**Title**: Barriers to Collaboration: Evaluating Sequential Intercept Mapping in Practice

**Authors:** Nikhil Nadler and Natalie Bonfine

nnadler@neomed.edu

**Institution** Department of Psychiatry, Northeast Ohio Medical University

**Objectives**

The goal of this research was to describing barriers to collaboration identified by community stakeholders for Sequential Intercept Mapping Workshops.

**Abstract**

Sequential Intercept Mapping is derived from the sequential intercept model which describes five points of interception of adults with mental illness in the criminal justice system. These points of interception describe points in the criminal justice system where certain interventions can occur to prevent further plunging into the criminal justice system. Sequential Intercept Mapping Workshops are a one and a half day trainings where members of the criminal justice system, mental health system, consumer advocates and government agencies attempt to solve the over representation of adults with mental illness in the criminal justice system. To better understand the collaboration of among the community stakeholders, semi-structured interviews were conducted with nine members of the core planning team of the workshop in two counties. The interviews were then transcribed and consensually coded based on a codebook created by our team. After coding, text segments were then entered into a data table and then sorted by code. Thematic analysis was then done where two emergent themes relating to barriers to cross-systems collaboration became apparent. The two themes are barriers found were internal and external barriers. Internal barriers were lack of time or inflexibility in schedule, lack of priority or commitment to project or loss of interest among participants, lack of participation from those with decision-making power, lack of understanding among stakeholders about other organizations’ roles, resources, and activities within and across systems, and attitude towards problem. External barriers were lack of funding, resources, or programs, opiate epidemic, lack of awareness on the issue, data collection, and turnover in positions. These themes and categories define different roadblock to collaboration. It is necessary to understand the barriers to cross-systems collaboration, so that in the future these barriers can be overcome and successful collaboration can flourish. In future research on SIM mapping it will be important to look at outcomes of adults with mental illness differ in communities that do mapping versus those that do not.