

Substance Use, Overdose Prevention, and the Courts A Citywide Collaboration

September 19, 2023

8:30-9:30 **Registration and Continental Breakfast**

9:30-9:50 **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

FLORENCE HUTNER, *NY-NJ HIDTA, and Senior Director for Special Projects, New York Law School*
CHAUNCEY PARKER, *Director, NY-NJ HIDTA and Deputy Commissioner for Collaborative Policing, New York Police Department*

9:50-10:50 **Group Discussion: Challenges to Substance Use Treatment and Prevention in the Court Setting**

Participants will be asked to discuss the challenges they face in engaging individuals in need of treatment. What makes the court setting problematic from a substance use treatment and prevention standpoint? What other factors supersede clinical need? Why do individuals who need treatment decline to participate in court mandated treatment? To what extent do non-legal outcomes, such as risk of overdose, play a role in the criminal legal process?

Moderator: DANIEL ADES, *Director of New York Legal Policy, Center for Justice Innovation*

10:50-11:00 **Break**

11:00-12:00 **Defining Harm Reduction**

ALLAN CLEAR, *Director, AIDS Institute Office of Drug User Health, New York State Department of Health*

DR. KELLY RAMSEY, *Chief of Medical Services, Office of Addiction Services and Supports*

Panelists will first establish the clinical definition of harm reduction in its application outside of the legal system and make the case that increased reliance on harm reduction principles can simultaneously improve treatment outcomes and satisfy the public safety considerations at play in criminal cases. Panelists will also discuss the challenges clinicians face when treating individuals who are court-involved and make recommendations for modifying court-based treatment models based on the preceding discussion.

Moderator: DR. VIRGINIA BARBER RIOJA, *Senior Clinical Policy Advisor, Center for Justice Innovation*

12:00-12:45

Lunch

12:45- 1:45

Challenges to Adapting Harm Reduction to the Legal System

HON. MARCIA HIRSCH, *Presiding Judge, Queens Drug Treatment Court*

CHAUNCEY PARKER, *Deputy Commissioner for Collaborative Policing, New York Police Department*

CLAUDIA MONTOYA, *Attorney, Legal- Aid Society, MICA Project*

TONI MARDIROSSIAN, *Deputy Division Chief of Pathways to Public Safety Division, New York County District Attorney's Office*

AMANDA WEXLER, *Clinical Director of Diversion and Victim Services, Richmond County District Attorney's Office*

ELIZABETH CHRISTY, *Senior Director of Behavioral Health, The Fortune Society*

Panelists will be asked to react to the morning sessions and describe the practical limitations they see in adapting a harm reduction philosophy for individuals who are charged with potentially serious offenses or repeated lower-level offenses. Are there ways in which courts and law enforcement can further incorporate current clinical best practices? Are there areas in which criminal justice stakeholders believe public safety considerations outweigh clinical perspectives? To what extent can adapting harm reduction to criminal justice processes simultaneously serve treatment and public safety goals?

Moderator: JULIAN ADLER, *Chief Innovation and Strategy Officer, Center for Justice Innovation*

1:50-2:50

Cross-Disciplinary Breakout Discussions

Criminal justice participants will be divided by county and paired with clinical and public health participants to discuss methods the jurisdiction has successfully used to incorporate harm reduction principles, address areas in which it has struggled to do so, and brainstorm ways in which it would be appropriate and effective to further incorporate harm reduction to improve its treatment model. Groups will also discuss what resources and infrastructure improvements are necessary to achieve better results in the treatment and prevention of substance use and overdose in the court setting.

2:50-3:00

Break

3:00-4:15

Cross-County Solutions

Breakout groups will share across county lines successful approaches being implemented within each jurisdiction and new ideas that were developed during breakout sessions.

Moderators: DANIEL ADES, *Director of New York Legal Policy, Center for Justice Innovation*, and JESSICA KAY, *Senior Policy Advisor for Alternatives to Incarceration, Center for Justice Innovation*

4:15-4:30

Closing Remarks

HON. TOKO SERITA, *Statewide Coordinating Judge for Problem-Solving Courts*