

Florida Criminal Justice Care Program

Delivering access and stability for at-risk and incarcerated members

Between 25-40% of Americans with mental health issues *will be* incarcerated at some point in their lives.¹

About Optum's Criminal Justice Care Program in Florida

Created in 2023, this program bridges the gap between members, law enforcement, correctional facilities, courts, mental health professionals and community mental health centers. Supported by clinical and peer support staff, it supports at-risk adults with mental health conditions who've been involved with the courts and/or recently release from incarceration.

Program eligibility criteria

To be considered for this program, members must meet the criteria below.

All of the following	Plus, recent history of any of the following	Plus, one or both of the following
18 years of age or older	Released from jail or prison within the past 30-90 days	2+ in-patient, behavioral health admissions in last 6 months
Active Florida Medicaid / UnitedHealthcare Community and State member	Advised to follow-up with mental health and adjunct support services	2+ emergency room, behavioral health and/or substance abuse visits in last 6 months
Diagnosed with Serious Mental Illness and/or Substance Use Disorder	Diverted from incarceration by drug or mental health courts or crisis units	
	Released from forensic state hospital and referred for behavioral health support	

How to make referrals



Email qualified member referrals to floridabehavioralhealthliaison@optum.com and include the following member information: Name, date of birth, Medicaid number (if known), phone, address (indicate if homeless/unhoused), reason for referral, other known services/resources/support system contacts, and any additional information that may be helpful.

Why we need your help

Finding stable, efficient care is significantly challenging for members with mental health concerns and ties to the criminal justice and forensic systems. Consider the following:

- Mental health concerns for those incarcerated is 3-12 times higher than the general public¹
- Prison conditions disrupt treatment plans and are linked to new and worsening mental health problems¹
- Patients with serious mental illness are at higher risk of mortality and poor outcomes due to homelessness, substance use, recurrent inpatient psychiatric admissions and incarceration
- Many Florida counties offer support services (e.g., mental health and drug courts, mobile response teams, resources for forensic and the formerly incarcerated, etc.). However, many counties fall short.

¹Wolff, M. *Fact Sheet: Incarceration and Mental Health*. 2017. [https://psychiatry.weill.cornell.edu/research-institutes/dewitt-wallace-institute-psychiatry/issues-mental-health-policy/fact-sheet-0al Health | Weill Cornell Medicine Psychiatry](https://psychiatry.weill.cornell.edu/research-institutes/dewitt-wallace-institute-psychiatry/issues-mental-health-policy/fact-sheet-0al%20Health%20|%20Weill%20Cornell%20Medicine%20Psychiatry)