



Behavioral Health Justice Collaborative Update

Presented by

Tiffany Iheanacho, Justice Services Director

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Background

- In December of 2020, the Buncombe County Community participated in a community discussion with the support from Policy Research, Inc.
 - assess opportunities and identify potential gaps behavioral health and criminal justice intercept 0 (community services) and 1 (law enforcement) to service and inventory other resources that might not be fully utilized.
- The activity known as the [Sequential Intercept Model \(SIM\)](#)
 - first step towards effectively assessing how we can re-imagine public safety and safely reduce the number of justice-involved individuals with mental illness and substance abuse disorders in our jail.



Background

- The results of this work has led to the formation of the Behavioral Health Justice Collaborative (BHJC).
- In May 2021, a team of County and City staff met to discuss the current layout of services within each their respective organizations, any overlap in services and how the two organizations could work together to more efficiently provide much needed services to the community without duplication of services and efforts.



Behavioral Health Justice Collaborative

1. Background and historical framing which encompassed current services and collaboration.
2. Recommendations were made to have County-City-Community stakeholders be a part of this collaborative; review service overlap and if possible to work together to combine these services and; the structure of the BHJC
3. Identifying next step which included the prioritization of current and future projects and leadership structures within those projects.



Behavioral Health Justice Collaborative Priority Areas

- 911 Consolidation
- Behavioral Health Urgent Care (BHUC)
- Low Barrier Shelter
- Pre-Arrest Diversion/LEAD
- Community Paramedic
- Crisis Intervention Team



Progress To Date



Progress on current priorities

Receive

911 Consolidation

- October 2021
 - Present high level update to Board of Commissioners at August 3rd briefing & final request for board action on August 17th. Dates for City Council consideration will occur in August with an effective date tentatively scheduled for October 1, 2021.
 - **City Council and County Commissioners approved consolidation**
 - **Creates stand alone department in County. Currently recruiting for Director**

Relief

Low Barrier Shelter

- November 2021
 - Contract to purchase low-barrier shelter.
 - Contract with operational manager
 - **City will not move forward with this project as of 12/4/2021, plans to move forward with permanent supportive housing**

BHUC 24/7

- November 2021
 - Finalize presentation and schedule stakeholder/partner meetings
 - **County ARPA funds will be use to re-instate BHUC as 24-hours facility**

Respond

Community Paramedic/CHANGE Team

- Post Overdose Response Team and MAT team operational
- **Exploring 3rd team for behavioral health crisis response to include partnership with Mobile Crisis**

Pre-arrest Diversion

- A written plan is requested by unified governing bodies, to support coordinated program development.
- **Currently deferred until other projects are operational**

Crisis Intervention Team

Development of Advance Training Course and Refresher



Next Steps



On The Horizon

Coordination

- Awarded Dogwood Health Trust Grant- related to planning with anticipation of opiate settlement funds.
 - recruiting for Behavioral Health Manager
 - recruiting for Behavioral Health and Justice Analyst
- Invitation to community partners

Financial Planning

- Development of braided funding model
 - Grants
 - ARPA funding
 - Opioid Settlement funds (potential)
 - Local government funding

