

Missouri's Path to Collaboration

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1



Missouri Association of Counties (MAC) provides assistance to its member counties in matters pertaining to local, state, and federal government activities.

114 counties in the state of Missouri (only three states have more) with membership including more than 1,400 county elected officials.

Composed of presiding and associate commissioners, county clerks/election authorities, recorders, auditors, collectors, prosecutors, sheriffs, assessors, treasurers, public administrators, circuit clerks, and coroners.

2



Policing/ Justice/ Mental Health Committee

Responsible for issues affecting the court system, jails, the prosecutorial system, probate, and the offices of the sheriff, prosecuting attorney, circuit clerk, and coroner. The Committee shall also be responsible for issues affecting aging, public health, mental health, alcohol and drug abuse, developmental disabilities, social services, human services, nursing homes, and mental health facilities.

3



Policing/ Justice/ Mental Health Committee

Committee Chair:

Janet Thompson, Commissioner, Boone County, MO

Committee Membership:

County Commissioners

County Public Administrators

County Sheriffs

Retired Probate Judges

Juvenile Court Officers and Directors

Community Behavioral Health Liaisons and Attorneys

Public Defenders

4



Members of the MAC Policing, Justice and Mental Health Steering Committee meet to discuss issues and policies during the association's Annual Conference in November at Margaritaville Lake Resort in Osage Beach, Mo.

MAC's Policing, Justice and Mental Health issues recommendations

5



Recommendations

Embed Community Behavioral Health Liaisons in county detention facilities.

Community Behavioral Health Liaisons in every county to assist individuals transitioning back into the community.

Legislative Changes to pay Community Behavioral Health Liaisons competitive salaries.

Crisis Intervention Teams, Mental Health First Aid training, and disability awareness training for all Missouri law enforcement.

6

Why Does this Matter?

Emergency Rooms, county jails, and state prisons are overflowing with individuals with a severe mental illness. The move to close state hospitals without appropriate community resources has led to a **mental health crisis**.

7

How to bring about change?

Collaboration is the answer. There is strength in working together. Michigan is the gold standard led by Judge Mack. Missouri is starting the process.

There is hope – but it will take work, dedication, and the willingness to work together within diverse groups.

8