Mentally Ill, Convicted and Confined in the U.S.: The Discharge Dilemma for Undocumented Immigrants
Research Focus

- Mentally Ill Undocumented Immigrants
- Convicted for Crimes in the U.S.
- Not removed by DHS
- No access to care upon release to community
- Increased risk for relapse and recidivism
FINDINGS

- ~ 9.5 million undocumented immigrants living in the U.S. are uninsured.
- In 2009 Florida state mental hospitals reported spending $19.6 million to care for at least 86 undocumented immigrants.
- In 2008 Maryland state and local governments spent $1.2 billion on unauthorized immigrants.
- In 2005 Texas estimated spending $38,745,977 on Medicaid expenditures on immigrants.
- Emergency room care costs tax payers ~ $2 billion/year
IMPORTANCE to the AG Community

- POLITICAL Muster
  - Risk to Public Safety
  - Funding Mental Health Services
  - Removal/Repatriation

- LITIGATION
  - Defending Continued Confinement
  - Defending denial of state only funding for mental health services

- POLICY
  - Immigration Reform
  - Department of Homeland Security
  - U.S. Consulate/Embassy
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