Behavioral Health & Criminal Justice

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Williamsburg Health Foundation

#ICMA2018
Public Hospital of 1773

In 1766 the General Assembly of Virginia enacted legislation “to make provisions for the support and maintenance of idiots, lunatics, and other persons of unsound minds…”
Treating Mental Illness: Then and Now
Mental Illness in Virginia Jails

- In 2017, **17.6%** (7451 of 42,257) inmates in Virginia jails defined as mentally ill
- **9.6%** were “seriously” mentally ill
- **28%** of female inmates, **15.1%** of males, were so defined
- In 2012, **11.1%** of all inmates were mentally ill

Source: *Mentally Illness in Jails Report*, VA Compensation Board, November 1, 2017
One Hopeful Trend: Crisis Intervention Teams

• Williamsburg Health Foundation Annual Awards recognize and promote exceptional contributions to community health…with a video production and awards breakfast
• 2017 Award went to Colonial CIT
• In video, look for:
  - Three legged stool of CIT
  - Breath and depth of partnerships
  - “Pre-booking” jail diversion strategies
CIT in Virginia: Training Leg

- Currently there are 34 CIT programs in Virginia
- 40 hours of Core Training leads to CIT Certification
- Over 7700 Virginia police officers/sheriff deputies are CIT Certified
- 121 (of 134) Virginia cities/counties participate in CIT

Source: CIT Assessment Sites and Programs, VDBHDs Office of Forensic Services, FY 2016
CIT in Virginia: Community Leg

• Collaboration essential for CIT funding and operation
• Partners, typically include:
  - Regional Behavior Health Agency (CSB)
  - Local Government/Local Law Enforcement
  - Local/Regional Jails
  - Court System (Judges, Magistrates, Commonwealth Attorneys)
  - Hospitals, especially ERs
  - Private and Public Psychiatric Facilities
  - Families and Clients
CIT in Virginia: Facility Leg

- CIT Assessment Centers serve 78% of Virginia population
- In FY16 9245 therapeutic assessments conducted
- Of those, over 6300 assessments resulted from officers bringing subjects to CITAC, usually in lieu of arrest
- Direct link: CITAC to Magistrate resulting in TDO

Source: CIT Assessment Sites and Programs, VDBHDs Office of Forensic Services, FY 2016
Challenges Ahead

• Some challenges are beyond local government direct control…
  ➢ Lack of sustained CIT funding
  ➢ Weak in-jail behavioral health care
  ➢ Need for “Mental Health Dockets”
  ➢ Lack of forensic behavior health beds statewide

• Some things we in local government can do…
  ➢ Lead the partnerships
  ➢ Lobby legislatures
  ➢ Fund the gaps ourselves
  ➢ Tell the story in our communities
Contacts & Resources

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CIT Award Video:  https://youtu.be/DAi-FJNhkcA

Virginia Crisis Intervention Team Coalition

virginiacit.org

vacitcoalition.org