

Victims of Crimes Committed by People with Mental Illnesses

2008 NASMHPD Forensic Division
Annual Meeting

Hope Glassberg
Justice Center
Council of State Governments

Justice Center Overview

- **Non-profit, non-partisan membership association of state government officials**
- **Represents all three branches of state government**
- **Provides practical, nonpartisan advice informed by the best available evidence**
- **Support from the U.S. Department of Justice and private grantmakers such as The Pew Charitable Trusts**

National Projects



The Issue: Victims of Crimes Committed by People with Mental Illnesses

- State laws and amendments define crime victims' rights
- Confusion about enforcement of rights when people who commit crimes are transferred to the custody of the mental health system
- Victims seeking information and opportunities for participation encounter significant barriers

The Response: Victims of Crimes Committed by People with Mental Illnesses

- Justice Center coordinated project with Office for Victims of Crimes, U.S. Department of Justice on this topic
- Surveyed prosecutors, forensic directors, and victim advocates on issue
- Recently released *Responding to People who Have Been Victimized by Individuals with Mental Illnesses*

Responding Overview



RESPONDING
TO PEOPLE
WHO HAVE BEEN
VICTIMIZED BY
INDIVIDUALS WITH
MENTAL
ILLNESSES



OVC
Office of Justice Programs

JUSTICE CENTER
THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

Analyzes current policy, practice, and statutes related to group of crime victims

- General familiarity with issue
- Notification and information

Responding Overview

Identifies key challenges to serving victims of crimes committed by people with mental illnesses

- Roles and responsibilities
- Legal rights
- Confidentiality

Responding Overview

Outlines action items to be considered to overcome barriers to serving group of crime victims

- Partnerships
- Cross training and technical assistance
- Victim outreach and services
- Victim participation

Next Steps

- Convened meetings to discuss recommendations from *Responding* in Virginia and Kansas
- Discussion:
 - Findings from state meetings
 - Experiences within other states in addressing issue
 - Innovative approaches to responding to victims of crimes committed by people with mental illnesses

Thank you

- For more information visit:
<http://consensusproject.org/issue-areas/victims/vpmi/>
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