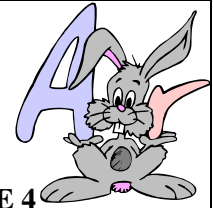


PEMHS' PULSE



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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK – A Model Program

Our Public Defender, the Honorable Bob Dillinger, has become very interested in the Bexar County Model (San Antonio, Texas) Program for jail diversion. I thought I would share their information as to a different system of care that has great potential for Pinellas families and persons in need. Please contact me if you are interested in more detail. This model is surely going to be discussed in depth for implementation here.



PROGRAM AND SERVICES

Crisis Intervention Team

The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) approach employs specially trained, local uniformed officers to act as primary or secondary responders to calls in which mental illness and/or mental retardation is a factor. Training is focused on "talking down" (de-escalation) in crisis situations. CIT officers facilitate emergency mental health assessments in which consumers are transported to the Crisis Care Center, in order to avoid inappropriate arrest and incarceration.



www.center-for-healthcare.org

Crisis Line

The Crisis Line is a 24-hour crisis intervention and mental health assistance line for Bexar County residents. The Crisis Line provides a telephonic triage to determine the immediate level of need and to mobilize emergency services for the consumer. The Crisis Line works closely with the local law enforcement community and 911 to ensure the safety of the consumer as well as the public at large. The Crisis Line also serves as an initial point in determining eligibility for services through the Center for Health Care Services. The Crisis Line can be reached by dialing 223-SAFE (223-7233) or 1-800-316-9241.

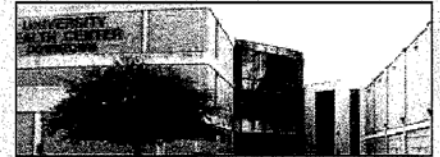
Project for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)

The PATH outreach team screens homeless adults and children on the streets, under bridges, in campsites, or in shelters to link them to CHCS and other community services. The PATH team refers consumers for various community services such as affordable housing, employment, health care, income support, legal services, mental health, rehabilitation training in social skills, social services, and substance abuse treatment.

Jail Diversion Program

The Bexar County Jail Diversion Program is a comprehensive, coordinated service delivery system based on network resources focused in identification, diversion from jail and continuity of care for individuals that are about to or have entered the criminal

or release to a community treatment alternative. The final phase is provision of appropriate services upon release from jail or prison ensuring continued mental health and support services. Essentially, the Bexar County Jail Diversion Program focuses its efforts for diversion and treatment at strategic times: before, during, and after incarceration.



Pretrial Services Program advocates for release from incarceration and provides linking to available mental health treatment and a broad array of supportive services.

Magistrate Screening Services addresses the assessment and referral needs of the Magistrate before booking and incarceration and is housed at the Central City/County processing detention facility.

Involuntary Outpatient Commitment Services seeks to identify patients with frequent emergency hospitalizations secondary to non-compliance with treatment and who are recommended for placement on a Civil Outpatient Commitment. The IOPC Program Staff works closely with the Civil Court System in



Deputy Mobile Outreach Team (DMOT)

The Deputy Mobile Outreach Team (DMOT) is a collaboration between the Bexar County Sheriff's Office and the Center for Health Care Services. The team consists of Mental Health Professionals accompanying a Mental Health Trained Deputy Sheriff to calls from the community involving persons with

justice system.

The Bexar County Jail Diversion Program is divided into phases within the criminal justice system. In the first phase, the focus is on diverting persons with mental illness before they are arrested and booked into the county jail. Efforts in this phase focus on identification, screening and recommendations to the Magistrate Judges and include a referral to the most appropriate clinical setting. In the second phase, while

order to monitor consumer adherence to treatment.

Jail Diversion Oversight Committee (JDOC)

The JDOC is comprised of representatives of the courts, law enforcement, probation, public and private agencies.

The JDOC serves to address issues related to inappropriate