

Item 5



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date:

February 5, 2013

Prepared By/Phone Number:

Cathy McClaugherty, 854-4713

Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head:

Judge Nancy Hohengarten, County Court at Law #5

Roger Jefferies, County Executive, Justice and Public Safety

Commissioners Court Sponsor:

Judge Sam Biscoe

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON TRAVIS COUNTY'S JUSTICE AND MENTAL HEALTH COLLABORTATION PROGRAM (JMHCP), A BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:

For FY 2012, Travis County applied for and was awarded a Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program planning grant. This presentation and the accompanying PowerPoint will provide the court with an overview of the grant's progress and success, to date, as well as a glimpse into the project's future in FY 2013, and beyond.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

N/A

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

The purpose of JMHCP, per the Bureau of Justice Assistance, is "to increase public safety through innovative cross-system collaboration for individuals with mental illnesses or co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders who come into contact with the justice system". Travis County applied for this grant in the hopes of identifying and developing strategies to address gaps in local mental health services, specific to justice-involved individuals within our community.

AGENDA REQUEST DEADLINE: All agenda requests and supporting materials must be submitted as a pdf to Cheryl Aker in the County Judge's office, Cheryl.Aker@co.travis.tx.us by Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. for the next week's meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Travis County received one-time, grant funding of approximately \$50,000, which was used to hire a consultant and part-time support staff to administer this grant. Internal funding to continue the project is from Travis County Criminal Court Administration.

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

N/A

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JUSTICE & PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION

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To: Sam Biscoe, Travis County Judge
Ron Davis, Commissioner, Precinct 1
Sarah Eckhardt, Commissioner, Precinct 2
Gerald Daugherty, Commissioner, Precinct 3
Margaret Gomez, Commissioner, Precinct 4

From: Judge Nancy Hohengarten, County Court at Law#5
Roger Jefferies, County Executive, Justice and Public Safety

Date: January 29, 2013

SUBJECT: RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON TRAVIS COUNTY'S JUSTICE AND MENTAL HEALTH COLLABORATION PROGRAM (JMHCP), A BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT

For FY 2012, Travis County, via Criminal Justice Planning, applied for and was awarded a Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program grant (JMHCP). Travis County received \$49,706 for this JMHCP Category 1: Planning grant; Travis County provided \$19,304 in in-kind funding.


The purpose of JMHCP, as stated by BJA, is "to increase public safety through innovative cross-system collaboration for individuals with mental illnesses or co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders who come into contact with the justice system". Travis County used grant funding to hire a professional consultant to lead an advisory board comprised of local elected and appointed officials, as well as mental health professionals, advocates, and consumers. This advisory board was tasked with identifying gaps in mental health services and strategies to address and potentially rectify these gaps, with a focus on a target population identified as individuals diagnosed with an Axis I disorder, as set out in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of

Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition (DSM-IV-TR), involved in the criminal justice system with co-occurring substance use disorders. A part-time support staff was also hired with grant funding, to coordinate and oversee meeting and daily tasks associated with this grant.

The JMHCP Advisory Board met nine times from February 2012 through August 2012; members also participated in subcommittee meetings to work on assigned tasks. Data specific to the target population was collected, matched (where possible), and analyzed for use in the initiative. A strategic plan for the first phase, summarizing the accomplishments and goals set forth in this initiative, was written by the consultant and distributed in late 2012.

Going forward, Travis County is proceeding with a contract for technical assistance for a second phase of the planning process. The next step in this initiative involves strategic program/service planning and prioritization. The advisory board has committed to continue meeting and a new executive board will be convened. Our goals are to identify funding priorities for upcoming budget cycles and prepare responses to any future grant opportunities.

**Travis County's
Bureau of Justice Assistance
Justice and Mental Health
Collaboration Program Grant**



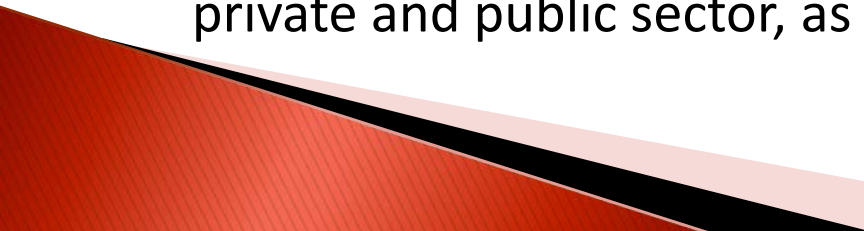
The Opportunity

- In February 2011, Travis County Criminal Justice Planning applied for a Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCPC) Category 1: Planning competitive grant.
- The purpose of JMHCPC is “to increase public safety through innovative cross-system collaboration for individuals with mental illnesses or co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders who come into contact with the justice system”. JMHCPC is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance, or BJA.
- There are two further grant categories: Planning and Implementation and Implementation. Grant solicitations for these two have not been released. Hopefully, BJA will have funding to do so in 2013.

The Opportunity

- The goals of Travis County's application were to
 - Create a uniform data base for information sharing, tracking clients, and measuring program outcomes.
 - Maximize treatment utilization.
 - Determine unmet needs and linkages for females.
 - Develop an evidence-based wraparound service plan by leveraging criminal justice and mental health program resources and blending existing support and services for the target population.
- The target population is individuals diagnosed with an Axis I disorder, as set out in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition (DSM-IV-TR), involved in the criminal justice system with co-occurring substance use disorders.

The Opportunity

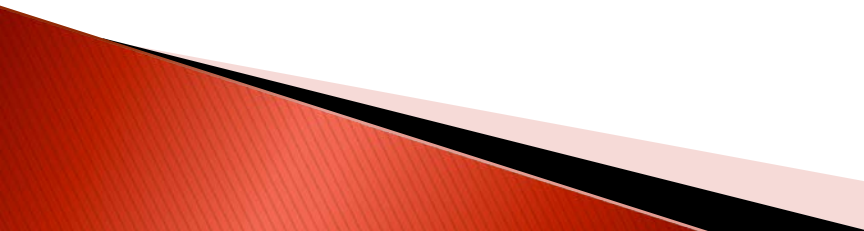
- In September 2011, Travis County was notified by BJA that we were selected to receive grant funding for 12 months.
 - In November 2011, Travis County released a Request for Services to contract with a consultant for mental health strategic planning services.
 - In January 2012, Morningside Research and Consulting, Inc., was selected as the consultant for this initiative.
 - In February 2012, temporary, part-time staff was hired to support all activities for this initiative, including data gathering and entry, meeting coordination, and minutes and notes.
 - During January and February 2012, potential members of the JMHCP Advisory Board were identified and contacted. They included mental health professionals and advocates in both the private and public sector, as well as community leaders.
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Getting Down to Business

On February 24, 2012, the kick-off meeting for the JMHCP Advisory Board was held. The goals and tasks for the advisory board were established as

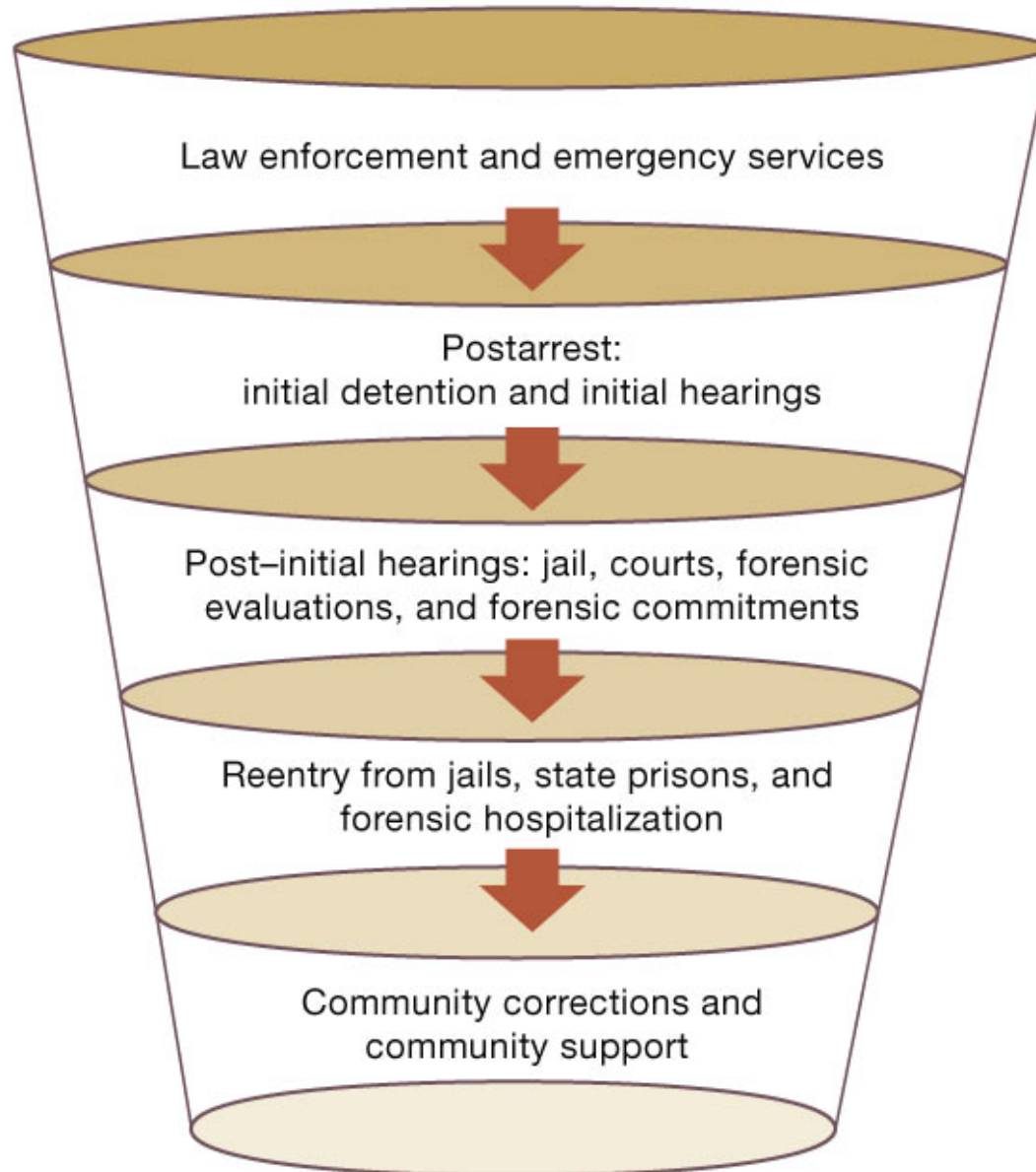
- Provide input, information and feedback for creation of mental health/criminal justice strategic plan.
- Develop goals and objectives.
- Provide input and feedback on survey design.
- Create and distribute a final report (with consultant) of findings and recommendations.
- Create ad hoc subcommittees (Data Collection, Sustainability, Communitywide Survey, and Service Planning).

Getting Down to Business

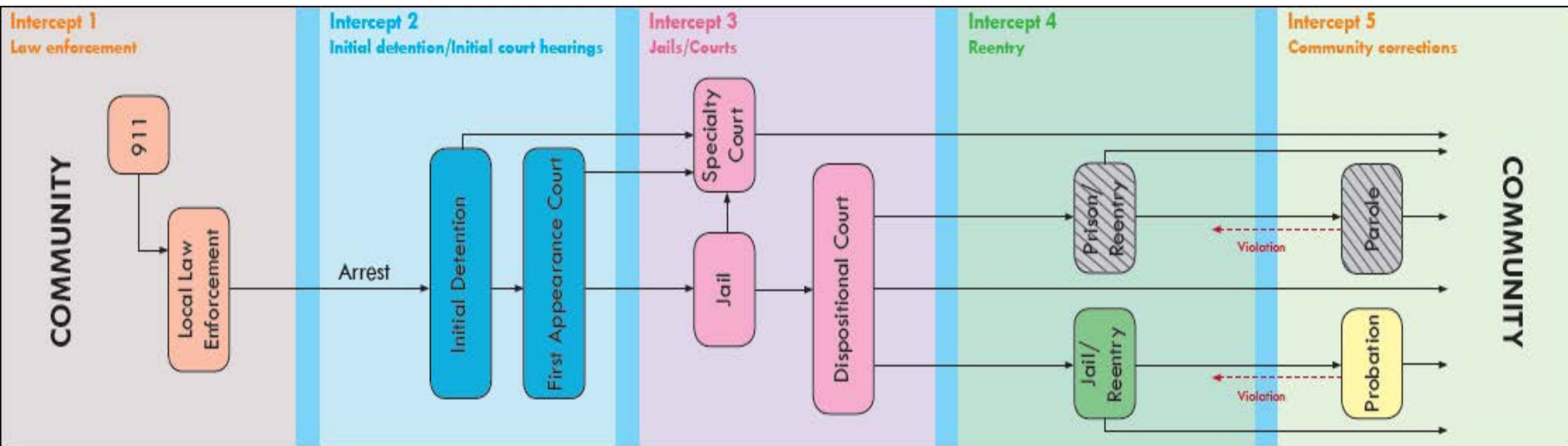
- From February 2012 through August 2012, the advisory board convened nine times.
 - The subcommittees meet frequently and reported back to the full board.
 - Early in the process, the advisory board decided to create a Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) to demonstrate how individuals with mental illness intersect and interact with the justice system in Travis County.
 - The SIM is a planning tool developed by Policy Research Associates. It has been used in Travis County before by ATCIC in planning jail diversion.
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Original Sequential Intercept Model (SIM)

Best clinical practices: The ultimate intercept



SIM Model Adopted by Travis County JMHCAP Advisory Board



Source: Developing a Comprehensive Plan for Mental Health & Criminal Justice Collaboration: The Sequential Intercept Model. The National GAINS Center for Mental Health Services.

Our Sequential Intercept Model

- The resulting SIM agreed upon by the advisory board was divided into six intercepts:
 - Community Services (intercept 0, true diversion)
 - Law Enforcement (intercept 1)
 - Initial Detention and Court Hearings (intercept 2)
 - Jail and Courts (intercept 3)
 - Reentry (intercept 4)
 - Community Corrections (intercept 5)
- Services and programs (points of intersection) were listed under the related intercept(s).

Our Sequential Intercept Model

- Per intercept, individual services and programs were detailed as follows:
 - Existing Services
 - Funding Source
 - Relevant Data
 - Gaps and Barriers
 - Solutions and Strategies
 - Relevant Law and Policy
 - Best Practices
 - Future Funding and Collaborative Opportunities
- Work on the SIM was conducted during subcommittee meetings and independently by advisory board members. Results were shared and details fine tuned during advisory board meetings.

Intercept 3 Jails & Courts

Misdemeanor Mental Health Docket

Program Description	The misdemeanor MH docket is also called the Special Reduction Docket. It takes place in one of the County Courts at Law (the assignment is rotated) every Tuesday/Thursday morning for any defendant incarcerated with a PSY code descriptor assigned by Travis County Jail Staff after assessment. Cases are staffed for disposition with the Mental Health Prosecutor, Mental Health Defense Attorney, Travis County Sheriff’s Department Social Worker, Austin/Travis County Integral Care and Pre Trial Services.
Existing Services	No direct services are provided. Cases are staffed to determine appropriate case disposition and relevant community social services by staffing participants.
Funding Source	Office of Criminal Court Administration funds one staff person to monitor not only the MH dockets but also other programs/issues involving the criminal courts. All other entities have their own funding. No other additional funding has been requested for this docket (currently utilizing existing resources).
Relevant Data	The Travis County Attorney’s Office collects data by fiscal year regarding total number of cases staffed, cases resolved at first setting, average number of days from first setting to final disposition, number of inmates diverted on MH docket, and % of inmates diverted or placed on MH caseload. For CY10, 2,488 cases were staffed by the MH Prosecutor and 1,421 cases were resolved at the first setting. Additionally, 561 defendants were diverted from jails (i.e. released on bond, case dismissed, deferred prosecution, or sentenced to Road to Recovery).
Relevant Law & Policy	HIPAA, Texas Penal Code, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Texas Mental Health Code.
Gaps and Barriers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Lack of Permanent and Transitional Supportive Housing, as well as lack of residential and out-patient treatment options for defendants with co-occurring disorders. 2) Lack of case managers and attorneys at Mental Health Public Defender Office to handle the volume of misdemeanor mental health cases. 3) Lack of adequate resources for pretrial release.
Solutions and Strategies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Funding for transitional and Permanent Supportive Housing, as well as residential and out-patient treatment for co-occurring disorders. 2) Enhancements to Mental Health Public Defender Office for additional attorneys and case managers. 3) Additional case supervisors at Pretrial Services and/or in the Courts
Responsible Entities	County Attorney’s Office, Criminal Courts

Intercept 3 Jails & Courts
Misdemeanor Mental Health Docket (Continued)

Best Practices	MH Court with risk/needs assessment that informs team of individual need for treatment, treatment readiness, cognitive behavioral counseling, etc.
Future Funding & Collaborative Opportunities	Current initiatives on Permanent Supportive Housing include City of Austin, Travis County, and Justice and Public Safety, Travis County Adult Probation has applied for a grant for robust wrap around services for this population.

Target Population Data

- Equally important to JMHCP was target population data analysis and data matching. The work was conducted outside of the advisory board meetings and fine tuned during subcommittee meetings.
- The criteria for target population, as analyzed, was
 - Booked in the Travis County Jail during calendar year 2011.
 - Had a state-defined priority population mental health disorder.
 - Had a co-occurring substance use disorder.
- A total of 652 individuals met this criteria in 2011, according to the Travis County Sheriff's Office.
- The target population in 2011 was 24% female and 76% percent male.

Target Population Data

- Target population data was culled, matched (where possible), and analyzed. It included, but was not limited to
 - Demographics
 - Arrest and booking
 - Jail bed days consumed
 - Self-reported treatment
 - Housing status
 - Health issues/types of healthcare visits
 - Cost analyses
 - TRAG Scores
- Contributing data and data matching was Travis County Justice and Public Safety; Travis County Sheriff's Office; Integrated Care Collaboration; Seton Healthcare Family; Downtown Austin Community Court; Ending Community Homeless Coalition (ECHO); and Austin Travis County Integral Care.

The Strategic Plan

- Morningside Research and Consulting, Inc., wrote a Phase I Strategic Plan, which was widely distributed via email in late 2012. It was also published on Criminal Justice Planning's website:

http://www.co.travis.tx.us/criminal_justice/default.asp

- The strategic plan provides a summary of the work and findings of Travis County's JMHCP grant. It is divided into five sections:
 - Guiding Principles
 - Solutions Needed by Intercept
 - Implementation Plan
 - Sustainability Plan
 - Collaboration Plan

Next Steps

- Travis County is contracting with Policy Research Associates, Inc. (PRA) for technical assistance for Phase II of the planning process. PRA operates SAMHSA's GAINS Center, which is THE leader in mental health criminal justice jail diversion efforts nationally.
- Dr. Susan Stone, JD, MD, will lead the facilitation as an employee of PRA, beginning January 28, 2013.
- Phase II planning will involve strategic program/service planning and prioritization. The advisory board will meet eight times and a new executive board will meet three times.
- If another grant solicitation is released, Travis County will apply, with approval from the advisory board and executive board.