

Agenda Item Number:

**ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: April 28, 2021

Agenda Item Subject: new Behavioral Health Programming in the Criminal Justice Resource Department

Attachment(s): PowerPoint

Staff or Board Member Reporting: Caitlin Fenhagen

Purpose: Action
 Information only
 Information with possible action

Summary Information:

Criminal Justice Resource Department Director Caitlin Fenhagen will share information about new grant-funded behavioral health programming that supports justice-involved individuals. Specifically, the presentation will focus on expanded harm reduction pre-arrest diversion and reentry support for individuals with substance use disorders and the Street Outreach, Harm Reduction and Deflection (SOHRAD) program, which is a joint effort between the CJRD and the Housing and Community Development Department. These initiatives seek to reduce the number of individuals with behavioral health issues in the criminal justice system, to provide supportive services and to reduce the risk of recidivism.

Recommended Action: Approve
 Approve & forward to Board of Commissioners for action
 Approve & forward to _____
 Accept as information
 Revise & schedule for future action
 Other (detail):



The CJRD directly oversees and administers Orange County's Pretrial Release Program, the CJRD Clinical Coordinator, the Youth Mental Health Liaison, Pre-Arrest Diversion programming, two Drug Treatment Courts, the Local Reentry Council, the Street Outreach, Harm Reduction and Deflection program and a Restoration Legal Counsel position.

4/28/21 Presentation to the Orange County Board of Health



Re-Imagining Criminal Justice

- ▶ Deflection
 - ▶ Diversion
 - ▶ Harm Reduction and Therapeutic Interventions
 - ▶ Alternatives to Incarceration
 - ▶ Re-Entry Support
 - ▶ Legal Restoration
- 

CJRD Programs

- ▶ Pretrial Release: The Pretrial Release Program can minimize unnecessary detention by supervising individuals who are likely to appear for future court dates and do not pose a risk to the community as they await trial. This results in reduced jail costs for the County and more efficient use of the limited space within its detention facility. In addition, individuals who are released from custody are able to maintain employment, access treatment, maintain stable housing, aid in their own defense, assert their innocence, and mitigate the severity of any active prison term that may be imposed at sentencing. Ted Dorsi, Pretrial Services Case Manager
- ▶ Adult Behavioral Health: The CJRD Clinical Coordinator works directly with individuals incarcerated in the Orange County Detention Center who have mental health and substance use concerns. A primary goal of this position is to increase opportunities for pretrial release and connection to community resources. Services include completion of clinical assessments, referral to treatment, brief counseling, and crisis management. This position also works in collaboration with Orange County therapeutic courts and diversion programs to provide additional clinical support and care coordination. Allison Zirkel, LCSW, LCAS
- ▶ Youth Mental Health: The Youth Mental Health Liaison provides clinical services to youth ages 18 and under who are incarcerated, in detention or at high risk in the criminal and juvenile justice systems. Services include completion of forensic psychological exams, clinical assessments, referrals to treatment, crisis management, counseling and coordination with families and other systems of care to develop an appropriate treatment plan to support youth in returning to or remaining in the community. Nancy Lappenbusch, PsyD.
- ▶ Recovery/Treatment Courts: The CJRD administers two distinct, therapeutic programs for court-involved adults who have substance use disorders. Recovery Court is a diversionary court for individuals who are facing significant terms of incarceration. Participants are referred to the program by judges, defense attorneys, and probation officers. Successful participants will avoid incarceration and reduce their likelihood of recidivism. Family Treatment Court is a collaborative effort between the court system and the Department of Social Services (DSS). It is for parents who have a case pending with DSS regarding abuse, neglect, or dependency. Successful participants enhance their parenting skills and improve the chances of having their parental rights restored. The core components of both programs are formalized substance use treatment, random drug testing, frequent court appearances, peer support and monitoring by a multidisciplinary team. Sean O'Hare, NCPSS, Drug Treatment Coordinator; Shana Harper, NCPSS, Treatment Case Manager

CJRD Programs

- ▶ Restoration Legal Counsel: The Restoration Legal Counsel works in collaboration with court and community stakeholders to provide restorative legal services to low-income, justice-involved individuals. This legal assistance to qualified individuals includes driver's license restoration work, expunctions, certificates of relief and addressing criminal justice debt. Emma Ferriola-Bruckenstein, JD
- ▶ Misdemeanor Pre-Arrest Diversion: The Pre-Arrest Diversion Program (OC PAD) provides law enforcement the option to divert individuals 18 and older with no criminal record on certain misdemeanor offenses. The goal is to increase community safety and well-being by offering earlier and direct access to necessary interventions. Successful participants in both programs earn the benefit of not having a charge or a criminal record, which have collateral consequences for employment, housing, legal residency status, and eligibility for public benefits and licensing. OC-PAD operates with the full support of Orange County law enforcement agencies and the District Attorney's Office. While currently a first-offender program, there is strong support for expanding to individuals with prior justice involvement. Desmond Frierson, MSW, Coordinator
- ▶ Local Reentry Council: The CJRD received a grant from the NC Department of Public Safety in June 2018 to administer the Coordinated Local Reentry Council. This Council seeks to coordinate and address the barriers for individuals returning to Orange County from prior incarceration. A coordinator and case manager provide oversight of the Council and grant and have limited funds available for direct support for specific reentry needs such as housing, transportation, job training, education and work supplies to individuals. Keith Patterson, Coordinator; Tiffany Bullard, Case Manager
- ▶ Street Outreach, Harm Reduction and Deflection (SOHRAD): This is a one year grant-funded pilot operated by the CJRD and the Partnership to End Homelessness that started October 1st. SOHRAD uses a trauma-informed, relationship-based model to connect people living unsheltered with housing and services. Two peer navigators with lived experience and a clinical harm reduction coordinator work from the community and directly with people experiencing homelessness in Orange County. Tiffany Hall, LCMHC, Clinical Coordinator; Don Hardin, Peer Navigator; Brandon Morande, Peer Navigator



Orange County Street Outreach, Harm Reduction and Deflection Program



Our community has demonstrated need for street outreach

- [Orange County Sequential Intercept Mapping \(SIM\)](#)
 - Facilitated by N.C. Department of Health and Human Services
 - April 2019
- [Homeless System Gaps Analysis](#)
- Expansion of Pre-Arrest Diversion/Deflection (OC-PAD)
- COVID-19 community response
- Focus on re-imagining public safety

SOHRAD connects people living unsheltered with housing and services

- Funded by Emergency Solutions Grant CARES Act (ESG-CV)
- Began operation October 2020
- 12 months of funding end September 2021
- Program model include 3 FTEs

| Positions | # Staff | Location |
|---------------------------------------|---------|--|
| Harm Reduction Deflection Coordinator | 1 | OC Criminal Justice Resource Department |
| Street Outreach Peer Navigators | 2 | OC Housing & Community Development with OC Partnership to End Homelessness |

Meet the team



Tiffany Hall

Harm Reduction Clinical Coordinator



Brandon Morande

Peer Support Navigator



Donald Hardin

Peer Support Navigator

SOHRAD uses a trauma-informed, relationship-based model

- Ongoing engagement and harm reduction
- People living unsheltered, many behavioral health issues
- Visits to campsites, hospitals, jail, streets
- Connections to housing, food, medical care, treatment services, transportation and employment
- Therapeutic assessment, case plans, case management
- Referral contact for community members, law enforcement, and businesses
- Reduce policing and justice involvement

SOHRAD work and accomplishments

- Served over 130 people since October 2020
- 21 people exited to permanent housing
- 22 people connected to emergency housing
- 80 people connected to services like tents and sleeping bags, food, transportation
- 16 people living unsheltered vaccinated for COVID-19
 - Vaccination work continuing
- Over 20 law enforcement deflections

SOHRAD is here to help

- **SOHRAD Program Phone:** 919-886-3351
- **SOHRAD Program Email:** sohrad@orangecountync.gov
 - Monday-Friday 9am-11pm
 - Saturday 2pm-11pm
- Welfare checks
- Connections to housing and services
- Case management and peer support
- Harm reduction outreach
- Law enforcement deflection

SOHRAD has several sustainability and program needs to address

- Program funding starting Fall 2021
 - \$237,015 annually
- Downtown office space
- Street Outreach one of several gaps to fill to end homelessness
 - Overlap with Behavioral Health Task Force Priorities
 - Crisis/Diversion Center
 - Day Center with integrated services
 - Increased behavioral health services

Contact SOHRAD team or management to talk further

- **SOHRAD Program Phone:** 919-886-3351
- **SOHRAD Program Email:** sohrad@orangecountync.gov

- Caitlin Fenhagen, Criminal Justice Resource Director
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- Emila Sutton, Housing and Community Development Director
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