Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida
Criminal Mental Health Project

Making Jail the Last Resort
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Jail Diversion Expansion Program
Miami-Dade County, Florida Community Characteristics

- 31 Municipalities
- 7 Mental Health Catchment Areas
Race/Ethnicity, Immigrant-Citizen Status, and English Language Proficiency

- 8th most populous county in US (2.25 million (2000 US Census)
- #2 in Hispanic pop. (1.3M, 57% v. 13% US)
- #9 in African-American pop. (460K, 20% v. 12% US)
- 51% foreign-born (11% US)
- 19% in US < 10 years (5% US)
- 27% not citizens (7% US)
- 35% speak English less than ‘very well’ (8% US)
The Problem & Need for the Program

- Miami-Dade County has the highest percentage of persons with SMI than any other US urban area (9.1% or approximately 210,000 people)

- Less than 13% of these persons receive treatment
The Problem & Need

- Approximately 45% of the homeless in Miami-Dade County have a chronic mental illness and co-occurring disorder.
- There are 5 times more people with mental illnesses in Florida jails than in state hospitals.
- Persons with mental illnesses stay in jail 8 times longer than those without mental illness at a cost of 7 times more.
The Miami-Dade County Jail has become by default the largest public psychiatric facility in Florida. Approximately 500 detainees receive psychotropic medication(s) per day. 800-1200 detainees with mental illnesses in the Miami-Dade County jail per day. $15 million spent annually to manage this population in jail (treatment not included). 13 persons with mental illnesses have been killed by police since 1999.
Solution: 11th Judicial Circuit’s Criminal Mental Health Project

- Pre-Booking Diversion
  Crisis Intervention Team Policing (CIT)

CIT officers receive special training to respond to crisis calls involving persons with suspected mental illness. When appropriate, CIT officers transport individuals with mental illness to community mental health facilities for evaluation, treatment, and referrals instead of making an arrest. Fourteen police departments are now involved in this program.
Pre-Booking Diversion Process

1. 911 Call
2. Police Contact
3. Brief MH Assessment By CIT
4. Transport to Community Mental Health Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU)
5. Discharge from CSU
6. Community-based Treatment
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- Post-Booking Diversion
  County Court Jail Diversion Program

Within 24-48 hours after arrest, misdemeanant defendants with mental illness are diverted to community mental health facilities for appropriate treatment.
Post-Booking Diversion Process

1. Police Contact
2. Arrest/Booking
3. MH Assessment By Corrections Medical Staff
4. Professional Certificate Issued
5. Transport to Community Mental Health Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU)
6. Discharge from CSU
7. Case Closed by Plea, Dismissal, or Trial
8. Follow-up by Court Case Management Specialist for 12 months
9. Community-Based Treatment
Target Group

- Estimated 90% Psychotic Disorders and 75% Co-Occurring Disorders
- 81% Male/19% Female
- 50% Homeless
- 38% African-American, 32% White/Non-Hispanic, 30% Hispanic
- Average Age: 45
Co-Occurring Disorders

Current research indicates that approximately 75% of this population have co-occurring substance abuse disorders. These individuals often display:

- Aggressive and violent behavior
- Long histories of institutionalization
- Diminished ability to function independently
Interventions

- Engage the person
- Assessment
- Individualized planning
- Continuity of care
- Comprehensive services
Engagement

A court case management specialist collaborates with community mental health center case managers to develop comprehensive aftercare plans for the Jail Diversion clients.
The Assessment

- Assess psychosocial needs and goals
- Assess need for integrated co-occurring treatment and services
- Assess most appropriate level of residential placement
- Assess financial resources and need for linkage to entitlements
- Develop individualized treatment plan
Continuity of Care

Linkage to Case Management services will assist the individuals to access the programs and services that are essential to successful rehabilitation outcomes.
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Comprehensive Care Program

The Florida Department of Children & Families has instituted a comprehensive care program that includes case management, housing, and medication for those individuals with mental illnesses who continually revolve through the criminal justice system. A court case management specialist collaborates with community mental health center case managers to develop comprehensive aftercare plans and linkages for County Court Jail Diversion clients.


11th Judicial Circuit’s Criminal Mental Health Project Continued

- **Housing & Transition Program**
  
  Assessment tool was developed to assist with placement of County Court Jail Diversion clients in appropriate housing with case management and treatment services.

- **Identification Card Program**

  ID cards are available for those clients that request one during discharge and aftercare planning. This card can be used at the local Social Security Administration Office when applying for or reinstating benefits. The local Social Security Office was involved in the development of this ID card.
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- Assisted Living Facility (ALF) Quality of Care Program

The court developed a monitoring program and referral system for ALFs in order to improve the quality of care and access to mental health services at these facilities. Participating ALFs are continuously monitored and evaluated by project staff. These facilities have agreed to conform with the court’s standard of care.
11th Judicial Circuit’s Criminal Mental Health Project Continued

- Stakeholders/Partnerships
  Monthly meetings are held with key stakeholders, including the Court, State Attorney’s Office, Public Defender’s Office, Community Mental Health Centers, Police Agencies, the FL Department of Children & Families, Social Security Administration, advocates, community providers, mental health professionals, researchers, and consumers and their families.

- Planned Computer Linkage System
  Management Information system and the necessary technology to link county-wide stakeholders into a comprehensive network working toward a common goal.
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