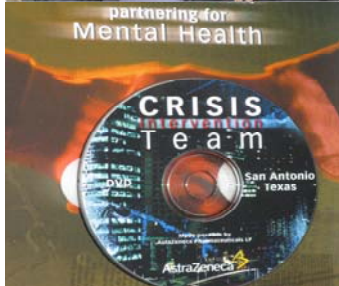
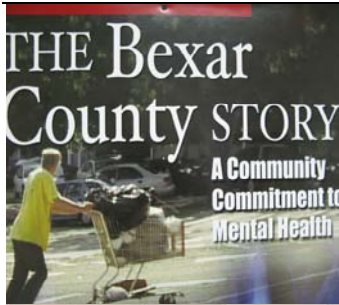


Providing Jail and Hospital Emergency Room Diversions for Persons with Mental Illness and Substance Abuse Disorders: *Crisis and Diversion Technical Assistance*



Findings:

- More than one in every 100 adults is now confined in an American jail or prison. According to figures gathered and analyzed by the Pew Public Safety Performance Project, the number of people behind bars in the United States continued to climb in 2007, saddling cash-strapped states with soaring costs they can ill afford and failing to have a clear impact either on recidivism or overall crime.
- In recent years, an increasing number of people with severe mental illness have come in contact with the criminal justice system
- Among the mentally ill, approximately 75% have an ongoing substance abuse disorder.

Benefits of Diversion:

- Diversion programs have been shown to have positive impacts on decreasing incarceration time for the severely mentally ill, while increasing access to, and utilization of, comprehensive psychiatric services (Dr. Michael Johnsrud, Medical Economist).
- Reduced inappropriate use of ERs and hospitalizations
- Reduction of inappropriate incarceration of persons with mental illness
- Length of stay in jail is shortened in lieu of increased access to treatment
- Greater efficiency in the use of law enforcement resulting in increased public safety
- Violence and victimization is reduced
- Costs incurred by taxpayers when a person with mental illness is arrested, incarcerated, and/or hospitalized is addressed

Proven Resources and Tools available:

- Learn How to Create Community Collaboratives
- Consultation on site
- Leveraging funding to maximize opportunities
- Integrating, blending and braiding local, state and federal funding
- Training materials
- Materials (program background, plan, job descriptions etc)
- Planning and Implementation Guidelines
- Data and Forms
- Program Design
- Community Input; Governance and oversight
- Evaluation process
- Teleconference, video conference and follow-up