What is a Boundary Spanner?

Key Staff across Jail Diversion Programs In Seattle/King County, Washington

Presented by: Jesse Benet, MA, LMHC & Hon Michael Finkle
1. Identify how boundary spanners can be used for criminal justice and human services coordination via systems mapping.

2. Learn about four programs in Seattle/King County utilizing boundary spanners and how.

3. Identify specialty court vs. non-specialty court reentry tracks and how boundary spanners work with individuals in both forms of diversion/reentry.

4. Present preliminary results from our qualitative evaluation of the use of boundary spanners in our local systems.

Welcome!
King County is not a unified court system
39 Municipalities | 7 Jails
- 2 large County Jail facilities—Seattle and Kent
- 1 regional misdemeanant jail
- 4 small municipal jails

Misdemeanor cases, 12 municipal courts & King County District Court
Felony cases, King County Superior Court

Jails & Courts in King County: a fragmented system
Downtown Seattle
1. Court-based
2. Facility/Jail-based
3. Forensic Program-based
4. Systems level

Types of Boundary spanning see handout
The first boundary spanner, Forensic Intensive Supportive Housing

- integration across mental health courts, jail health staff, involuntary commitment staff, first responders, and FISH program staff
- program startup and building relationship with courts and other systems
- engagement and outreach to potential participants

http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/MHSA/CriminalJustice/FISH.aspx
• Forensic Assertive Community Treatment (FACT)
• Forensic Intensive Case Management – Integrated Dual Disorders Treatment + transitional housing
• Housing and housing case management support to individuals in specialty courts/leaving jail
• Reentry to integrated mental health substance use disorder treatment

furthering the reach of forensic programs supporting individuals with co-occurring disorders who are CJ-involved
4 boundary spanners across the King County Criminal Justice Initiatives | focus group

Other boundary spanners, the study
• 60% of time is spent in the jail
• going to court
• reentry
• administrative

What do boundary spanners do?
Accessing multiple data systems
• criminal justice data systems (court dockets, jail look-up access)
• mental health history data systems
• current jail health medical records
Boundary spanner, engagement & HOUSING
Breakout activity

- Pair up with others from your jurisdiction
- Others from a similar court system
  - Unified court system – sit near the front of the room
  - Non-Unified court system – sit near the back of the room

Boundary spanners
bridge disparate systems
A view from criminal justice system partners
Contact information

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Thank you!