



Interagency Commission on Homelessness Behavioral Health Committee

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I. Introduction

The Behavioral Health Committee met in November 2015. Given the overlap with the Hospitals and Jails Committee in terms of serving similar populations and having similar goals, the Behavioral Health Committee held a joint meeting with the Hospital and Jails Committee in January 2016 and the two committees are working towards a joint implementation strategy for key issues.

II. Accomplishments (July, 2015- February, 2016)

The Committee held a joint meeting with the Hospitals and Jails Committee on January 19, 2016 in an effort to identify common action items along with a more strategic and collaborative action plan. Facilitated by Susan Sealing, the two Committees discussed issues related to the unpredictability of release from jail and discharge from hospitals, the need for better communication between providers and the systems, and the lack of resources to serve the population with behavioral health issues. The following key areas for collaboration were identified:

- Discharge planning (developing protocols and appropriate points of contact)
- Communication within the systems (eg, HMIS and CRISP)
- Communication between providers and the systems (addressing policy gaps in the system that create barriers to information sharing and coordination)
- Diversion (from hospitals through a medical respite program; from the criminal justice system/jails through informed police outreach and access to housing/treatment)

III. Future Activities (March, 2016-June, 2016)

A call will be held on March 4, 2016 to discuss strategies for prioritizing action items as well as developing an appropriate implementation plan that will include:

- Secure more detailed data
- Mapping of the current systems, protocols, entry and exit points, key barriers/issues, etc. and designing a more effective, collaborative approach—with an emphasis on better communication, discharge planning and diversion

IV. Conclusion

The Committee will continue to collaborate with the Hospitals and Jails Committee as well as work independently to fully implement the prioritized action steps of the strategic plan.