BRIDGING THE GAP: A RESOURCE BOOK FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT TO REDUCE UNNECESSARY ARRESTS OF PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS AND INCREASE AWARENESS OF RESOURCES

By

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All over the country crisis intervention teams (CIT) have developed among law enforcement agencies to address the needs of persons with mental illness that are approached by first responders in the community. These programs have proven to reduce recidivism of persons with mental illness in the jails as well as reduce stigma against mental illness (Dupont, et. al., 2007). My project was to develop a resource guide, as the preliminary piece of a CIT program, to be used by law enforcement officers in my community of Nevada County, Ca. The goal of this project was to increase collaboration of law enforcement with mental health agencies and other community partners and reduce unnecessary arrests, as well as to reduce stigma of mental illness in the community. The outcome of the survey conducted after the presentation of the resource guide proved that law enforcement officers and non law enforcement participants saw it as a beneficial tool in their work with persons with mental illness and connecting with other community partners. The community collaboration in favor of supporting those with mental illness is moving forward as a result of this project.
Acknowledgements

I have to thank my two beautiful, baby girls Keely and Shea. You two inspire me daily to be a better human being. My cohort of amazing, fun, inspiring individuals that have always supported me. Jamie Jensen and Yvonne Doble from HSU, without you two this program would not exist and I probably would have given up on myself 10 times over. Thank you for your belief, guidance and support as well as your unconditional positive regard for all of us. Thank you Jeremy, who has created a relationship with me as a stressed out, busy graduate student and has been nothing but supportive and gracious. Thank you for always telling me the truth, for listening to my boring rants about the world of social work and for carrying me through the tough times. I have to acknowledge The Nevada County Forensic Task force, including Lael of NAMI and Shane of the Nevada City Police Department. It was the original vision of this task force and the passion of Lael and Shane that led me to this project and to my own passion to connect community partners and support forensic mental health. Shane, along with Clint of the Grass Valley Police Dept. gave me the hope and inspiration in law enforcement to pursue more collaboration and education with them. These are two of the best police officers around. Thanks to Deputy District Attorney Cliff Newell for offering to pay for the publishing of the guides and to Jared of Grass Valley Printers for graciously spending your time to format and print the guides. A special thanks to my boss Carol Stanchfield, Deputy Director of Nevada and Placer County Turning Point Programs, for always giving me the flexibility to pursue my passions and complete my master’s degree.
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Crisis intervention team (CIT) programs have proven to reduce recidivism of persons with mental illness in the jails as well as reduce stigma against mental illness (Dupont, et. al., 2007). My project was to develop a resource guide, as the preliminary piece of a CIT program, to be used by law enforcement officers in my community of Nevada County, Ca. The goal of this project was to increase collaboration of law enforcement with mental health agencies and other community partners and reduce unnecessary arrests, as well as to reduce stigma of mental illness in the community. Resources and referral information were collected from public sources within the community of Nevada County in order to put together a resource guide for law enforcement officers in this county to have on hand when they encounter members of the community that may benefit from this information.

Representatives from both Spirit Peer Empowerment Center in Nevada County, and from our local National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) chapter have shared their concerns for the lack of education and training of our local law enforcement officers in working with and supporting persons with mental illness that they interact with in the midst of crisis (Forensic Task Force meeting, September 2014). Local Law enforcement officers are also asking for more training and support in recognizing mental health crises and determining what to do with persons in need of services (Forensic Task Force Meeting, September 2014).
The hope with this resource guide is to build collaboration and communication between mental health providers and other community partners, and law enforcement, reduce the number of unnecessary arrests, and support law enforcement officers with being able to provide people with resources, referrals and help, ultimately reducing stigma of mental illness.

The need for this resource guide in Nevada County came out of the community's FTF Meetings. FTF Meetings in Nevada County are open to the community, but mainly attended by people that work within fields that support people with mental illness and/or substance use issues that have been or are involved with the justice system. The FTF was formed by the local Alliance for the Mentally Ill (AMI) group in Nevada County in 1999 (Nevada County Alliance for the Mentally Ill, 1999). The group meets to discuss local mental health needs and concerns and at the time they were seeing a severe gap in services for people with mental illness that got involved with the justice system, whether through law enforcement involvement or in the jail.

**NAMI and Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT)**

The AMI group (now called National Alliance for the Mentally Ill or NAMI) formed this FTF by inviting members of the court, the jail, the District Attorney's (DA) office, the Public Defender's office, local mental health agencies, peer members, and members of law enforcement. The group was designed to address the needs of the community to address how we support people in our community who have mental health
issues and become involved in the justice system. This continues to be the focus (Forensic Task Force Meeting, March 2015).

Nationally, NAMI is known for its passionate advocacy of people with mental illness, their extensive education programs around mental illness, their constant battle against stigma of mental illness and their strong lobbying for programs and bills that benefit persons living with mental illness. "The mission statement of NAMI is to improve the quality of life of all persons affected by mental illness; NAMI maintains that recovery, resiliency, and support are necessary for the wellness and quality of life of mentally ill persons" (National Alliance on Mental Illness, 2010, p.1).

Historically, law enforcement officers have struggled with what to do with persons they come across who are experiencing symptoms of mental illness and often end up arresting them unnecessarily, just to keep them from disturbing the peace, or affecting others (Ralph, 2010, p.60). "Instead of being directed to the appropriate public mental health resources, individuals with mental illness are branded criminals and either kept in jail or sent back into the streets only to return again" (Estrada, et. al., 2003, p.64). Mental illness is best treated by mental health professionals in a setting that supports health and healing (Ralph, 2010, p.60).

The first CIT program was created in Memphis, Tennessee in 1988 after a police officer shot a man with severe mental illness. The Memphis chapter of NAMI collaborated with local law enforcement, the University Of Tennessee Medical School and the University of Memphis to improve interaction of law enforcement with persons with mental illness. This CIT program is sometimes called the Memphis Model and is
now seen in more than 2000 communities all over the country (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill [NAMI], "CIT toolkit CIT facts", n.d.). CIT is a model of intervention that is to be used by first responders in a collaborative relationship with other community partners. It is designed to reduce stigma and recidivism of members of communities struggling with mental illness. The main components that are essential to a CIT program are: community collaboration, a 40 hour training program, and consumer and family involvement (Dupont, et. al., 2007). NAMI reports that CIT is more than just a training program, it’s about community collaboration (NAMI, "CIT toolkit talking points", n.d.).

**Stigma**

People with mental illness face discrimination and prejudice from stigma when renting homes, applying for jobs, interacting with law enforcement and accessing medical and mental health services. "People suffering from mental illness and other mental health problems are among the most stigmatized, discriminated against, marginalized, disadvantaged and vulnerable members of our society" (Johnstone, 2001, p. 201). This stigma and negative connotation with serious mental illness, such as schizophrenia, leads to harmful false assumptions that have lead to tragedies, such as the shooting mentioned above in Tennessee. Stigma of mental illness and self-stigma often lead to assumptions about drug abuse, as well as can lead to persons with mental illness abusing drugs as a way to normalize their lives and relationships (Overton, 2008).

Lack of access to mental health services, mental health professionals’ attitude toward persons with mental illness as well as our media's portrayal of people with mental
illness all add to the stigma. These barriers and attitudes toward people with mental illness cause people to see themselves negatively, hence exacerbating the self-stigma and decreasing self esteem (Overton, 2008).

Mental illness continues to be the invisible disability that doesn’t always advertise itself on a person’s face or their t-shirt. A quote that sums up this stigma is: “The Chronically Normal are so often clueless about what it's like to live with a mental illness” (NAMI, Nevada County, 2011). The stigma of mental illness continues to provide a need in our county to educate community members on this health disparity. Persons living with symptoms of mental illness experience extreme stigma in society (Overton, 2008). There has been a lot of movement to reduce stigma in the community through SPIRIT peer empowerment center and the local National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) group through ways of encouraging storytelling, and through training families, individuals with mental illnesses, and professionals within Nevada County (Nevada County MHSA steering committee meeting minutes, 2014).

**Systems Theory**

With so many economic difficulties among the public and nonprofit agencies that are working to support those in need, we need to rely on each other to provide the best support we can to individuals, as well as to be able to care for ourselves and our organizations. Looking at entire systems is a healthier way of searching for solutions than pinpointing individual’s illnesses or defects (Thyer, Dulmus & Sowers, 2012). “Social work involves at its core, work with interconnected transactional networks”
(Thyer, et. al., 2012, p.297). Systems theory looks outside of the individual at surrounding systems to evaluate the needs, the strengths and how to support people from an outside-in method. Individuals, families, agencies, communities, cultures, churches, schools, sports teams, government, all make up systems. Systems intersect and intertwine and can help us to define who we are, where we come from and where we are headed. Looking at systems can help us to identify problems and begin looking for solutions. Klassen and Payne reported that the informal and formal structures systems around people, like families, organizations, churches, etc., are the focus of systems theories (Kihlstro¨m, 2011). Systems also help us understand how individuals fit within a community and how we make order of our society (Kihlstro¨m, 2011).

Collective or Collaborative Social Work

The idea of the social worker as someone who provides linkage or connection among community partners is not a new one, but one that is becoming more prevalent again with legislation like the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) that call for increased community based mental health services (Mental Health Services Act, n.d.). Connecting resources and community based small agencies as colleagues and supports for one another in effort to better serve the community is a role that a modern day social worker can take to increase the quality of services available to persons in need. This kind of social work can focus on the gaps and in reducing duplication of services, maximizing resources in a community (Collins, 2009). “Engaging with a spirit of solidarity and collective ethics invites us to witness and connect with the important work of others,
helping us to envision our collective work as both doable and sustainable” (Reynolds, 2009, p.7).

Vicky Reynolds shares that “… a group is more useful than even powerful individuals: more people, more better…. We are meant to do this work together…. Our work is profoundly collaborative: We do this work on the shoulders of others and we shoulder others up” (Reynolds, 2009, p. 7).

Our local Forensic Task Force meetings are an opportunity for people involved with and concerned for people with mental illness that interact with the justice system to express concerns and problem solve with a group of community members that are interested in collaborating. In a small, rural community like Nevada County, collaborating on the support we provide in our community to those in need is an essential part of providing quality mental health care to those in need. With limited funding and resources, our local agencies and programs have learned to be creative. This resource guide includes many non-profit agencies as they are a vital source of passion, support and knowledge for the members of our community who may struggle with mental illness.
Methods

During brainstorming at the FTF meetings, ways to support LE officers with more training and collaboration and the C.I.T. program was discussed. The need for a resource book that could draw community partners into closer collaboration for the good of our community of persons with mental illness was the main topic that came up. The resource book was identified by the group as being an essential piece of the C.I.T. program that could be beneficial to our community. The Forensic Task Force facilitator asked if there was anyone willing to put together this resource book and I volunteered. I saw this as a perfect opportunity to give to my community as well as to have a viable Master's Project.

I compiled community resources relevant to the needs of individuals with mental illness for which referrals can be provided by law enforcement officers. The list also contains resources that the officers can lean on for support and/or guidance when they are involved in a situation with a person with mental health issues that they are unsure of what to do. The list of community resources were gathered from already existing lists provided by our "211" service and from attendees of the FTF meetings. Nevada City Police officer, Shane Franssen also took personal time to meet with me on several occasions in order to contribute to this project. Another officer from Grass Valley also met with me on his off time to contribute his suggestions for the guide.

I put all the resources together on a list and organized them by adult mental health, children's mental health, homeless resources, substance use treatment resources, etc., keeping in mind systems theory. I took my list to a local print shop and explained
what I was doing with this project. The owner of the print shop organized and put together the guide for me in a format that I had described. The guide ended up small enough to fit in a law enforcement officers' pocket while on duty, so that it is convenient for use. The printer printed up two sample laminated samples and 50 other samples for me to present to the forensic task force. He didn't charge me for this initial printing and said that I could pay when I get the final copies printed.

The FTF members were invited to attend a meeting (see invite script in Appendix C) on February 28th to review and complete an anonymous and optional survey of the guide. Task Force members were encouraged to invite additional law enforcement contacts who may benefit from this guide and the court provided lunch for everyone to encourage attendance. After the resource guide was distributed and a presentation was made regarding the guide, the survey and consent form were distributed to all people in attendance. The following statement was made: "These consent forms and anonymous surveys are for research for my Masters Project at Humboldt State University. You are not required to fill these out, but if you choose to you can submit them in the box at the back of the room. I cannot accept a survey without a completed consent form." There was significant discussion that came from the presentation of the resources in the guide, including description from members of the agencies represented of services offered. The surveys were collected and separated from the consent forms. Once the data was compiled and aggregated the survey documents were shredded. I mailed the signed consent forms to Yvonne Doble at HSU who is keeping them in a secure place on campus for 3 years, and then she will destroy them.
Results

The resource guide was presented at the FTF Meeting on February 27th, in Nevada City, Ca. There were about 25 people in attendance, 20 of which completed consent forms and surveys. The whole meeting was designated for the presentation of the resource guide and to receive feedback in the form of the surveys (see Appendix A & B). In this section survey questions will be individually reviewed to show results and comparisons will be made between members of law enforcement and non-law enforcement responses.

Table 1. Survey Question 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1) Are you a member of Law Enforcement?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Out of the 20 completed surveys, 7 indicated that they were completed by members of law enforcement. This represents 35% of the total attendees.

Table 2. Survey Question 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2) Do you feel you will use this resource list?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
All 20 participants indicated that they would use this resource list. One hundred percent of the people who completed a survey, whether law enforcement or not, reported that they would use this resource list.

Table 3. Survey Question 3 (Non Law Enforcement = Non LE, Law Enforcement = LE)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
<th>UNDECIDED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>Non LE</td>
<td>LE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fourteen participants reported that the resources listed were familiar to them. Three participants reported that the resources weren't familiar, 1 person checked undecided, 1 person marked no answer, and 1 wrote in "SOME" rather than checking a box. Overall, 15% of the participants reported that they were not familiar with these resources at all and 70% reported that they were familiar with the resources. Non Law Enforcement participants indicated they were more familiar with the resources than the Law Enforcement participants by 20%. One-third of the law enforcement officers were not familiar with the resources in the guide.

Table 4. Survey Question 4

| 4) How will this list of resources be beneficial to you? (select as many choices as desired) |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------|
| It won't be helpful.                         | All | Non LE | LE |
|                                              | 0   | 0      | 0  |
I feel like I will make less arrests. | 1 | 0 | 1
I feel that I may take less people to the ER for crisis evaluation. | 4 | 2 | 2
I feel that I may be better equipped to help people with mental illness. | 16 | 9 | 7
I feel that I may be more connected with other community agencies. | 17 | 11 | 6
I feel I may be more effective in my official job duties. | 14 | 8 | 6

In question 4 there were 6 possible selections and people could select more than one. Question 4 indicates how this resource list would be helpful to people, if at all. Not a single participant indicated that the resource guide would NOT be helpful. Of the choices of how the guide would be helpful, the most selected option, with 85% of the participants selecting it, was "I feel I may be more connected with other community agencies". This was almost answered equally between the two designated groups of participants, only differing by Law Enforcement's (LE) additional 1%.

The second most selected option was "I feel that I may be better equipped to help people with mental illness" with 80% of participant selection. This one had a more significant difference between Law Enforcement participants and non Law Enforcement (non LE) participants.

Every one of the LE participants reported that they felt they would be better equipped to help people with mental illness, where as only 77% of the non LE members checked this option. Next, 70% of the people selected: "I feel I may be more effective in
my job duties". LE participants also had a higher response on this one at 86% than the non LE participants with 62% marking this answer.

Only 1 participant indicated that they felt they would make fewer arrests, and 4 people indicated they would take less people to the ER for a crisis evaluation. The person indicating they would make less arrests was a member of LE and there were equal numbers of participants across both groups that indicated they would bring less people to the ER for a crisis evaluation.

Table 5. Survey Question 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
<th>UNDECIDED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non LE</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LE</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The last question asks if people feel that it would be beneficial to have another meeting to gather representatives from all the resources listed to meet and present information about their agencies. Twelve people indicated they felt this would be helpful, representing 60% of the participants, although 86% of LE participants marked this answer compared to 46% of non LE participants. There was 1 participant who thought it would not be helpful and this was a non LE member, 6 people were undecided,
5 of which were non LE and only 1 LE participant, and 1 non LE person did not mark any box at all.
Discussion

This project addressed the intended goal of creating a way to support law enforcement officers with resources that can help them work with people with mental illness, as well as having increased collaboration among community partners. There were also moments that could have gone better that may have made the project more successful and I will talk about those here.

The people in attendance of the presentation of my project were regular attendees of the FTF meetings, for the most part, and were representatives of various community partners in Nevada County, some of which were represented in the resource guide. Our local NAMI chapter was represented, several members of our mental health board, county judges, members of the Spirit Peer Empowerment Center, a caseworker from our homeless program, the director of our domestic violence and sexual assault coalition, the director of the county Adult Protective Services, the director of adult behavioral health, a representative of Turning Point (a non-profit adult mental health provider), a representative of one of our children's mental health services programs and various members of law enforcement. The members of law enforcement that were present were made up of 2 street patrol officers, 1 jail captain, 3 probation officers and 1 Deputy District Attorney. The makeup of the meeting is from my memory and knowledge of knowing and working with the people that make up the FTF.

Twenty-five people are an average number of attendees for a FTF meeting. One explanation for only 20 people completing surveys would be that there were participants
who left early and/or arrived late, so not all participants engaged in the presentation and/or completed a consent form or survey. There were some attendees who hadn't been involved in the previous meetings that we had discussed CIT or the resource guide, and therefore were not familiar with my project. Overall, I was pleased with getting feedback from 20 individuals, but having only 7 LE officers, including only 2 street patrol officers, was disappointing. When I started this project, I had intended all of the feedback in the surveys to be from members of law enforcement, but through planning and feedback and advice went with the meeting that was already scheduled to present the guide. Offering to present this guide at already scheduled law enforcement meetings would have resulted with more LE officers to provide feedback. Nevada City Police Officer, Shane Franssen, reports that Wednesdays are typically the days that LE officers have trainings because of how they overlap their schedules. This would be something to consider for future projects of this type.

I feel that the results of the presentation and survey still indicate the need and appreciation of the resource guide for our community, despite not having a large law enforcement turn out. The guide is designed for use by law enforcement officers, but the results of the surveys showed an appreciation for and need by other community partners in our county as well. However, if I had know that there would be more non LE members participating, rather than LE officers, I may have changed the questions some. I would have wanted to present to members of resource agencies separately from LE and I would have asked questions about the placement of their phone numbers in the guide,
the need for other resources not listed, and questions about the ways that their resource could support officers and members of the community in need.

I was hoping to receive much more feedback from LE officers for this project because that is the audience that these guides are intended for. Some of the feedback from the other attendees of the meeting was confusion over thinking that this was going to be a list of resources that would be made public. I had to clarify several times during the meeting that this was a list specifically designed for our LE officers and not to be handed out to the general public. There should have been separate presentations and surveys for resource agency members and for law enforcement officers.

This presentation actually led itself into more than one of the representatives of the resources listed in the guide being able to share with others at the meeting about their services, so I would assume that maybe some felt another meeting would not be necessary, as seen by the results of the last question indicating only 12 out of 20 people seeing the value in another meeting where the resources could be explained in more depth. With two separate meetings (1 for LE, 1 for non LE); this confusion would not have occurred. Some of the discussion that occurred by other community partners went on a little long for a presentation like this. This could have been addressed by having a clear agenda and time limits on presentations of resources. We weren't able to talk about all of the resources listed in the guide during this presentation, there simply was enough time. This really wasn't the appropriate meeting and situation to allow the resource agencies to present information. If there were to be separate meetings for members of the resource agencies and for LE, for the purpose of a project like this, there would likely
need to be some more pre planning that would go into streamlining the explanations of
the resources for the LE presentation. For the non LE presentation, there would need to
be more explanation of what the purpose of the resource guide was and who the intended
audience was. For this project, having LE and non LE people together seemed to be a
positive move toward more collaboration between the two.

Since presenting the project, I have received interest and support from multiple
community partners such as: probation, the local Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
Coalition (DVSAC), APS, other judges and attorneys, as well as our crisis department
and county behavioral health department. In the future, the guide may need to be revised
according to feedback, including the need to either make a separate guide for Truckee LE
or to add in more of their local resources. Truckee is the most Eastern part of Nevada
County, and often get's left out of large projects and supports in the county. Another idea
that has come up was to create a phone application or web based application or resource
guide. This would make an incredible future masters project.

As a direct result of my involvement in this project, I have had an opportunity to
be included in guiding a grant for Mentally Ill Offenders Crime Reduction (MIOCR) that
our county Probation Department is applying for. It was decided through planning
meetings to propose use of MIOCR funding for a CIT program modified for our county,
including the use of this resource guide. Our FTF continues to work on plans for the CIT
training we want to facilitate for local law enforcement. I have become a liaison for our
local law enforcement officers and the non-profit mental health agency I work for,
creating a better support network for the severely mentally ill people we serve.
The support I received in putting this guide together was overwhelming. Everyone I made contact with and many of the regular attendees of the forensic task force meetings expressed gratitude and excitement for this guide book. My community partner, police officer Shane Franssen, offered his free time to meet with me and provided feedback and support. Shane's enthusiasm for this project all along, as a law enforcement officer in my community has been inspirational and motivating for me. The facilitator of our meetings is also a member of our local NAMI chapter and offered for NAMI to provide lunch at the meeting that I presented at. One of our local judges approved of us eating in his courtroom and supported the project as a former Mental Health Court judge and current Assertive Outpatient Treatment judge. When I went to have the books printed, the local printer formatted the book for me and printed up samples for me to use at the meeting at no cost. At the presentation, our District Attorney offered to pay for all of the printing of the guides and expressed his gratitude for this project. In Vicky Reynolds writing about collaborative social work, she presents the idea of working together to lift each other up (Reynolds, 2009). I experienced this in Nevada County though this project.

The community collaboration for working with people with mental illness was shown by the support of the members of our Forensic Task Force throughout this project, accumulating at the final presentation. Our Forensic Task Force shows a great respect for those living with mental illness and this ultimately will pervade all of the various agencies they serve, therefore supporting the reduction of stigma in our community.
References


Nevada County National Alliance for the Mentally Ill. (August 1999). Recommendations regarding the treatment of adults with mental illness in the criminal justice system. *A letter to the Nevada County Board of Supervisors*.


www.nami.org/cit
Appendix A

Bridging the Gap: A resource book for Law enforcement to reduce unnecessary arrest of people with mental illness and increase awareness of resources.

Consent Form

You have been asked to take part in a study by a Humboldt State University student. The study will figure out if the resource book, handed out in today's meeting, will be helpful for police officers.

The survey should take about 15 minutes to fill out.

There are no risks to you for filling out the survey.

Your participation is completely voluntary.

The data collected will remain in a secure file for three years. At the end of the three years, it will be shredded.

Your answers to the questions on the survey are confidential and anonymous.

No personal information will be used in the written report.

There will be no direct quotes used in the written report.

I understand my participation is voluntary and I may stop at any time.

For more information you may contact Heather Smith at hjt45@humboldt.edu or (530) 277-7554 or Yvonne Doble, M.S.W., professor at Humboldt State University: Yvonne.Doble@humboldt.edu or (707) 826-4447.
I understand that the Investigator will answer any questions I have about this study. I also understand my participation is voluntary and I may stop at any time.

If you have any concerns with this study, contact the Chair of the Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects, Dr. Ethan Gahtan, at eg51@humboldt.edu or (707) 826-4545.

If you have questions about your rights as a participant, report them to the Humboldt State University Dean of Research, Dr. Rhea Williamson, at Rhea.Williamson@humboldt.edu or (707) 826-5169.

I have read and understand the information provided, and agree to participate in the study.

Signature___________________________________________

Date_____________  

Legal Representative Signature _________________________________

Date_____________
Appendix B

Bridging the Gap: A resource book for Law enforcement to reduce unnecessary arrest of people with mental illness and increase awareness of resources.

1. Are you a member of Law Enforcement?
   □ Yes □ No

2. Do you feel like you will use this resource list?
   □ Yes □ No □ Undecided

3. Were these resources familiar to you before you received this list?
   □ Yes □ No □ Undecided

4. How will this list of resources be beneficial to you? (select as many choices as desired)
   □ It won't be helpful.
   □ I feel that I may make less arrests.
   □ I feel that I may take less people to the ER for crisis evaluation.
   □ I feel that I may be better equipped to help to people with mental illness.
   □ I feel like I may be more connected with other community agencies.
   □ I feel like I may be a more effective in my official job duties.

5. Do you feel it would be beneficial to have another meeting with representatives of the agencies represented in this resource list, available to share information about their agencies?
☐ Yes    ☐ No    ☐ Undecided

*This survey is completely anonymous and the results will only be used confidentially and anonymously.*
Appendix C

Proposed Example of Wording that can be on a Forensic Task Force Agenda, or can be modified and emailed separately to members of the Forensic Task Force.

Bridging the Gap: A Resource Guide for Law Enforcement Engaging With Individuals with Mental Illness.

You are welcome to attend the Forensic Task Force meeting on Feb. 28, 2015, where Heather Smith from Turning Point and NC Crisis Dept. along with Shane Franssen of NCPD present a resource guide to support members of law enforcement with their interactions with our community members experiencing mental health crises or issues. Please invite all law enforcement members to attend, as well as members of NC dispatch. There will be a short survey handed out after the presentation that will be optional and anonymous, but will help Heather to complete her Master's Project through Humboldt State University.