

Ruth O' Sullivan is a Licensed clinical social worker who has been supporting diversion initiatives since 2000. She is currently the Senior Director of Clinical Practice at the Center for Justice Innovation and prior to this, was the Project/Clinical Director of Brooklyn Mental Health Court for 9 years. At BMHC she led a staff dedicated to creating a meaningful response to the problems posed by defendants with mental illness in the criminal justice system. Addressing both the treatment needs of defendants with mental illness and the public safety concerns of the community, the Mental Health Court uses the authority of the court to link defendants with serious and persistent mental illnesses to long-term treatment as an alternative to incarceration. During her tenure at BMHC, the court expanded their work with youth and began serving persons diagnosed with Neurodevelopmental disorders. She has a master's degree in Sociology and Social Policy from the University of Glasgow, and a master's in social work from Hunter College. Ruth currently serves on the New York State Judicial TASK force on mental illness.