### John Volpe, LCSW

# Special Advisor on Criminal Justice and Mental Health



#### Four Initiatives

- Mayor's Citywide Justice and Mental Health Initiative
- DOHMH / NYC Dept. of Probation partnership to implement a Mental Health Strategic Plan
- Criminal Justice Training Academy
- Re-Entry Coordination System (RCS) for the City jail



## Mayor's Citywide Justice and Mental Health Initiative

 Although the NYC jail population has declined dramatically in recent years, the percentage of the population that has mental illnesses has increased.

• The increase in the population with mental illnesses has been driven in large part by their long average length of stay.

## Mayor's Citywide Justice and Mental Health Initiative

The Council for State Governments, with Langeloth Funding, guided an initiative to improve public safety and promote recovery by:

- Understanding the issues looking at 2008 jail dataset
- Assigning the Right People to the Right Programs
- quickly
- Maximizing Resources
- Measuring Impact



## Mayor's Citywide Justice and Mental Health Initiative

Focus groups and Data analysis

Recommendations

Future System Change



### NYC Department of Probation Mental Health Initiative

• The Issue: People with serious mental illness (SMI) are significantly more likely than other clients to have their probation term suspended or revoked, thus deepening their involvement in the criminal justice system.

(Skeem, et. al, 2008)



### NYC Department of Probation Mental Health Initiative

- The Council for State Governments, DOP, and stakeholders developed a strategic plan to implement best practices and improve outcomes for persons with SMI on probation caseloads.
- DOHMH/DOP partnering to implement the Council for State Government's recommendations



### NYC Department of Probation Mental Health Initiative

#### General Aims:

- Better screening for MI
- Access to treatment
- •Supervising better through having risk assessed and addressed
- Enhanced training



#### Academy for Justice Informed Practice

- Hosted by Center for Urban Community Services for the NYS OMH & NYC DOHMH
- Aims to help providers more effectively serve justiceinvolved individuals
- To help providers at all levels of their agency become more "justice-informed."
  - line staff
    supervisors / intake staff
    program directors
    executive staff



### **Targets**

- Thirty five trainings in FY 2012.
- Training will target:
  - Mental Health Clinic providers
  - ACT and Care Coordination
  - ATI staff
  - Housing providers
  - Health Homes



### Training Topic Areas

- **★**SPECTRM
- **★**Navigating the Criminal Justice System
- **★**Trauma-informed care for Justice-Involved Individuals
- ★Responding to and Supporting Persons with Co-Occurring Disorders
- **★**Utilizing a CTI approach for Persons Transitioning from Incarceration to the Community
- ★Understanding and Assessing Risk: A workshop for directors and supervisors
- **★**Fundamentals of Recovery from Mental Illness
- ★ Motivational Interviewing I and II
- ★Cultural Competency: how bias about justice-involved people Impacts our work
- ★Conflict Resolution: Helping Justice-involved Persons Develop Adaptive Problem Solving Skills
- ★ EBPs: an overview for senior staff considering program changes



#### Re-entry Coordination System (RCS) for the City Jail

- Administered by the Center for Urban Community Services (CUCS) for OMH / DOHMH
- Develop a centralized referral system for sentenced individuals with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) getting released from NYC jails to NYC. Operates like Single Point of Access (SPOA).
- 2 Components
  - Housing
  - Case Management or ACT

