



Exploring the Stanislaus County Criminal Justice/Mental Health Intersection

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The problem....

- The criminal justice system has become the de facto mental health system
 - Persons with mental illnesses are disproportionately coming into contact with the criminal justice system
 - Many in both the behavioral health and the criminal justice systems don't see it as their job or responsibility to intervene
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A little history...

- 1773- first psychiatric hospital opened
 - Dorothea Dix (1802-1887)
 - The era of hospital confinement for the mentally ill would last for 150 years
 - 1952 – Development of Thorazine
 - 1960's Civil Rights Movement
 - 1963 Community Mental Health Centers Construction Act (incentives to states to deinstitutionalization)
 - 1972 LPS Act of California went into full effect
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LPS Act

- Set the precedent for modern mental health care in the United States
 - LPS was intended to correct the abuses of the system— neglectful treatment, indeterminate commitments, and the possible abuse of commitment procedures
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However...

- Some believe the pendulum swung too far
 - Set too restrictive a standard for commitment, requiring people to pose a grave danger before they could get treatment
 - The result was rising homelessness and criminalization of the mentally ill
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Before arrest

- Outreach & Engagement
 - Crisis Intervention Team training
 - Respite Center
 - Restorative Policing
 - FSP/ACT programs
 - Integrated Forensic Team
 - Stanislaus Homeless Outreach Program
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Outreach & Engagement

- Individuals dedicated to the downtown, parks & county wide outreach efforts to our homeless population
- Focus is to form a rapport, assess needs/wants, and direct to services
 - “People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care” credit unknown



Crisis Intervention Team

- Originated with the Memphis Tennessee Police Department in 1988
 - Nationally recognized curriculum for law enforcement
 - 2005 – First CIT Academy in Stanislaus County
 - September 2016 – completed our 18th Academy in Stanislaus County
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How it works

- 40-hours; 8-5; Monday-Friday; Twice a year
 - Open to all LEA in Stanislaus County
 - 30 - 35 experienced officers participate
 - 10 presenters; 3 (paid) private providers
 - 9 role play actors- BHRS staff
 - 6 family/consumer panel members
 - 5 drivers (for site visits) – BHRS staff
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How it works

- Emotional Disturbances in Children & Adolescents
 - Mental Illness and Recovery
 - Panel Discussion with Family & Consumer members
 - Suicide Risk Assessment
 - Suicide-By-Cop
 - The Criminal Justice System and the Mentally Ill
 - Mental Health History
 - Mental Health Law
 - Major Mental Disorders
 - Alzheimer's Disease
 - Developmental Disabilities
 - Mental Health Medications
 - Dual Disorders
 - Crisis Intervention Skills
 - Site Visits
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CIT-Why it works

- Commitment from all agencies to have CIT in our community
 - Our first and main presenter is an individual in the community who has credibility with both clinical staff and law enforcement
 - Q & A at the end of every day and a willingness to ask and take the tough questions
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CIT-Why it works

- Site visits
- Role Play Exercises
 - Ability to practice techniques you've been taught all week
 - Reviews have always been very good
- Family/Consumer Panel
 - Personal stories are powerful!
 - Feedback from officers, "All we get to see is the ugliness of the illness. The panel provides us with another perspective."



Respite Center

- Staffed 24/7
 - Staff are paraprofessionals
 - *Experience in support services*
 - Supervise & link to community resources
 - Average length of stay – 3 days.
 - Capacity – 5 individuals at any time
 - Wheelchair accessible
 - Lock boxes for belongings and medications
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Restorative Policing

- Meeting/partnership with Modesto Police Department & BHRS
 - Meets monthly
 - Interdisciplinary team- law enforcement, Doctors Behavioral Health Center, District Attorney, Pt. Rights, Adult Protective Services, BHRS
 - LE identifies individuals that are discussed
 - Allows all to collaborate to develop interventions
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Integrated Forensic Team & Stanislaus Homeless Outreach Team

- Mental Health Service Act Programs
 - IFT has a probation officer as part of the team
 - 24/7 – on-call staff
 - Small caseloads- client/staff ratio 12/1
 - Flexible funding and housing options
 - Both teams collaborate with law enforcement
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After Arrest

- Brief MH Screening at booking
 - California Forensic Medical Group
 - Mental Health Detention Program
 - 3 mental health deputies
 - 3 mental health clinicians
 - Offer screening/assessment
 - Offer individual & group therapy
 - Assist CFMG with release planning
 - Can offer a warm handoff to community programs
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After arrest...

- Programs available in-custody
 - Day Reporting Center also has programming, mental health services and substance use services
 - IFT/SHOP
 - Mental Health Court
 - Limited housing assistance, but available
 - Community Based Organizations
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In/out of Custody Groups

- Mental Health treatment
 - Substance Use Disorder treatment
 - Moral Recognition Therapy
 - Anger Management
 - Domestic Violence counseling
 - Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
 - Thinking for a
- Change
 - HSE Certificate
 - Principles and Values
 - Seeking Safety
 - Work Maturity/Life Skills
 - Breaking Barriers
 - Successfully Transition into the Community
- NAMI Peer to Peer
 - Housing assistance
 - Adverse Childhood Experience Overcomers
 - Celebrate Recovery
 - Spiritual, Marriage Counseling
 - Good Life Values
 - Victim Restitution
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Partners

- BHRS
 - Sierra Education and Counseling Services
 - Probation Department
 - Learning Quest
 - Youth for Christ
 - Friends Outside
 - Nirvana
 - NAMI
 - Teen Challenge
 - Gospel Mission
 - Multiple churches
 - SO Chaplin
 - El Concilio
 - Narcotics Anonymous
 - Alcohol Anonymous
 - District Attorney Office
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DRC- Community Corrections

- Program funded through the Community Corrections Partnership/Safety Realignment
 - Provide mental health & substance use treatment to local detention and adults under the jurisdiction of County Probation
 - Co-located at the new Day Reporting Center
 - Staffing designed similar to IFT
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Mental Health Court

- Collaborative Court
 - Round table discussion with all partners prior to Court
 - IFT provides the treatment
 - The most important element of the court is it allows the opportunity:
 - To engage with the participants
 - To encourage them to participate in mental health treatment
 - To discuss the idea of HOPE and
 - To suggest that Recovery is possible
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Final thoughts...

- The intersection between Behavioral Health and the criminal justice system is complex, frustrating and full of heartbreak; Multiple areas should and need to be addressed.
 - It is also full of inspiring stories of success and what's working
 - Working together is the only way we are all going to accomplish our goals – promoting recovery of those with mental illness
 - Today is a necessary step in the direction of continued collaboration.
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- “Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved.” Mattie Stepanek, Poet
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- “Hope can be a powerful force. Maybe there's no actual magic in it, but when you know what you hope for most and hold it like a light within you, you can make things happen, almost like magic.”
— Laini Taylor, author
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