

Screening and Assessment for Behavioral Health Needs in California Jails

Workshop Series

Early identification of mental health and substance use needs is essential for providing the treatment and supports that allow for successful diversion and reentry. While Title 15 requires a plan for universal identification and evaluation of mental health needs, many communities struggle to implement universal screening and follow-up assessment. The Council of State Governments Justice Center is partnering with California's Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission to provide a series of four virtual workshops on mental health screening and assessment in jails as part of the implementation of the Commission's [Together We Can](#) report and [Stepping Up](#) California's work to help counties reduce the number of people with behavioral health needs in jail.

Who Should Attend: The workshops are designed for interdisciplinary county teams of three to five people, ideally including representatives from jail management and booking, jail mental health providers, county behavioral health, and the county administrative/executive office. Teams will get the most out of the workshops if they include both key decision-makers and personnel who are familiar with current operations. *To ensure an interactive peer learning environment, this series of workshops will be open to the first seven counties that register with complete teams including jail and county behavioral health staff and commit to participating in all four sessions.*

What You'll Do: During these interactive sessions, participants will learn from both experts and peers about best practices to identify and assess people entering their jail with serious mental illnesses or co-occurring substance use disorders. Participants will also collaborate with their own county teams to discuss and plan implementation strategies leveraging lessons learned from their existing processes.

The virtual workshops will cover identifying goals and tools for the screening process, establishing a shared definition of serious mental illness, transitioning from screening to assessment, selecting assessment tools, and addressing barriers.

Details:

- Session 1: Identifying Goals and Tools for Behavioral Health Screening
 - Wednesday, March 10, 12:00–2:30 p.m.
- Session 2: Planning Screening Processes and Establishing a Shared Definition of Serious Mental Illness
 - Wednesday, March 24, 12:00–2:30 p.m.
- Session 3: Going from Screening to Assessment
 - Wednesday, April 7, 12:00–2:30 p.m.
- Session 4: Addressing Implementation Barriers
 - Wednesday, April 14, 12:00–2:30 p.m.

Interested? Register [HERE](#).