

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott
Governor

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS
State Surgeon General & Secretary

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

Wednesday, December 17, 2014

To: Dr. Niblock
County Manager
Alachua County

From: Paul Myers
Administrator
Florida Department of Health in Alachua County

Anthony Dennis
Environmental Health Director
Florida Department of Health in Alachua County

Re: 100 Day Report and Organizational Needs

The Florida Department of Health in Alachua County has identified seeking all opportunities to be a contracted provider for any residual CHOICES funds to provide services to those who used to qualify for CHOICES clinical services as an organizational need.

We would also like to share some recent examples of our integration and collaboration with the county.

1. SWAG SW Health Construction
2. Assessment of services at Grace Market Place
3. Assisted in selecting new Community Services Director
4. Continued to transition health department clinical services to Medicaid Managed Care
5. Transitioned management of the WIC (Women and Infant Children) 10 County Program from the University of Florida to the Alachua County Health Department

Florida Department of Health

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Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant Program

What:

In April 2014, the County **received a three year grant of \$1.2 million (\$400,000 each year)** from DCF to support services which improve access to treatment and case management services for adults who have a mental illness, substance abuse, or a combination of such issues and are involved in the criminal justice system. The County matches these funds from the General Fund. *(Note: this is the County's 3rd 3 year grant from DCF.)*

●The CJMHSAG Program is a broad-based **collaboration** between the County and its Court Services Dept., Meridian Behavioral Health Care, the Alachua County Sheriff's Office and Office of the Jail, Court Administration of the 8th Judicial Circuit, Gainesville Police Department, GPD/BOLD Program, and the Coalition for the Hungry and Homeless of North Central Florida.

Purpose: to reduce and eliminate costly incarceration and/or state hospitalization of individuals with mental illness and/or substance use disorders through more cost-effective treatment and case management in the community.

Program Goals:

To promote a system of identification, assessment and negotiation to effectively divert those with mental illness, substance abuse or co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse and may be homeless from involvement in the criminal justice system from the Jail and State Forensic Hospital to appropriate services, including treatment, housing, employment.

Program Priorities, established by DCF:

- increase public safety
- avert spending on criminal justice
- decrease admissions to State forensic hospital
- improve assessment and treatment options for target population

Services: funds are provided to support **the Forensic Diversion Team** operated by Meridian Behavioral HealthCare, which provides directly and coordinates a range of services including: outreach; assessment; treatment, case management; access to housing, medication and transportation as well as employment, peer support services, forensic specialty services (competency restoration, drug and mental health courts); and aftercare.

Grace Marketplace-based services: The Diversion Team now provides outreach, clinical screening and assessment services 5 days/week at GRACE, and Court Services is on site 1 day each week to work with individuals needing access to disability benefits, coordinating the process of application. Efforts focused on expanding services at the Pre-booking stage.

Expanded Services: Through the Diversion Team, Meridian is working with all law enforcement agencies to train them in techniques for crisis intervention (CIT), Trauma-informed Responses, and

Mental Health First Aid. LEO agencies that come in contact with those with mental illness have been encouraged in these trainings to provide awareness of treatment and social services available through CJMSHAG at GRACE.

Accomplishments (Program data based on 2nd CJMHSAG DCF Grant (2011-2014) :

Significant reductions in criminal behavior, arrests and jail time have been achieved:

- Average # of charges: 68% reduction
- Average # of incarcerations: 40% reduction
- Average # of days jailed: 58% reduction (91 days prior to program participation, 38 days post)

Avert spending on jail incarceration:

- Reduced # of jail days of participants, based on 1 yr. prior to program participants to 1 yr. after.
- 13,715 days in jail prior to program vs. 5,771 days in jail after.

The CJMHSAG initiative translates into dramatic cost savings:

- A range between \$467,296 in averted jail costs for regular participants vs. \$993,000 for psychiatric inmates.

Avert state spending for state forensic and civil hospital beds:

- 51 Incompetent to Proceed Clients were assisted with competency restoration, effectively diverting their admission to State hospital and/or County Jail.