

The Society for Applied Anthropology
69th Annual Meeting
March 17 – 21, 2009
Santa Fe Convention Center

**Participatory, Rapid Assessment and Planning at the Criminal Justice –
Mental Health Interface**

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The nation's mental health system is in disarray; services are fragmented, under-funded, and reach a fraction of those who need treatment. Against this backdrop, individuals with mental illness, substance abuse/dependence, or co-occurring disorders are over-represented in the criminal justice system. We engaged diverse community stakeholders in a rapid assessment and planning process to: 1) develop and enhance collaborations at the criminal justice – mental health interface in order to; 2) craft a strategic plan to initiate system change in an urban, southern county. Process and results are discussed and framed by the sequential intercept model approach to decriminalization of mental illness.