

IV.D. PROJECT NARRATIVE

IV D (1). Statement of the Problem

As a result of areas of concern identified by the Public Safety Coordinating Council regarding the increasing number of adults with mental illness and/or substance use disorders that are arrested and sent to jail for minor offenses, a steering committee led by Lee County Commissioner Bob Janes and

mental health court for select criminal cases. These programs have been effective with their target groups. The Triage Center was the first initiative in Lee County to provide a pre-arrest diversion program for low-level offenders.

offenses that are a direct result of untreated psychiatric conditions (Florida Senate, 2010)

The annual January 2013 homeless count estimated 2,820 of Lee County's 638,029

individual and family psycho-

individual in need of services to seize the moment and be taken to a place where they are safe, have their basic needs met, receive a thorough psychosocial assessment, establish a case plan with set goals, and work with staff to accomplish those goals. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) exists with all participating agencies including law enforcement and is reviewed and updated as needed. Law enforcement officers transport individuals to the Triage Center on a daily basis. Law enforcement agencies were instrumental in the program design and are represented on the Governing Board. The Governing Board is responsible to ensure that the objectives are realized and/or implemented if not currently in place.

The Lee County Homeless Coalition is a strong supporter of the program and actively partners with all agencies involved with the Triage Center. An MOU will be developed with the homeless coalition. Lee County Human Services is responsible for executing and updating W K H 0 2011 all agencies.

Objective 2: The following trainings exist that educate partner agencies and community members on how to recognize and appropriately respond and treat behavioral health issues. The CIT philosophy to train law enforcement and corrections personnel in identifying and effectively responding to individuals who may have a mental illness and/or substance use disorder has been embraced in Lee County since 2006. The CIT PRGHO VXSSRUWV D FHQWUDOLJHG UHFHLYLQJ FHQWHU DV assessments and referrals.

NAMI facilitates CIT training and provides at least four 40 hour classes per year for up to 30 officers at a time. Over 550 law enforcement officers have participated in CIT in Lee County since 2006. This teaches the officers to have a more meaningful interaction with persons in need of behavior health services while minimizing safety risks to both the officer and the person in need. The number of law enforcement referrals made by CIT trained officers to the Triage Center has consistently increased during each year of operation from 33% in 2008 to 66% in 2013.

NAMI also provides additional classes such as family to family, peer to peer, and provider training. Certified peer recovery specialist training was also provided in 2013 by NAMI Collier in conjunction with Central Florida Behavioral Health Network. Sixteen people in Lee County were trained as trainers of Mental Health First Aid and are in the process of educating members of the community. Consumers actively participate in selecting treatment options and developing a case plan.

Several project partners are active leaders in using process improvement strategies, and bring their expertise and commitment of measurement to the Governing Board and provide the structure to ensure the resources committed as effective as possible. Agency personnel receive ongoing training in core competencies.

SalusCare is an active member of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation sponsored Network for the Improvement of Addiction Treatment (NIATx), and serves as a mentor agency to other organizations in Florida who are learning and utilizing process

improvement strategies as a management tool to improve services. All treatment programs are evidence-based and many are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), an independent, nonprofit accreditor of health and human services organizations. CARF accreditation requires a service provider to continually improve quality of service and to focus on the individual needs of the persons they serve.

Objective 3: The Triage Center operates following a national best practice known as the Sequential Intercept Model to provide an initial intercept point to prevent individuals from becoming involved with the criminal justice system or moving deeper into the system. The Triage Center is based on elements of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) National Technical Assistance Center for the Prevention of Recidivism and the Reentry of Individuals into the Criminal Justice System. Experience has shown that flexible, low demand services may accommodate individuals who initially are unwilling to commit to more extended treatment and engage them in services that are more intensive. The model allows individuals to seek help when they are motivated to do so by providing a safe place to stay with

generated which are analyzed monthly, quarterly and annually by the Governing Board
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Objective 4: The Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC) meets regularly and

have been allocated to the Triage Center since 2009. The BOCC funds community substance use and mental health treatment in excess of the local match requirement.

•**The Salvation Army** in Fort Myers has partnered with the Florida Department of Corrections, since 1992, to provide individuals with non-violent, drug related felonies a non-secure substance use program. The Salvation Army staffs and operates the Triage Center. The Salvation Army also offers other programs for individuals who are homeless including shelter, supportive services, and transitional housing.

•**SalusCare, Inc.,** - As of July 1, 2013, Lee Mental Health (LMH) and Southwest Florida Addiction Services (SWFAS) merged and formed SalusCare, Inc. to better serve the community with a more seamless system of care. Services that were formerly provided by the two entities are combined under the new structure. SalusCare provides a broad spectrum of publicly funded mental health, substance use and co-occurring services to the entire Southwest Florida community focusing on the unique needs of both adults and children with multiple levels of care including: crisis stabilization; detoxification services; integrated psychiatric care; emergency services; mental health and substance use residential treatment programs; transitional and permanent supportive housing; forensic and recovery based programs; day treatment; outpatient therapy, resource coordination; prevention services; and community-based programs.

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non-emergency clients on a walk-in basis and is located on the same campus as the Triage Center and is utilized by participants. SalusCare also provides the treatment services for drug court in Lee County. SalusCare owns the 16,000 square foot building

Staffing: These positions are employed by The Salvation Army and currently occupied.

- Program/Facility Director: (.165 FTE) S

place to stay, comprehensive assessment of needs, and linkages to needed community

Proposed Deliverables: (Service units)

- Target number of unduplicated individuals served by the Program - 500 annually.
- Total number of law enforcement personnel trained in the Crisis Intervention Team model - Increase number trained by 15% or 82 additional personnel.
- Percentage reduction of individuals judicially committed to a state forensic mental health treatment facility - Typically those involuntary committed due to criminal justice involvement and incompetent to proceed have been charged with felony offenses. This population does not represent the majority of the Triage Center population as only low

Funds have been awarded from the Edward Byrne Memorial Assistance Grant program since 2010 and a renewal application was recently awarded. An Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and two Veterans Administration (VA) emergency shelter grants were secured and are ongoing. FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter funds are awarded through the local United Way.

The Triage Center project was a finalist for the Harvard Innovations Program and was one of five projects selected nationally as a 2010 NOVA Award Winner by The American Hospital Association. This award recognizes hospitals that collaborate with