Special Issue

Mental Health Diversion Efforts
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 misdemeanor 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-Arraignment 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...