

NEWSLETTER



Q&A

Representative Tarra Simmons, J.D.
Washington State House of Representatives
Executive Director, Civil Survival

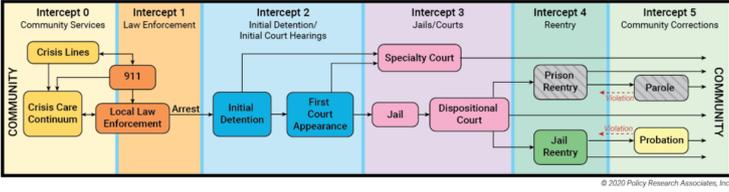
In your role as Executive Director of Civil Survival, you help people who were formerly incarcerated by challenging the financial, political, and legal barriers to reentry. What are some barriers specific to people with mental and substance use disorders that you believe must be removed?

The most significant barriers are the constant discrimination of the collateral consequences of a conviction, and the perpetual punishment that creates and hinders an ability to truly stabilize and recover from mental and substance use disorders. We must meet hope with opportunity. When individuals are criminalized for their behavioral health disorder and then denied jobs, housing, and other rights based on the stigma of a criminal record, it is nearly impossible to continue to have the resilience to fight.

How do your own experiences of trauma, substance use, and incarceration guide your work?

My personal history gives me insight into the feelings and experiences of others. While my story is not everyone's lived experience, I find myself in spaces with others who have similar challenges and have been able to center their stories and mine in solutions.

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Leveraging the Sequential Intercept Model to Address Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

SAMHSA's GAINS Center is committed to promoting and improving diversity, equity, and inclusion through its research, technical assistance, and training activities. Recently, the GAINS Center finalized a plan that involves implementing a variety of changes to further these efforts. The plan includes changes to how the GAINS Center will approach many of its activities, including Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) Mapping Workshops. SIM Mapping Workshops represent an ongoing area of work that involves many critical criminal justice and behavioral health stakeholders from communities throughout the country.

For the past decade, the GAINS Center has solicited annual applications for SIM Mapping Workshops from jurisdictions interested in better identifying and responding to the needs of adults with mental and substance use disorders who are involved or at risk for involvement in the criminal justice system. SIM Mapping Workshops are designed to bring together local, cross-system, multidisciplinary groups of criminal justice and behavioral health stakeholders from a particular jurisdiction to facilitate collaboration, identify available resources and gaps in services, establish a local set of priorities for change, and engage in strategic planning.

Read More



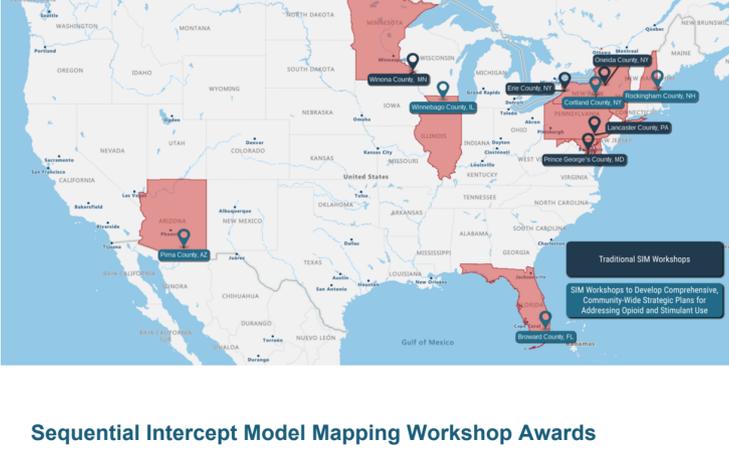
2021 Trauma-Informed Responses Train-the-Trainer and Sequential Intercept Model Mapping Workshop Sites Selected

Trauma-Informed Responses Train-the-Trainer Awards

SAMHSA's GAINS Center has selected 13 awardees for its Train-the-Trainer (TTT) workshops and is combining multiple sites to host nine TTT events on its *How Being Trauma Informed Improves Criminal Justice System Responses* curriculum. TTT events equip criminal justice system professionals with tools to increase their understanding of trauma, creates an awareness of the impact of trauma on behavior, and guides the development of a plan to embed trauma-informed responses into policies and procedures to improve responses to individuals with histories of justice involvement. The 2-day workshop is designed to train participants on administering a training delivery and to help their agency/jurisdiction move toward becoming more trauma informed on both an individual and organizational/community level.

The following 13 locations were awarded a 2021 TTT:

- Bexar, Hidalgo, and Taylor Counties, Texas
- Boulder County, Colorado
- Champaign County, Illinois
- Harris County, Texas
- Lancaster County, Pennsylvania
- McHenry County, Illinois
- New York City Boroughs, New York
- San Bernardino County, California
- Southern District of Iowa
- State of Colorado
- State of Florida
- State of New Mexico
- York County, Pennsylvania



Sequential Intercept Model Mapping Workshop Awards

SAMHSA's GAINS Center has awarded Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) Mapping Workshops (SIM Workshops) to 10 communities following a comprehensive review of all applications submitted in response to a national solicitation that was released in the fall of 2020. SIM Workshops are designed to allow local, multidisciplinary teams of people to identify and discuss how barriers between the criminal justice, mental health, and substance use systems can be reduced and to begin the development of integrated local strategic plans.

SAMHSA's GAINS Center received applications from communities across the country that were interested in receiving SIM Workshops. Applications were received for both traditional SIM Workshops and SIM Workshops focused on the development of comprehensive community-wide strategic plans for addressing opioid and stimulant use.

The following 10 locations were awarded a 2021 SIM Workshop:

- Erie County, New York
- Lancaster County, Pennsylvania
- Oneida County, New York
- Prince George's County, Maryland
- Winona County, Minnesota
- Broward County, Florida
- Cortland County, New York
- Pima County, Arizona
- Rockingham County, New Hampshire
- Winnebago County, Illinois

Webinar Archives Available

SAMHSA's GAINS Center is pleased to announce that recordings from past webinars are now available for on-demand viewing. View the following uploads on SAMHSA's YouTube channel:

- [Medication-Assisted Treatment \(MAT\) in Drug Courts: Addressing Barriers to Effective Implementation](#) (February 24, 2020)
- [Data and Information Sharing Virtual Learning Community Part 1: Getting Started—Essential Measures for Data & Information Sharing Across the Sequential Intercept Model](#) (May 5, 2020)
- [Data and Information Sharing Virtual Learning Community Part 2: Data Sharing Among Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health Partners—Addressing Data Sharing Agreements & Confidentiality Concerns](#) (June 24, 2020)
- [Data and Information Sharing Virtual Learning Community Part 3: Data Sharing among Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health Partners—Mechanisms & Platforms for Efficient Data & Information Sharing](#) (July 28, 2020)

Resource Spotlight

- [Re-envisioning How the Criminal Justice System Responds to the Opioid Crisis](#)
- [COVID-19 and Treating Incarcerated Populations for Opioid Use Disorder](#)
- [How to Transform the Response to Those Having a Mental Health Crisis](#)
- [San Francisco Launches Street Crisis Response Team to Respond to Mental Health Calls](#)