Criminal Justice & Behavioral Health

“The Swinging Pendulum”

Stephen G. Kaplan
Director, San Mateo County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services
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“The pendulum of the mind alternates between sense and nonsense, not between right and wrong.”

Carl Jung
The 1970’s

- Deinstitutionalization
  - The unfulfilled promise
  - Jails & Prisons become the largest “treatment centers”

- The War on Drugs
  - Interdiction & criminalization
  - Disproportionality
  - What about alcohol abuse?
The 1980’s

- Mandatory Minimum Sentencing
  - Half of all federal prisoners are incarcerated for nonviolent drug offenses
  - State spending increases 300% over the past 2 decades
  - 1 out of every 28 children has a parent incarcerated
The 1980’s Continued

• Drug Asset Forfeiture
  • Impact on demand
  • Kingpins or low level dealers/users

• Drug Courts
  • Treatment and recidivism
  • Forging collaboration

• Crisis Intervention Training
  • A new partner – a new approach
“Rehabilitation is, for the most part, now absent from contemporary American corrections. Harsher sentences, warehouse prisons, and a corrections establishment which militantly rejects the idea of salvaging offenders has become the rule of the land. We must now wait for the swing of the pendulum. I fear it will be a long wait.”

Jerome G. Miller, D.S.W.
The 1990’s

- Mental Health Courts
- Attempts to break the revolving cycle
- Shifting the conversation
The Early 2000’s

• Prop. 36
  • Treatment in lieu of jail
  • Oops Funding ends in 2009

• AB 2034
  • Wrap-around services
  • Flexible funding

"The only thing not facing cuts this year is corrections. It costs $450 million per year to house people imprisoned for simple drug possession. Imagine if we put that $450 million into treatment for folks on probation. Voters don't want to send people to prison for drug possession."

Margaret Dooley-Sammuli
Deputy State Director with the Drug Policy Alliance
The Early 2000’s Continued

• MHSA
  • Full Service Partnerships
  • Mental Health Courts
• Second Chance Act
  • Getting Serious About Reentry
  • Evidenced Based Practices
The 2010’s

• The Affordable Care Act
  • MH/SU Essential Benefit
  • Newly Covered Population
• AB 109- Parole Realignment
  • Treatment and Wrap Around Services
  • Collaboration
• Federal Sentencing Reform
  • Reduction in Sentences Drug Offenses
The 2010’s

• Prop 47
  • The Pendulum Swings

• DMC-Organized Delivery System
  • FINALLY!
San Mateo County & AB 109

- Service Connect
  - Safety Net Services
  - Case Management
  - Employment Services
  - Support Groups and Community Mentorship
  - Health Services
  - SU and MH Tx

Getting ready  Moving out  Staying out
Has The Pendulum Finally Swung in the Right Direction?

A conversation with Mr. Lorenzo Castaneda