

Jail-Huber Utilization Committee

Minutes

12/15/14

Attendance

Sue Eckhart (J2K), Mike Hafemann (HOC Superintendent), Nate Holton (Justice Council Director), Pete Koneazny (Legal Aid Society), Kerri McKenzie (HOC), Floyd Mitchell (MSDF Warden), Kit Murphy-McNally (Justice Council Executive Committee), Tom Reed (Chair)(SPD), Holly Szablewski (Courts Administrator), Mike Williams (DOC Probation and Parole).

1) Mental Health Issues Discussion: Tom noted that Emergency Detentions are down noticeably as are Mental Health Complex admissions generally. This is good news obviously, but it raises question of whether more people with mental illness may be being diverted to Jail and HOC.

- Mike H. has not seen rise in overflow admissions from Jail to the HOC nor has there been noticeable increase in those with mental health conditions at the HOC.
- How can we track if mental health detentions might increase in the Jail and HOC as a result of lower rate of E.D.s at MHC? – psychotropic medications list is one way - question raised as to whether Armor could provide that information directly to us (or via Mike H. as Armor’s contract administrator).
- Tom noted that we should be increasing our sophistication at tracking those with chronic mental health needs as they populate components of the criminal justice system. The mental health committee is also very interested in having this information as part of ongoing information that is tracked.
- We will soon be implementing an upgraded version of Universal Screening and we hope this will enhance our ability to track who is in the jail including those with mental health needs.
- Question: how can we get diversion of individuals with mental illness before they are admitted to the jail? While some are obvious because of verbal and physical behavior, some individuals are more withdrawn and are not immediately recognized.

2) “Sentinel Event” review as possible new approach to quality improvement [Tom].

- Sentinel Event approach is a post-incident/episode multifaceted analysis in order to learn from mistakes in practice or approach.
- NIJ would like to have all jurisdictions do this.
- Milwaukee has been selected for NIJ sentinel event study:
 - Marcus Evans, who is now in prison for homicide, at age 18, is the first case for a sentinel event study.
 - His case will examine missed opportunities in interventions before he ended up a homicide defendant, e.g. looking at juvenile justice and maybe child welfare system involvement.

- Tom has been impressed w/ the value of the process – an event can reveal a lot about how we can improve practices.
- Relationship to homicide review commission? Homicide review is more limited to law enforcement side: the NIJ “sentinel” event approach is a broader social context review (not just prosecution and policing feedback – more of a public health approach).
- Some “boundary” considerations have to be addressed as to who can share what information with others.

3) Update - Mental Health Discharge Planning from Jail and HOC.

- Community Connections meeting will take place 12/16 at WCS, part of Armor Correctional Health Care engagement with community stakeholders – this group has discussed discharge planning issues for HOC and Jail. HOC process is working well; less success at the jail, in part because of less cooperation but also factors such as not having time/notice for planning for a release.
- Armor has been proactive in trying to do discharge planning with outside groups.
- There was interruption in discharge planning at the jail – CSP and other agencies’ professionals have been denied access to their jailed clients at the Jail.
- PK reported that stated reason for disruption of professional visits is the dysfunctional video visit system and the time it takes to do background checks on prospective professional visits.
- Several members of the Committee expressed concern that it need not take as long as the Sheriff’s department seems to want to do a background check. It appears to be more of a matter of Sheriff assigning these issues a very low priority. There should not be a significant delay/obstacle in allowing for visits that will promote safe transition to the community.

4) Discussion - Jail and HOC population and need for action on Master Plan for facilities.

- Data on population in Jail and HOC (“pie charts” and day-by-day grids) have not been provided to CJC (or to Legal Aid) for several weeks. This has to be done on regular basis, in spite of the historic inaccuracies in these reports as to classifications reported.
- Recent pie chart, from 12/3, showed 52% felony pretrial detainees at Jail.
- Master facilities plan still not moving forward – this should study and plan for appropriate numbers of Jail, HOC and Huber Beds as well as facilities for non-detention programs.
- It is important to know who is in custody and why .
- Because a Master Plan is a big undertaking, we would most likely need PJI or NIC or NIJ or some outside entity (and grant) to assist in moving facilities master plan forward.
- This Committee encouraged the Executive Committee to make push for a master plan to be a priority.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20.

Next Meeting – would normally be Third Monday (1/19) but that is MLK Holiday – Tom will send out notice of next meeting which may be changed to a different Monday in January.