

You are invited to attend a Congressional Staff Briefing

The Criminal Justice System and People with Mental Illness: *A Conversation with People on the Front Lines*

March 5, 2007 • 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
H-137 Capitol

The Los Angeles County Jail, the Cook County Jail (Chicago) and Riker's Island (New York City) each hold more people with mental illness on any given day than any hospital in the United States. The incarceration of people with mental illness in prison and jail is often not the most cost-effective option, and does not address the factors that contribute to higher rates of recidivism for this population.

At the briefing, speakers will focus on issues surrounding criminal justice and mental health, including mental health courts, and provide an update on the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Program. Signed into law in 2004, the Mentally Ill Offender Program provides federal grant funding to states and counties to design and implement collaborative efforts between criminal justice and mental health systems, including mental health courts, mental health and substance abuse treatment for incarcerated mentally ill offenders, community re-entry services, and cross-training of criminal justice, law enforcement, and mental health personnel.

SPONSORED BY:

- The Council of State Governments Justice Center
- National Alliance on Mental Illness
- National Sheriffs' Association
- National Association of Counties
- Campaign for Mental Health Reform
- American Psychological Association
- Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
- National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare
- Mental Health America
- National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors

PRESENTERS:

Judge Steven Leifman

*Associate Administrative Judge in Miami-Dade County
Chair, Miami-Dade County Mayor's Mental Health Task Force*

Linda Gregory

Alice Petree

On July 8, 1998, Deputy Sheriff Gene Gregory and Alan Singletary, a man with a history of severe mental illness, died in a 13-hour standoff. The unlikely team of Alice Petree, the sister of Alan Singletary, and Linda Gregory, the widow of Deputy Sheriff Gene Gregory, have been working with Florida law enforcement on a task force of community groups and stakeholders to increase awareness of the need for treatment of mental illness and to advocate for reforms in mental health and substance abuse services.

Please RSVP to Sara Paterni at spaterni@csg.org or 240-482-8580.