

FAMILIES ACT!

ADVOCATING FOR THE DUALY DIAGNOSED

EDUCATION

SUPPORT

ADVOCACY



*Break the Deadly Cycle ...
Criminalization is NOT the Answer!*

STOP
The Revolving
Door

A Costly Cycle...

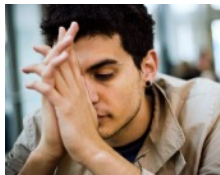


In the last decade, U.S. jails and prisons have become de facto mental institutions. Americans with mental health and substance use disorders cycle in and out of emergency rooms, sober living homes, detox programs, alcohol/drug treatment centers, county jails, state prisons, and homelessness.

The factors which have contributed to this are complex. They need to be understood if we are to change these realities.

A Collective Inquiry ...

We invite our community to look deeply into how we have come to neglect and incarcerate our mentally ill, to better understand the specific challenges posed by co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders, and to catalyze just, compassionate and effective alternatives to the revolving door.



We host public forums, convene task forces, produce reports and recommendations. We challenge Santa Barbara to fund recovery and rehabilitation, not incarceration.

Offering Compassion ...

Individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders and with intensely self-destructive behaviors are often coming from a place of shame and fear. We strive to overcome the stigma, shame, fear and injustice associated with mental illness, addiction, incarceration, overdose and suicide.

Families ACT! brings together concerned individuals, families, and people struggling with mental health and substance abuse issues for mutual support and empowerment.



805-637-1339

... and Services for Families

Families ACT! offers a variety of support services for individuals and families including:

- Referrals to local resources
- Help navigating the mental health and criminal justice systems
- Bi-Monthly support group meetings
- An opportunity to tell your story in our videos, at town hall meetings, press conferences and public policy hearings

**Go to our website for more resources
or to make a donation**

www.FamiliesACT.org

Contact us at info@FamiliesACT.org

Families ACT is a 501(c)(3)

A Catalyst for Change ...

In 2012, **Families ACT!** proposed a new model for a residential community, based on a sustainable funding mechanism. Our NEXT STEPS model co-locates:

- Intensive Treatment Beds
- Supportive Housing Units
- Job Training
- Employment



Finding Our Voice ...

With funding from the McCune and Santa Barbara Foundations, **Families ACT!** created an advocacy training program for people with lived experience of the "Revolving Door". Advocates are asking tough questions of our policy makers and fellow community members:

- What proportion of our homeless suffer from mental health disorders and/or substance use disorders?
- Why are we incarcerating so many non-violent mentally ill or drug "offenders"?
- Is it morally justifiable to house mentally ill people in jails?
- Why does the U.S. have the highest incarceration rate in the world?
- Why are California jails and prisons so overcrowded?
- With violent crimes down, why do we need more jails?
- Which do we need more: jails cells or treatment beds?

Education

Support

Advocacy

Facts



*Do you know someone who is depressed or bipolar?
Do you know someone who is abusing drugs?
Do you know someone who has been sent to jail?*

Did you know that 1 in 31 American adults are behind bars, on probation or on parole?

Our Families are Hurting ...

FACT: One in 4 Americans has a family member who is struggling with addiction - 70% of these family members may be dually diagnosed.

FACT: One in 99 adult Americans is behind bars. For black males (20-34 years old) the figure is 1 in 8! Over 330,000 of the 2.3 million incarcerated Americans are mentally ill.

FACT: The US now has more non-violent offenders in prison than our entire prison population in 1980. 1.55 million people were arrested in the U.S. In 2012 on non-violent drug charges. We spend over \$11 billion/year to keep drug law violators in prison.

FACT: While 20% of prisoners are incarcerated for a drug offense, over 80% of inmates have a substance abuse problem. Our prison system has capacity to provide treatment to only about 5%.

Our Loved Ones are Dying!

FACT: The rate of suicide in our prisons is twice that of the general population. In our jails, the rate is nine times higher!

FACT: In 2009, 31,758 people died of drug overdoses in the US. In 2010, 38,329 died.

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