

ATTENDANCE

Attendance was not recorded.

HANDOUTS

- Developing a Comprehensive Plan for Mental Health & Criminal Justice Collaboration: The Sequential Intercept Model
- Collaborative Services Site Map
- CHCS Public Safety Net Flow Chart
- Providing Jail Diversion for People with Mental Illness
- Speaker Biographies
- Mecklenburg County Recovery Solutions: A Jail Diversion Continuum
- Crisis Intervention Team: A Pre-Booking Jail Diversion Program
- Agenda: Building a Continuum of Mental Health Services
- Trauma & Justice Partnerships
- Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice: Challenges and Opportunities

MEETING OPENED AT 8:45 AM

Welcome

Tom Eberly (Criminal Justice Services) opened the meeting, welcomed attendees and introduced Connie Mele (Provider Services Organization).

Recovery Solutions

Connie Mele provided an overview of Recovery Solutions, a local program established to reduce the likelihood individuals are jailed as a result of their mental illness. The program operates in the jail coordinating services for inmates and also provides Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training to law enforcement agencies. CIT training teaches officers to recognize and deescalate situations that may result from a mental health crisis. To date, nearly 500 officers have been trained. Ms. Mele also commented on the importance and value of relationships with the District Attorney, Sheriff, and law enforcement agencies in making Recovery Solutions successful.

Bexar County: Developing a Continuum of Mental Health and Public Safety Services

Leon Evans (Bexar County Center for Health Care Services) spoke at length about the development and organization of mental health services in Bexar County, Texas and the importance of the services to reducing the inappropriate incarceration of individuals with mental illness and other disabilities. Mr. Evans addressed the pressing need to find innovative approaches to effective service provision in the face of declining and limited-purpose federal and state funding; the challenge of achieving collaboration among community partners; and legislative efforts to make the system work for local needs. He then discussed his community's comprehensive range of programs and services which provide screening, treatment, and recovery opportunities for individuals and ultimately serve as effective alternatives to incarceration. In closing, Mr. Evans noted how these programs have reduced demand within the criminal justice system and provided estimates of the significant cost savings and avoidance realized as a result.

Sergeant Romana Lopez (San Antonio Police Department) spoke about the formation and effectiveness of Crisis Intervention Teams in her jurisdiction.

A brief question and answer period followed the presentation. Asked to identify the three most critical factors for success in Bexar County, Mr. Evans responded: collaboration, starting slow, and keeping data.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:07 AM