

2015 Annual Report – Beacon Health within the Lake County Jail

Mental Health Services within the jail are provided by two full time mental health consultants (MHCs) and a psychiatric prescriber for medication management. While a majority of the focus of mental health service continues to be crisis intervention within the Lake County Jail, the MHCs in the jail also provided community linkage for consumers to mental health agencies upon release from jail, court ordered mental health assessments that were required before release, and in some cases, intake and assessment of individuals while they were incarcerated in order to fully link them with services upon his/her release from jail. MHCs had also spent a significant portion of type facilitating women's groups that addressed issues related to incarceration, increased peer support, and focused on healthy coping skills. There was a slight change in staffing in 2015, as there was only one full time mental health consultant for a majority of the year. There were three different psychiatric prescribers who alternated providing service throughout the year.

The mental health staff received a total of 1,493 referrals in 2015, which were 433 less referrals than in 2014. It is important to mention that many of the referrals received were on the same individuals and that just because mental health staff received 1,493 referrals that does not necessarily mean that there were 1,493 different people referred. Of the 1,493 referrals, eighty-four percent of them were self-referred. The remaining sixteen percent was split equally with eight percent having been referred by correctional staff and medical staff in the jail, and eight percent from other sources, i.e.-attorneys, family, courts, probation officers, community mental health agencies, police, and the Jail Treatment Program

Figure 1 illustrates the reasons for referral in 2015. A majority of the referrals were to see a psychiatric prescriber, precisely fifty-nine percent. Thirty-one percent requested to see a mental health consultant, and three percent of the total referrals were for suicide risk. Seven percent were referred for "other" reasons; this category includes but is not limited to court ordered mental health evaluations and referrals for groups conducted by MHCs.

The psychiatric prescriber saw a total of 280 people a total of 442 times to evaluate and potentially prescribe psychotropic medications. There were a total of 628 people on the caseload of MHCs during 2015 which is a significant increase from the previous year. One significant reason for the increase can be attributed to the fact that individuals seen in a group setting were included in this number, whereas in the past this number only reflected individuals seen face to face, not in a group setting. Of the individuals on the caseload of MHCs and/or the psychiatric prescriber, seven people were referred for emergency admission to a medical/psychiatric facility; one of these individuals was referred twice.

Figure 2 illustrates that sixty seven percent of those who requested mental health services were residents of Lake County. Individuals who lived out of Lake County accounted for thirty one percent of the referrals while the remaining two percent were out of state. Within Lake County, the majority of individuals receiving mental health services were residents of Painesville, followed by Mentor, Willoughby and Eastlake (See Figure 3).

Mental Health staff will continue to focus on linkage and discharge planning in the years to come as these are key components when examining recidivism. Collaboration with corrections, law enforcement, area hospitals, courts, probation, and community agencies continues to be a necessity in order to provide necessary and quality mental health services to individuals who are being treated in and released from correctional facilities.

Figure 1. Reasons for Referral

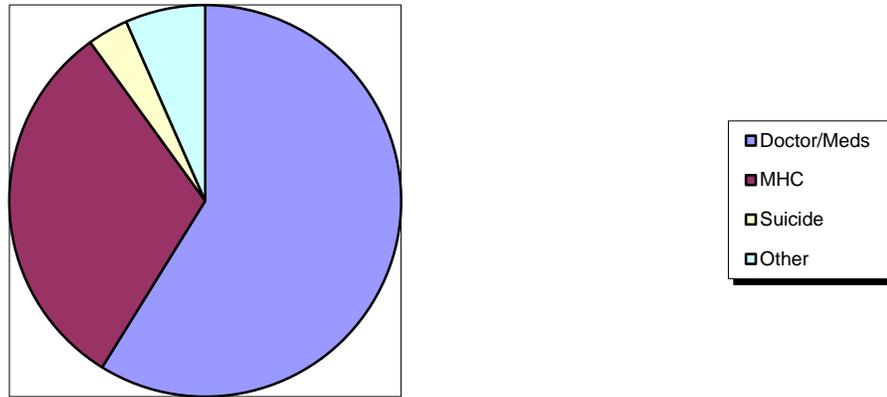


Figure 2. Mental Health Inmate by County

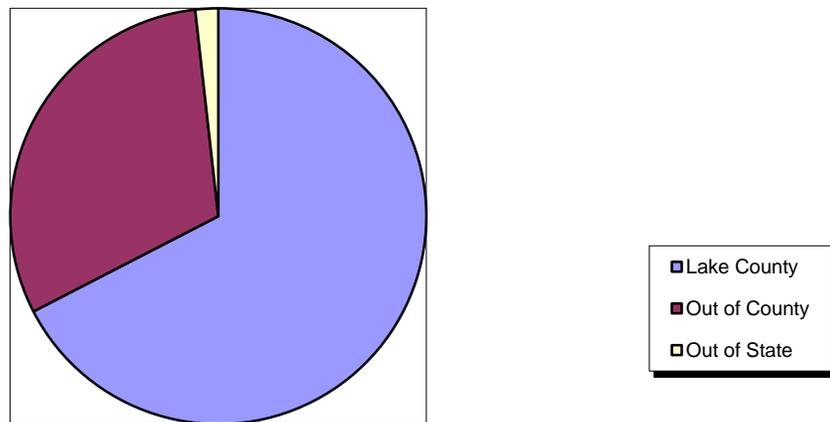


Figure 3. City of Origin in Lake County

