



Fort Bend County
Behavioral Health Services

**Criminal Justice Mental Health
Initiative**

**Breaking the Cycle of
Incarceration for
Persons with Mental
Illness**

Friday, March 1, 2013
8:00 am -12:30 pm



Behavioral Health Services

Under the Administration of Justice Division of Fort Bend County

Work alongside the courts, criminal justice departments (adult and juvenile), emergency medical services and health and human services to improve the coordination of services and systems for persons with mental illness and addictions that come into contact with Fort Bend County courts or at risk individuals

The Fort Bend Criminal Justice Mental Health Initiative

The Fort Bend Criminal Justice Mental Health Initiative (FB CJMH) is a task force that works together to improve services and systems for persons with mental illness involved or at risk of involvement in the criminal justice system.



What we know

Recent report by the BJA, NIC and the CSG, Justice Center (2012):

- Jails are becoming the largest institutions for people with serious mental illness (SMI)
 - **14.5 %** males and **31** percent of females have SMI (3x higher than general population)
- Individual with Mentally illness in prisons – **16%**
- Individual with mental illness on probation - **9%**
- Individual with mental illness on parole – **7%**
- Individuals with substance abuse disorders - **68%** of all inmates met criteria for substance abuse disorder in year prior to incarceration
- Individuals with SA on probation - **40%**
- Individuals with both disorders – **72 %**
- http://consensusproject.org/jc_publications/adults-with-behavioral-health-needs/Behavioral_Framework.pdf

What we know

- **Individuals with mental illness in jails experience increased risk for abuse, suicide, stay longer and have higher costs**

Treatment Advocacy Center & National Sheriff's Association, *More Mentally Ill Persons Are in Jails and Prisons Than Hospitals: A Survey of the States (2010)*.

- **Many individuals with mental illness commit minor public disturbances that lead to arrests**
- **For youth, the most effective programs at reducing recidivism exist in the community rather than in the criminal or juvenile justice systems**
- **Crisis services, community based alternatives and coordinated systems work**

Crisis Care Services for Counties: Preventing Individuals with Mental Illnesses from Entering Local Corrections Systems (June 2010)

http://www.uwgb.edu/bhttp/tools/Crisis_Care_in_CJ.pdf policies Make Good Fiscal Sense (2009)

What we know

- Adults with untreated mental health conditions are eight times more likely to be incarcerated.
- Between 60 to 70% of individuals in contact with the **juvenile justice** system meet criteria for a mental health disorder. Sixty percent of these youth have a co-occurring substance abuse use disorder.
- One in five school-age children have a mental health condition and 5% have a mental health condition that results in significant functional impairment.
- In 2007, one in eight or nearly 12 million emergency room visits were due to mental health and/or substance use conditions in adults.
- **Hogg Foundation for Mental Health (November 2012): A guide to understanding mental health systems and services in Texas.**

What we can do?

- Recovery and Peer Support
- Recovery-Oriented Systems of Care for Substance Use
- Military Veteran Peer Support
- Best Practice: Integrated Primary, Mental Health and Substance Use Care
- Best Practice: Prevention and Early Intervention
- Best Practice: Trauma- Informed Care
- **Best Practice : Jail Diversion (into appropriate services and supports)**
- Best Practice: Child and Family Mental Health System of Care
- Best Practice: Telemedicine/Telehealth
- Best Practice: Suicide Awareness and Prevention

Need for systems wide collaboration

- Recidivism rates are high for person with MI and SA
- Resources are limited
- Individuals with mental illness and SA disorders involved with CJ system present complex problems
- Need to consider criminogenic risk behaviors (public safety) and clinical needs

The Fort Bend Criminal Justice Mental Health Initiative

- **DIVERT**
TRAINING
CRISIS SERVICES
 - screening
 - triage
 - evaluation
 - stabilizationCOMMUNITY SUPPORTS & TREATMENT
- **IDENTIFY**
EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF MENTAL HEALTH OFFENDER'S IN JAIL
- **INTERVENE / TREAT**
PROVIDE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AS NEEDED IMMEDIATELY AFTER ARREST
DISCHARGE PLANNING
WEEKLY CASE STAFFINGS
PROCESS CASES EXPEDIENTLY
- **SUPERVISE**
PROVIDE SUPERVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH CASES VIA THE MENTAL HEALTH COURTS DURING CASE PROCESSING AND DURING PROBATION SUPERVISION
PROVIDE LEGAL REPRESENTATION AND SUPPORTS VIA THE MH PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE.
- **RE-INTEGRATE INTO THE COMMUNITY**

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<http://www.fortbendcountytexas.gov/index.aspx?page=21>