

Commission's Data Linkage Work Wins StateScoop 50 Award

Criminal Justice Data Linkage Project wins for State IT Innovation of the Year

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For immediate release
Contact: Andrea Anderson
(916) 202-5035

We are pleased to announce that the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission's **Criminal Justice Data Linkage Project** has won a StateScoop 50 award in the State IT Innovation of the Year category.

The Commission's legacy of work in data research and evaluation recognizes the value of high-quality data analysis to community mental health systems. In the age of COVID and its long-reaching implications for California's mental health, it is more important than ever to have accurate mental health data to help inform policy for everything from innovative prevention and early intervention strategies, to critical crisis management, and reducing racial disparities.

"Data is the currency for mental health transformation," said Dr. Dawnté Early, Chief of Research and Evaluation for the Commission. "By bringing disparate data together, we have the power to integrate these systems and tell a broader story."

Each year the StateScoop awards program honors public servants from across the United States who make state government more efficient and effective. These awards celebrate the outstanding achievements of peers and acknowledge their tireless efforts to make a positive impact in the government IT community and in public service. The State IT Innovation of the Year award specifically recognizes an IT approach to cross-agency or intra-agency technology that may have been incomprehensible until recently.

The Commission's Criminal Justice Data Linkage Project integrated and analyzed arrest and mental health data to validate that intense mental health programs were associated with reductions in arrests among those with severe mental illness, especially among those with previous criminal justice involvement.

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