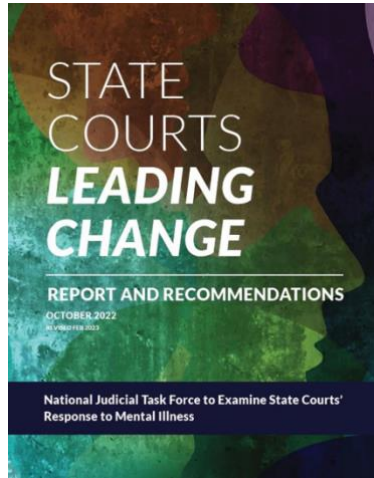


Virginia Judicial Behavioral Health Summit

Judges across the Commonwealth convened teams of key behavioral health docket staff to attend the first Judicial Behavioral Health Summit in Williamsburg October 30th-November 1st. Recognizing the important intersection between these at-risk populations and the courts, the Supreme Court of Virginia, with assistance from the National Center for State Courts (NCSC), jointly planned the Judges Leading



Change Summit. The NCSC has been working collaboratively with the Court as it guides our state's judicial system in its efforts to improve the administration of justice for individuals who are affected by mental illness. The Summit combined educational sessions with opportunities for jurisdictional team planning, geared towards improving systemic responses to individuals with mental illness. Chief Justice Goodwyn welcomed everyone followed by Judge Leifman, Associate Administrative Judge of the Miami-Dade County Court. This was followed by 11 sessions of presenters and panelists educating everyone in the room on applying each stage of the Sequential Intercept Model in a behavioral health setting, wellness in law, certified behavioral health clinics, peer support and more.

These sessions culminated with a presentation titled State Courts Leading Change, by Paul DeLosh, Director of Judicial Services, and Michelle O'Brien, Principal Court Management Consultant. They shared the efforts of the Office of the Executive Secretary as well as highlighting the recommendations of the *National Judicial Task Force to Examine State Courts' Response to Mental Illness*. While there are multiple recommendations, the Task Force's next steps will be to create workgroups within the Committee to focus on reforming the competency to stand trial system, promoting deflection and diversion of treatment options, supporting the identification of appropriate data, data collection and information sharing, funding and prioritizing education and training. These workgroups will include experts in the field to fulfill the mission of assisting courts with implementing the recommendations.

The summit closed out with remarks from several teams regarding their team plans to incorporate what they learned from the summit into their communities of practice. The summit hosted 362 attendees with 57 judge led teams. It is hoped that this Summit inspires innovation and collaboration to meet this dynamic challenge and brings improvement to the justice system's response to mental illness.

