

The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office has long recognized the need for effective community involvement and engagement, especially in the area of mental health. As a key collaborator and partner, the JSO has actively participated with the City of Jacksonville, the State of Florida and area mental health and substance abuse agencies to develop an Adult Mental Health Strategic Plan for Duval County. Currently, the JSO plays an active role on the Mental Health Coalition of Jacksonville (chaired by Chief Tara Wildes), which is working hard to improve and refine the mental health system at both the local and state levels. Sheriff Rutherford has been a vocal advocate for positive change through his affiliation with such organizations as Partners in Crisis.

Moreover, the JSO takes its commitment to mental health very seriously through ensuring effective Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) is provided to its sworn staff. JSO also works closely with local mental health providers, such as the Mental Health Resource Center (MHRC) and Mental Health Center of Jacksonville (MHCJ) to ensure proper delivery of Baker Act (crisis management) services in Duval County. Sheriff John Rutherford is committed to continuous improvement in the delivery of crucial mental health services.

From various police calls for service and reports in which mental illness, suicide, suicide attempts, threat to self/others, Baker Act, depression, prior violence, homicidal, etc. were mentioned, the JSO investigated mental health police contacts based on the City's fiscal year. It should be noted that this assessment is not inclusive of all mental health people or mental health services in Jacksonville. The people reflected in this analysis can be considered as more severe and in immediate mental health crisis- thus requiring police intervention. Since fiscal year 2006, the JSO has examined mental health related police data in an effort to:

- Understand people and issues that affect our community;
- Analyze the need for increased mental health services;
- Provide further education regarding the identification of mental health emergencies to police and corrections;
- Visualize through a series of maps the clusters of mental health police contacts related to the location of City services;
- Make recommendations to better serve our community by implementing additional mental health outreach, increased mental health education, programs, and initiatives.

During FY 2006, 10/1/2005- 9/30/2006, the JSO dealt with 4,058 people on 5,518 occasions. All of these occasions were determined to be mental health related police contacts.

During FY 2007, 10/1/2006- 9/30/2007, the JSO dealt with 4,163 people on 5,707 occasions. All of these occasions were determined to be mental health related police contacts.

During FY 2008, 10/1/2007- 9/30/2008, the JSO dealt with 4,895 people (increase of 21% since FY 2006) on 6,821 occasions (increase of 24% since FY

2006). All of these occasions were determined to be mental health related police contacts.

Mental health related police contact data on JSO transportation to facilities or hospitals during FY 2008, 10/1/2007- 9/30/2008 showed that:

- 62% were transported to Public Receiving Facilities (MHCJ/MHRC)
- 25% were transported to Private Receiving Facilities (Shands, Baptist, Ten Broeck)
- 6% were transported to other hospitals (Memorial, St. Luke's, St. Vincents, Orange Park Medical Center, etc)
- 4% were transported to the Pretrial Detention Facility
- 2% were transported to other locations
- 1% committed suicide before intervention

The JSO also examined FY 2008, 10/1/2007- 9/30/2008, mental health related police contact data to determine the number of repeat people needing police intervention.

- 3,957 people had only 1 mental health related police contact and of that population, only 2% (down 5% from FY 2007) were arrested.
- 821 had between 2 and 4 mental health related police contacts and only 9% (down 12% from FY 2007) were arrested.
- 117 had 5 or more mental health related police contacts and 26% (down 18% from FY 2007) were arrested.

The people arrested were done so because a crime was committed and any mental health issues were not predominate or legitimate enough to be transported to a facility or hospital. Although these people were arrested, all individuals admitted to the Pretrial Detention Facility are evaluated by medical personnel, and if there are any medical or mental health issues that require attention, appropriate intervention will occur.

The FY 2008 mental health related police contacts assessment illustrated several positive components in identifying and treating this population.

- In 2008, most officers received Crisis Intervention Training. Through its intensive curriculum, officers gained knowledge on the techniques used to identify mental health warning signs. This training made officers more aware of mental health emergencies and caused them to react appropriately by identifying, referring, and transporting 95% of the people to mental health facilities or hospitals. Although our mental health population increased FY 2008, it can be attributed to increased awareness and additional liabilities in handling these issues.
- In FY 2008, the overall recurrence and frequency of severely impaired mental health people interacting with the police decreased dramatically. For example, in FY 2007, the JSO dealt with 1 individual on 56 different occasions for mental health related issues. In this example, the length of stay in different facilities, hospitals, and jail was short and recurring. By researching the time between each contact and length of stay for severely

- impaired mental health individuals, mental health service communities were able to review and assess therapy, aftercare, prescription maintenance, and education. These elements were apparent in FY 2008, because the highest frequency of mental health related police contacts were 2 individuals, each having 19 different police contacts- a total of 18 less than the most frequent individual in FY 2007.
- Since the development of this data and subsequent analysis, Duval County has received a planning grant from the State of Florida Department of Children and Families to conduct a needs assessment of our mental health community.
 - The data has been shared with Florida Partners in Crisis, a statewide mental health advocacy group which has used the analysis as an example in seeking mental health funding and legislation.

For information on the Mental Health Coalition of Jacksonville or the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Department of Corrections, please contact Chief, Tara Wildes at Tara.Wildes@jaxsheriff.org.

For information on the Behavioral and Human Services Division, please contact Mental Health Program Manager, Linda Reuschle at Reuschle@coj.net.

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