committed to criminal justice and mental health issues, and advocates should consult its Web site at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/>.

Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (formerly the Byrne Grant Program)

Many communities have received funding for criminal justice/mental health initiatives such as jail diversion or new training programs through the Byrne Formula Grant Program. Through that program, the federal government provided funds to state and local agencies to address various criminal justice issues. Those funds were distributed to local communities through



a state administering agency. The Byrne Grant Program has recently been combined with the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant, another formula grant program, to form a new program called the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant. Like the original Byrne funds, these monies will be passed through a specific agency in each state. Information about the administering agency in each state and the procedures for applying for JAG funds is available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/state.htm>.

Private Foundations

There are two types of foundations that are particularly promising for funding sources for criminal justice/mental health reform:

>> **Community Foundations**—Small, community-based foundations often focus on giving in a particular city or region, and are able to provide small grants that can help get an advocacy initiative off the ground.

>> **Health Care Conversion Foundations**—Health care conversion foundations are established when a health care company switches from non-profit to for-profit status, and their giving usually focuses on health issues, including mental health.

Pharmaceutical Companies

Pharmaceutical companies have also been a major source of funding for advocates in general, and on criminal justice and mental health issues in particular. These companies typically establish foundations to centralize their charitable giving, although they also disperse funding through government-relations departments. The best way for advocates to pursue this funding source is through an existing nonprofit organization, such as an NMHA or NAMI affiliate. Affiliates who are unfamiliar with the process of applying for grants from for-profit companies should consult the national offices for assistance.

Learn More

To find out more about community foundations, health conversion foundations, and other grantmaking organizations, advocates should consult the Foundation Center at <http://fdncenter.org>. The Foundation Center is the largest source of information about foundations across the country.

