



## Response to Questions on the 2016 LOBs

**Request By:** Supervisors Storck and McKay

**Relevant LOB(s):** LOB #222

**Question:** Describe mental health issues encountered in the jail and the partnership with the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board.

**Response:**

The mental health issues encountered in the jail reflect those encountered in the general population. Substance abuse disorders, psychiatric illnesses and trauma are common. At least 40 percent of the inmate population suffers from mental illness and 17.4 percent of the Average Daily Population was required to take psychotropic medications in FY 2015. Deputies assigned to work with mentally ill inmates have received specialized training and typically work in pairs, as the management of these inmates is more intensive and involves more direct contact with the inmates for basic functions.

In order to help address mental health issues encountered in the jail, the Sheriff's Office has established both male and female mental health units, which have been moved from the general population to a more therapeutic area adjacent to Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB) staff. These units primarily operate using two types of supervision, single cell and dormitory. Inmates that are disruptive to the mental health community are housed in single cells located within the male/female intake centers where they can be monitored more closely.

In addition, the Sheriff's Office partners with the CSB's Forensic Services unit at the Adult Detention Center and facilitates the third intercept point in the County's "Diversion First" program.

As first responders, Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) deputies in the Sheriff's Office are trained to respond to incidents involving persons experiencing a mental health crisis when CSB staff are not on-site, such as overnight. The CSB clinicians work with the CIT deputies and medical staff to rapidly identify individuals with mental illness, substance use disorders, and/or intellectual disabilities. CSB clinicians at the jail assess individuals for risk, safety, and placement needs. The CSB will initiate a jail transfer for emergency psychiatric hospitalization for individuals who are a danger to themselves or others. The Sheriff's Office staff works in concert with CSB clinicians to expedite the transfer of individuals in crisis from the jail to a mental health facility.

When CSB staff is unavailable to facilitate a jail transfer, the Sheriff's Office will initiate Criminal Temporary Detention Orders (TDO's) for inmates that are in crisis and/or when there is a substantial likelihood that the inmate will cause serious physical harm to themselves or others as determined by Sheriff's Office staff. In these cases, CIT deputies, in addition to other Sheriff's



Office staff, act as the petitioner and transport the inmate to a hospital for evaluation and psychiatric treatment for persons under a criminal charge. In addition, the Sheriff Office's efforts extend to individuals that have bonded or served their sentence, but are in need of mental health treatment. In these situations the CSB staff, Mobile Crisis, and the Sheriff's Office seek to obtain a civil TDO. The Sheriff's Office conducts the transport of individuals suffering from mental illness to local mental health facilities as well as facilities outside of the Northern Virginia area on a regular basis.

The Sheriff's Office and the CSB staff at the Adult Detention Center are part of a matrix of interventions for justice-involved individuals supporting rapid release, when appropriate, by connecting or reconnecting individuals to community treatment and resources.