



**Office of
Mental Health**

**New York State Office of Mental Health
Division of Forensic Services
Spotlight of Innovative Diversion Services
Wednesday, February 8, 2023
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM**

Please join the **NYS Office of Mental Health Division of Forensic Services** for a virtual event hosted by the **Diversion Center** team. The Diversion Center provides resources that can be offered to support jurisdictions across the state with the development, implementation, evaluation, and replication of initiatives to reduce arrest and incarceration of adults with serious mental illness.

Click [here](#) to register! You will receive an email from “Cheryl Barbosa Dedes” from messenger@webex.com with information to join.

This event will feature innovative behavioral health and law enforcement partnerships. The first presentation will feature **Eric Weigel, Director of Diversion Services** and **Jenna Colern, Program Manager of Division Services of Endeavor Health Services** Co-Response Behavioral Health Teams (BHTs). Endeavor’s BHTs work in collaboration with Erie County police departments to provide crisis de-escalation, higher level of care intervention, post-crisis follow-up and linkages to care. Endeavor will be joined by **Lt. Justin Haag** from the **Cheektowaga Police Department**.

Additionally, the NYS Mobile Access Program (MAP) will be featured. New York State Office of Mental Health (NYS OMH) Division of Forensic Services, in collaboration with the **Institute for Police, Mental Health & Community Collaboration**, is responsible for implementing MAP. MAP is a collaboration between the criminal justice and mental health systems. Using an iPad app, police officers can remotely connect an individual to a mental health professional at the scene of a behavioral crisis, avoiding transport to a hospital or jail. This presentation will also feature the Director of the Institute for Police, Mental Health & Community Collaboration, **Dr. Don Kamin**, with **Sgt. Mark Taylor** from the **Ontario County Sherriff’s Department** and **Cassie Cowley LMSW** from the **Clifton Springs Hospital** who use MAP to serve individuals within their communities.

The Diversion Center team looks forward to future collaborations with diversion stakeholders, and to building a long-lasting partnership with your community. We will continue to offer web-based events focused on programs and services targeting the diversion of adults with serious mental illness away from criminal justice involvement and into behavioral health services.