

Special Issue

Mental Health Diversion Efforts



FY 2019-20 BUDGET WORKSHOP



Key Challenges / Emerging Issues

- **Impact of mental health issues on the criminal justice system**
 - Law enforcement operations
 - The county jail
 - The Court System
- **The impacts are social, fiscal, and moral**
 - The persons battling mental illness on the street produce anxiety, even though such persons are more likely to be victims of violence than perpetrators
 - There is a hidden population of persons living with relatives or friends who are not immediately visible
 - Law enforcement as the first response; how and when should government intervene in the lives of the people who may be dealing with mental illness?
- **There has been a compartmentalized approach to dealing with this issue**
 - Mental Health vs. law enforcement vs. legal process
 - High utilizers cross departmental lines in terms of service utilization



Data Points

- **Mentally Ill Jail Inmates**
 - 2017=52% / 2018=53% (some BeWell contact in last 10 years)
 - 12% on psychotropic medications
 - IST: 29 as of February 2019 (9 felony, 4 misdemeanor, 16 under evaluation)
 - IST: 65 sent to State hospital in 2017
- **PHF**
 - Consistently operates at nearly full capacity (97% YTD)
 - PHF Jail Bed Days = 787 in 2018 = 18.7%
 - 735 of the jail bed days (93.4%) are misdemeanorant ISTs being restored to competency



Data Points

- **Service calls related to mental illness (2018 vs. 2017)**
 - Mobile Crisis (Adult): 1,912 down from 2,143 (-10.8%)
 - Safe Alternatives For Treating Youth (SAFTY): 1,034 up from 890 (+16.2%)
 - Sheriff/Fire: data pending
- **Collaborative Courts (N=911) / *Mental Health =135 (14.8%)**
- **System Costs: need to be fully evaluated**



County Diversion Efforts - Departmental

- **Behavioral Wellness**
 - Justice Alliance Program
 - Crisis Co-Response Team (CRT) – collaboration with Sheriff
- **District Attorney**
 - Misdemeanor Diversion Program – 658 person diverted in 2018 (not all mental health related)
- **Public Defender**
 - Pre-Arrest Unit – on track to work with over 500 clients this FY
 - Holistic Defense
- **Probation**
 - Collaborative Courts
- **Sheriff**
 - CIT Training for County law enforcement
 - Jail Based Competency Treatment – Implementation Pending



County Diversion Efforts - Collaborative

- **Public Safety Working Group**
 - BeWell, Public Defender, Sheriff, District Attorney, Probation
- **IST Workgroup**
 - BeWell, Public Defender, CEO, Public Guardian
- **Grants – Proposition 47 (approval pending)**
 - \$6m over three years
 - Public Defender, BeWell, Sheriff, District Attorney
 - Sobering Center, Crisis Hub & Co-Response
- **Grants – AB1810 (awarded)**
 - \$3.1m over three years
 - CEO, BeWell, Public Defender, District Attorney, Sheriff
 - Focused on diverting felony ISTs out of criminal justice and into treatment



County Diversion Efforts - Collaborative

- **Co-Response**
 - Partners law enforcement officer and trained mental health professional
 - SBPD and the Sheriff will work together to develop response protocols
- **Collaborative Courts (N=911 as of October 2018)**
 - Mental Health Treatment Courts = 56 (6%)
 - Veteran's Treatment Court = 48 (5.3%)
 - Dual Diagnosis = 31 (3.4%)
 - Prop 36 = 632 (69.4%)
 - There is likely cross-over into mental health from Prop 36 & Substance Abuse
- **Stepping Up (Dr. Cherylynn Lee)**



Stepping Up - Overview

- Resolution to adopt Stepping Up initiative signed by the Board in 2016
- Stepping Up represents a multi-departmental, coordinated approach for use in diverting the mentally ill out of the criminal justice system
- Partners include: Numerous community groups, hospitals, District Attorney, Behavioral Wellness, Public Defender, Courts
- Sequential Intercept Mapping (SIM) identifies various intercept points for diversion which results in goals, road maps, and action plans



Stepping Up - Priorities for Change

- Priorities for change were voted on by the work group. Several high priority items were identified including:
 - Co-response pilot
 - Expanded CIT training
 - Developing data identification and tracking
 - The establishment of alternative crisis centers
- The Stepping Up workgroup continues to meet every 6 weeks to evaluate progress and continue improving the system of care for the mentally ill who are criminal justice involved



County Diversion Efforts - Successes

- **Crisis Stabilization Unit**
 - 92% of patients stabilized within 24 hours (no hospitalization required)
 - 92% of patients stabilized remained stabilized within 30 days of discharge (+6%)
 - Provides Law Enforcement with an alternative to incarceration
- **Co-Response (40 hours per week / Sept 2018-March 2019)**
 - Team-initiated engagements: 130 (e.g., patrol response follow-ups)
 - Diversions from arrest: 16
 - Dispatched calls for service: 115
- **Holistic Defense**
 - Pre-Arraignment Unit – designed to connect people with community services and divert people out of the criminal justice system



County Diversion Efforts - Next Steps

- **Formalize the Public Safety Working Group**
 - Develop inter-related policies & protocols
 - Continue to pursue multi-disciplinary funding opportunities
 - Work with WellPath to develop mental health metrics in the jail
- **In conjunction with existing resources, develop an ongoing and informal means of obtaining community input into mental health policy development**
 - e.g., Stepping Up, Prop 47 Committee, Community Corrections Partnership
- **Continue progress on opening a Mental Health Rehabilitation Center (MHRC)**
- **Develop a methodology for calculating the fiscal impact to the County as a consequence of responding to issues related to mental illness**



Questions?

Thank you...

