

MHC Questions

Manju Mathews

1. When the Sheriff campaigned for the new jail bldg., he stated that the primary intent was to house facilities for services for individuals with MH conditions. Given this stated intent, why has a large portion of the bldg. being used to house an overflow of inmates from other jail facilities?
2. Staffing for both screening and MH treatment at the jails appears to be sparse. We recognize that like many other employers, the County jails are finding it difficult to hire and retain employees. However, the County has committed to providing appropriate and timely MH treatment for incarcerated individuals with MH conditions.
 - a. What are the policy changes your dpt. plans to make to overcome the hiring problem and fulfill the County's commitment, above.?
3. The County has committed to:
 - a. preparing MH transition plan prior to an individual's release; and
 - b. ensuring that appropriate and timely services are in place to effectuate each individual's MH transition plan post release.
 - c. Is there a written transition plan for each individual needing continued MH services on release?
 - d. How are services are being prepared to assist these individuals?
 - e. Is funding available from the state? From the county?
 - f. Are there adequate staff for evaluating individuals both on intake and prior to release? Which staff and how many are currently preparing transition plans for services post-release?
4. We at the Justice Committee were told that preparing transition plans and putting community services into place will be handled solely by MediCal and Cal AIM, without any County involvement.
 - a. How much collaboration is there currently between Detention Mental Health, and Cal AIM and MediCal re. the provision of mental health transition plans and services following release?
 - b. Are there any deficiencies that you see that will not be handled by Cal Aim and MediCal that you would like addressed?
 - c. What role will your department play in transition planning and arranging services in the community in order to meet the County's obligation to plan for and follow up on services needed after release from the County jail?

5. The County is obligated to follow The Americans With Disabilities Act (“ADA”) in its jails. In the last three years, the County has failed to craft ADA policies and procedures for its jails.
 - a. What is the County, and more specifically your department, doing to put into place a policy and set of procedures to meet the needs of individuals in the jails who are protected by the ADA?
 - b. What training are you and sister agencies providing to educate staff in Detention MH staff, Crisis Intervention, and the Sheriff’s Office regarding ADA eligibility and protections?
6. When is an inmate given the opportunity to ask what medications are being given to her/him/them?. Subsequent to the initial MH screenings, are there other opportunities to self-refer and/or be referred for MH screening?
7. In the community areas of the jails, how are inmates identified by staff as to what track they are?