

**Proposal for
Berkeley Community Mental Health Center/Hill-Finklea Detention Center
Treatment Program
August 2021**

Point of Contact: J. Matthew Dorman

*Extending
another year
great results*

Purpose/Proposal: The BCMHC Forensic Services Program coordinates with multiple criminal justice system components in Berkeley County to address the mental health needs of adults involved with the criminal justice system. While criminal justice and mental health collaboration has experienced successful outcomes, there continues to be barriers. The Mental Health Jail Team collaboration addresses these barriers by allowing individuals to receive mental health services while in jail, providing immediate access to crisis intervention, and planning for continuity of care upon release in the community. Release from jail without adequate treatment and resources can lead to homelessness and recidivism.

Identified Problem: The year of 2020 in South Carolina yielded 31 inmates to 100,000 inmates completing suicide. Mental health caseloads doubled from 14.2% to 28.4% in 2020. The South Carolina Department of Corrections implementation panel of compliance was created as a result of *TR vs. South Carolina Department of Corrections*; South Carolina Fifth Circuit Court of Common Pleas. Findings indicated mental health care services in jails were severely understaffed, inadequate screenings, delays, disproportionate use of force, increased segregation, insufficient medication distribution and evaluation, and deficit in crisis prevention.

How to address the issue: BCMHC Jail Team program provides: Thorough Mental Health Assessments at time of entry into the jail and upon request at any time during incarceration; Consultation Services; Psychiatric Medical Assessments; Crisis Intervention prior to booking and while in jail; Facilitation of Inpatient Psychiatric Care; Group Psychoeducation Skills Class with certificates upon completion; Release Planning for continuum of care to include Case Management Services for immediate needs attainment; Mental Health Training for jail staff; Annual Suicide Prevention Training for jail staff; BCMHC Jail Team consists of 2 MHPs Monday through Friday, 1 Psychiatrist for 12 hours per week, 1 MHP forensic outreach treatment provider Monday through Friday, 2 MHPs Saturday and Sunday for 4 hours each day, and Administrative/IT. BCMHC Jail Team can assist in improvement of inmate functioning and criminal justice related outcomes.

Model: BCMHC Jail Team will create many operational improvements and cost saving and/or cost avoidance. The predicted new construction of Hill-Finklea Detention Center will increase inmate beds from 291 to 734; almost triple the current capacity. The average daily cost each day per inmate is \$55.00. Providing mental health services in the jail can address noncompliance with medications that can be a contributing factor to in jail placement. Also, assisting with improved discharging planning for inmates can lead to addressing issues such as employment, housing, food, and other supportive services; which can potentially reduce recidivism and result in cost saving outcomes.

Value Outcomes

2 MHP

To address the growth of Berkeley County's inmate population and their mental health needs, BCMHC will collaborate with Hill-Finkles to implement a Mental Health Jail Team. Local Law Enforcement and Jail Deputies have already expressed interest in this program.

- Goal: Delivery of mental health services to at least 700 inmates the first year of the Mental Health Jail Team operation. Estimating at least 10% of inmates that received mental health services in jail will continue to receive services upon re-entry into the community; increasing rate of return each year based on jail population growth.

2 MHP/Dual Employment

Providing mental health services on the weekend from 08:30 am to 12:30 pm on Saturday and Sunday. This includes addressing inmates needing mental health evaluations on solitary confinement and attending to the emergent/urgent mental health needs of inmates.

- Goal: Delivery of at least 2 services to inmates each weekend.

1 Forensic Outreach Provider

The Forensic Outreach Provider addresses the criminogenic risks and needs of inmates to inform treatment planning and in efforts to reduce recidivism. Provides transitional services, medical care, mental health care, education, employment and housing resources upon re-entry into the community.

- Goal: Delivery of outreach services to at least 80% of inmates seen in the first year of the Mental Health Jail Team operation.

1 MD

In addition to 2 MHPs, the Mental Health Jail Team will consist of 1 MD. The MD is responsible for completion of psychiatric medical assessments, render diagnostic impression, providing education on medical and mental health needs, make treatment recommendations, determine further medical testing, and prescribe medication to address psychiatric symptoms impacting level of function while incarcerated.

- Goal: Delivery of 12 hours of psychiatric medical assessments/treatment/coverage each week.

1 Administrative/IT

Further, employment of 1 Administrative/IT staff will provide much needed support for ensuring protected health information is entered into confidential jail medical records. Also, Administrative/IT will track request for services, deliverables, outcome measures, and provide quality assurance.

- Goal: At least 90% compliance with quality assurance and accreditation standard.

Each month the Forensic Services Supervisor submits a comprehensive report to the Director of Emergency and Forensic Services who addresses the goals listed above to ensure deliverables are met. Any unmet deliverable will have a specifically designed performance improvement plan to ensure compliance.

Implementation Phase:

RCMHC/HEDC Request	
2 Mental Health Providers (MHP)	\$130,000
*1 Forensic Outreach Provider (optional)	(\$65,000)
1 MD	\$124,000
1 Administrative/IT	\$25,000
** MHP (local employment (optional)	(\$30,000)
4 Laptops	\$6,000
1 Printer	\$1,000
1 Scanner	\$2,000
Total	\$283,000 *(\$375,000)