

# ILLINOIS MENTAL HEALTH PLANNING AND ADVISORY COUNCIL

Co-Chairs: **Andrea Cooke**  
**John W. Shustitzky**

Ill. Dept. of Human Services  
401 S. Clinton Street  
Chicago, IL 60601

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January 8, 2016

Roger Heaton, Chair  
Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice  
and Sentencing Reform

Dear Mr. Heaton,

At the January 7, 2016 meeting of the Illinois Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council, the following motion was passed.

“IMPHAC wishes to express to the Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform:

1. The need for a strong and well resourced mental health system to avoid the criminalization of individuals living with mental illness inclusive of the child and adolescent system.
2. Our support for the role of specialty courts in diverting individuals with mental illness from the criminal justice system both pre and post trial and the role of case coordination in providing critical supports to those so diverted, including housing, employment and mental health services.
3. We strongly urge that similar case coordination supports be put in place for those individuals with mental illness being released from incarceration to avoid recidivism.

The Council appreciates your consideration of the above motion.

Sincerely,

Ann Schreiner, LCSW  
Secretary  
Illinois Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council

CC: membership of the Commission