



BHCNC

Behavioral Health Center of Nueces County

"Working Together for Better Lives"

Nueces County Community Collaborative
Forensic Expansion Project.

3 Core Components of the Collaborative

- ▶ The collaborative was born out of recent legislation which provided avenues for new partnerships between local governments and Mental Health Authorities to create and implement programming designed to reduce the level of interaction between individuals with mental health issues and the criminal justice system.
- ▶ As a result, Nueces County, The Nueces County Hospital District, and Behavioral Health Center of Nueces County have entered into a tri-party contract which funded the creation of 3 key programs aimed at addressing the issue of mentally ill persons within the criminal justice system.



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Jail Based Competency Restoration

- Jail Based Competency Restoration will provide services to persons with criminal offenses, (not eligible for outpatient restoration), who are remanded to competency restoration by the court system as a result of being incompetent to stand trial. Incompetency to stand trial means that an individual is too ill to participate in due process. Due to the extremely long wait-list for forensic beds at state hospitals it is typical for these individuals to wait in jail for a bed at a state facility for over 200 days, sometimes even a year or more. Jail Based Competency Restoration provides the opportunity for these individuals to be restored to competency locally, in the Nueces County Jail. Restoration must be reached within 60 days (with the option of a single 30 day extension).



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Crisis Intervention Team/Mobile Crisis Outreach Expansion

- ▶ The goal of the Crisis Intervention Unit is to expand on Mobile Crisis Outreach services and provide a mechanism for mentally ill individuals who are involved with law enforcement to be identified, assessed and diverted into treatment, rather than arrest/incarceration. Crisis intervention staff, (bachelor's level case managers) dispatch along with crisis intervention trained officers in response to 911 calls involving individuals with behavioral health issues, including substance abuse/dependence.
- ▶ Crisis intervention teams' have proven effectiveness in identifying, assessing, and diverting individuals into care. Many of these individuals are currently and historically arrested and taken to jail. As part of this program, Charlies Place Recovery Center has partnered with BHCNC and has committed detox beds for individuals with substance dependence issues and transitional beds for individuals who otherwise would not have had access to treatment. Providing another option for law enforcement beyond arrest and hospitalization.



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Jail Diversion Program

- ▶ Jail Diversion's primary goal is to divert individuals who meet established criteria from incarceration in the County Jail. The program will serve both individuals identified through the Crisis Intervention Team and those diverted directly from the jail that are currently incarcerated and in need of ongoing treatment. Jail Diversion's mental health professionals will be screening and identifying individuals on an ongoing basis and collaborating with the DA's office/courts to secure a release contingent on participation in ongoing mental health services. The program will provide psychosocial rehabilitation and case management to ensure individuals are successful in their recovery and maintain independence within the community.



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Benefits to the Citizens of Corpus Christi

- Significant reduction in cost and utilization of emergency services.
- Increased access to psychiatric emergency and substance abuse services.
- Decreased overtime and lost time for CCPD officers responding to mental health calls.
- Decreased costs in mentally ill individuals being arrested and held at the City Detention Center.
- Decreased court and incarceration costs through diversion and rapid restoration of competency.



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Moving Forward...

- ▶ We will continue to seek additional funding opportunities to ensure ongoing services for the citizens of Nueces County. We will work with our community partners to expand and explore solutions to service capacity and funding limitations.
- ▶ For the last 15 years the City of Corpus Christi has supported the Behavioral Health Center by contributing approximately \$54,000 per year.
- ▶ In recognition of the increased level of services and support the Center provides to residents of Corpus Christi we respectfully ask for future consideration of additional funding support from the City.



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