



GARVEY INSTITUTE FOR BRAIN HEALTH SOLUTIONS

5-YEAR REPORT

GARVEY INSTITUTE FOR
BRAIN HEALTH SOLUTIONS

UW Medicine



William H. Gates Hall, UW School of Law

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

Building bridges to advance mental health policy

THE GARVEY INSTITUTE for Brain Health Solutions advocates for legislation and policy that positively affects the lives of people with mental health conditions and their families. Because policy work is complex and multifaceted, good partnerships are crucial to driving change. An exciting new partnership with the UW School of Law could help us develop better solutions at the intersection of law and mental health.

“I think we have a tremendous opportunity to collaborate,” says Tamara Lawson, Dean of the UW School of Law. “Our work overlaps with mental health in so many ways. We can learn a lot from each other.”

One in two Americans with a serious mental illness will be arrested in their lifetime, and individuals with serious mental illness in Washington remain ten times more prevalent in a forensic or correctional setting than in a state hospital. There is a tremendous need for research focused on mental health and the law as well as guidance to policy makers on best practices to improve health and justice outcomes.

Potential collaborations include establishing a mental health law clinic for people seeking consultation involving both legal and mental health concerns, and a review of Washington State’s civil commitment system with the aim of suggesting potential improvements to state policy makers. Other ideas include finding ways to better support first responders when they encounter individuals in a mental health- or addiction-related crisis, and helping trainees in both law and medicine learn from each other so they are better equipped to help clients and patients navigate our complex legal and mental health systems.

We look forward to nurturing this new collaboration! ◇

An exciting new partnership with the UW School of Law could help us develop better solutions at the intersection of law and mental health.