

Criminal Justice Council – Behavioral Health Subcommittee
Summary of Intercept 2 Priorities

The Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) Mapping Exercise in 2018 identified gaps in behavioral health services at each step of the criminal justice system and made recommendations to fill those gaps. Members of the CJC-Behavioral Health Subcommittee were asked to rank the six recommendations in order of importance. The following indicates the overall ranking of each recommendation. The number in parentheses indicates the overall “score” of each recommendation; lower scores indicate higher priorities.

1. Examine the feasibility and need for alternatives to detention and pre-adjudication diversion options for people with mental health disorders at Intercept 2 (20)
2. At all stages of the Sequential Intercept Model, gather data to document the processing of people with mental health and substance use disorders through the criminal justice system locally (22)
3. Expand the utilization of peer support across Intercepts (29)
4. Target strategies/interventions to address the arrest, incarceration, and re-arrest cycles of homeless individuals and other individuals that return to the healthcare and/or criminal justice system repeatedly (31)
5. Address the Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST) population (32)
6. Develop more formal and coordinated screening and diversion strategies for arraignment diversion (Intercept 2) and pre-plea diversion (Intercept 3) (33)

One committee member indicated that recommendations should be considered in chronological order, rather than overall priorities. Similarly, one committee member noted that outside social services (hospitals, providers, housing assistance) should be involved to support justice-involved individuals living with severe mental illness. Family members should also be involved and able to assist, as they can offer supportive resources and help their family member living with mental illness to understand the justice system process. Peer support specialists would also aid this goal. One committee member noted that law enforcement officers will have increased discretion for diversion and deflection opportunities with the creation of a triage restoration center. Thus, this committee member indicated that Dane County should create its own Jail Population Review Team to review the incarceration of individuals with severe mental illness who have external holds or are deemed incompetent and waiting for a hospital bed. Release on signature bonds and the use of teleconferences could expedite court proceedings and permit individuals to be released more quickly.