



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SOUND MENTAL HEALTH SHARES FINDINGS  
AT LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE**

*Data from partnership with Dept. of Corrections and Seattle Police Department shared;  
expected to replicate best practices across the state mental health system*

**SEATTLE – JUNE 22, 2010** – Sound Mental Health’s partnership with the Department of Corrections and the Seattle Police Department has produced intriguing new findings that may improve recovery outcomes for the state’s mentally ill offender population, and facilitate their integration into the community.

A team of Sound Mental Health and criminal justice forensic specialists will present data and best practices from this partnership during the Washington Community Mental Health Council ([WCMHC](#)) conference on June 23-25 in Yakima, Wash. WCMHC is a leading state non-profit organization dedicated to advancing community mental health through advocacy and strategic partnerships.

The 90-minute presentation, “Bridging the Gaps: Strengthening Partnerships to Improve Sustainable Recovery of Offenders,” will be given by Declan Wynne, LMHC, Sound Mental Health director of Integrated Services; Kevin St. Jacques, Psy.D., Sound Mental Health senior department manager; Officer Scott Enright, Seattle Police Department, Critical Incident Team, and Thomas McJilton, Department of Corrections Special Needs Unit. An audience of the state’s top community mental health practitioners will learn critical insights about forming collaborative partnerships with state and county corrections systems and law enforcement, discover industry best practices, and identify strategies to optimize those partnerships.

Budget cuts have increased the number of mentally ill criminal offenders being released from the state’s corrections system. This has created greater interest in forensic mental health – an emerging practice that addresses the unique behavioral, mental and substance abuse issues that plague populations in state and local corrections systems.

This offender re-entry approach has been designed to increase community safety, create more productive members of society and reduce the burden on the state corrections systems. Emerging research suggests that specialized re-entry services greatly reduce recidivism rates among the

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offender population and improve community safety.

“I believe that Sound Mental Health is at the very forefront of this innovative new practice area,” said St. Jacques. “With the increase of offender releases, coupled with deep budget concerns, the interest in community safety is a relevant and timely topic. We look forward to sharing our strategies and information with our peers.”

To learn more about the conference, visit <http://www.wcmhcnet.org/conferences.html>

### **About Sound Mental Health**

Sound Mental Health is a private, non-profit organization that has provided a comprehensive array of mental health and related services to the King County community since 1966. Our goal is to help individuals and families achieve the highest level of independence and (mental) health possible. Services are tailored to meet the unique needs of different age, disability and cultural/ethnic groups. To learn more, visit [www.smh.org](http://www.smh.org).

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