

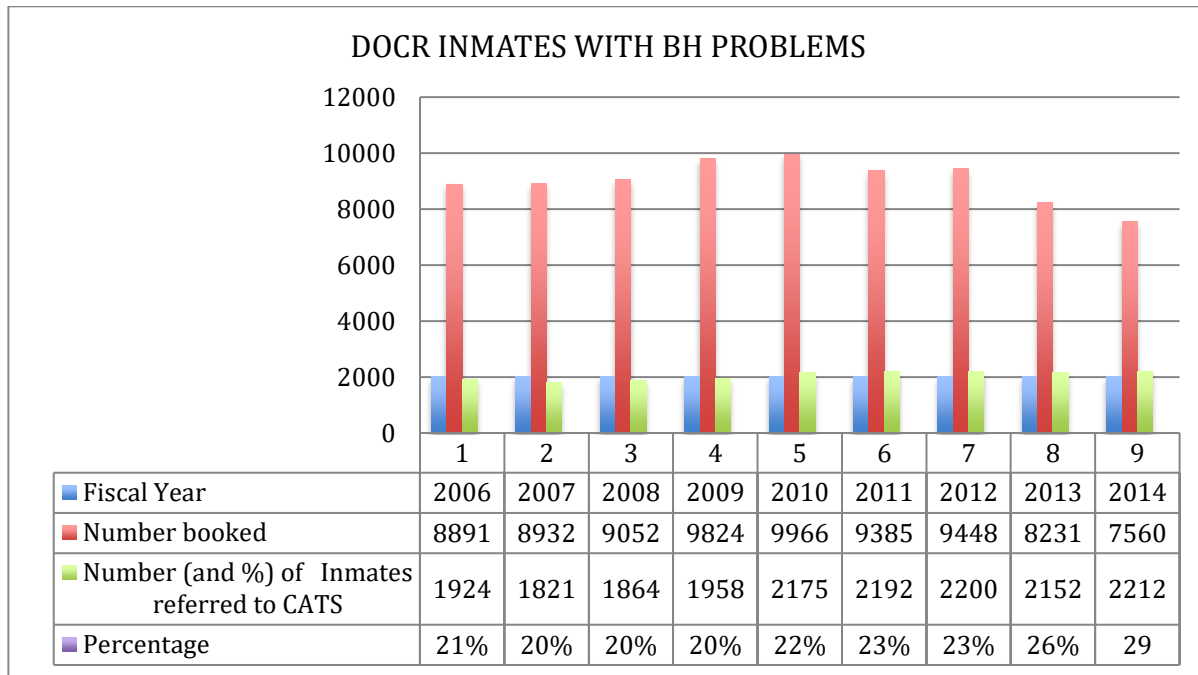


Montgomery County Behavioral Health Diversion Efforts



Montgomery County Persons with Behavioral Health Problems in the Justice System

- Approximately 2200/year incoming inmates present with Psychiatric symptoms - this is about 20%, up from 18% in the past 5 years.



- 31% referred to Critical Intervention Unit for monitoring
- 74% have a co-occurring MH/SUD
- 20% are female

Montgomery County Diversion Efforts

Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee (CJCC)

- Cross Departmental Leadership to discuss the intersections between the criminal justice, human services, housing.
- Criminal Justice Behavioral Health Initiative (CJBHI)
 - Initiated use of Sequential Intercept Model as a way of thinking about the Behavioral Health-Gains Center – See attachment
 - Advocated for creation of a Mental Health Court that addresses Veterans issues.

FIRST INTERCEPT (Law Enforcement/Emergency Services)

- Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT)
 - 60% of MPD force trained
- Stop Triage Engage, Evaluate, Refer (STEER) – pilot program focused on SUD
- Exploring the feasibility and planning for a Restoration Center -Bexar County, TX model

SECOND INTERCEPT (Initial Detention / Initial Court Hearings)

- Clinical Assessment and Triage Services (CATS)
 - Since 2001 - Masters level clinicians located at the Detention Center, working collaboratively with Pre-Trial, diverting 46% of incoming mentally ill, intervening within 24 hrs of booking
- Comprehensive Reentry Program (CORP)
 - 2yr, \$600K, BJA Second Chance Act for Reentry of Co-occurring Disorders -Collab with ACT, Housing Locator, and DOCR. (engaging at THIS as well as THIRD, FOURTH and FIFTH intercepts throughout the life of a case along the continuum)
 - Targeting 120 incoming high end MH, recidivist cases and engaging the courts to grant favorable bonds to allow for release when appropriate bed space is obtained.

THIRD INTERCEPT (Jails/Courts)

- Drug Court
- Mental Health Court
 - CIRCUIT- a post sentence docket
 - DISTRICT - Post booking, Pre-Sentence Diversion AND Post-Sentence Docket (
- CORP intersects with Jail and MHC.
 - In-Reach, housing specialists and ACT teams. Coordinates with SAO, PD and Courts on reentry planning
- Jail Addictions Services (JAS)
- Crisis Intervention Unit (CIU)
- Behavioral Health Step-down Unit

FOURTH INTERCEPT (Reentry)

- CORP
 - Designed as an alternative to a simple linkage to a first-stop community provider, discharge meds and shelter placement (when available).
 - CORP provides comprehensive plans, addressing all above areas and forensically trained staff that engages daily and addresses emerging crises quickly using a team approach and involving criminal justice providers as well as MH, SUD and housing resources..
 - Reentry from State Hospital is addressed by CORP
 - Staff from SHC, HHS, CSA, PEP, MCCH for housing, SAO, PD and Courts. Prior reentry from hospital has had limited follow-up and frequent rearrest shortly after release.
- MHC will add missing judicial supervision for those that will benefit.

FIFTH INTERCEPT (Community Corrections/Community Supports)

- Pre-Trial Services
- Pre-Release and Reentry Services Currently have PRRS and PTSU.
- Parole and Probation
- CORP
 - Follows cases one year post release
 - Select P&P officers, PTSU case managers and PRRS staff are on the CORP team, ready to intervene as needed - Cases reviewed weekly and decisions are made collaboratively
 - CIT is used as needed to facilitate response but no need to take to CPU or charge for nuisance street offenses - loops back to CORP

Policy and System Recommendations:

- Sequential Intercept is a good starting point for collectively working on behavioral health issues in the County.
- Developing 'boundary spanning' services and roles, such as CORP, that address 'root causes' for incarceration
- County, State and Federal legislatures need to look at reforming a BH system that has raised bar for access to acute care and limited so high that it is easier to criminalize mental illness in order to gain access to treatment.
- CJCC/CJBHI established by Executive and County Council action. Brings agencies to the table to learn and work collectively.