Early Diversion Grantee Profile

Program Name: Project EDGE (Early Diversion, Get Engaged)

Grant Applicant: Boulder County Sheriff’s Department

Implementing Agency: Mental Health Partners

Service Area: Boulder County

Project Director: Beth Lonergan, Chief Clinical Officer, Mental Health Partners
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CMHS Project Officer: Roxanne Castaneda

Project Period: 9/30/13 - 9/30/16

FY 2013 Grant Award - $966,666 over 3 years

Project Description: The overall purpose of Project EDGE is: to support Boulder County’s early diversion transformation efforts by expanding and enhancing culturally responsive, evidence-based supported services with a focus on consumer engagement and community collaboration. Project EDGE strives to “improve Boulder County’s ability to deliver a comprehensive, multi-agency, culturally responsive, evidence-based earliest point of diversion service for adults with behavioral health disorders at risk for criminal justice involvement”. Project EDGE will sponsor Crisis Intervention Trainings for law enforcement to help them to correctly identify when behavior is related to mental, substance abuse and co-occurring disorders. Law enforcement will also be trained on protocols for referring and dropping off individuals who meet the program criteria. Project EDGE utilizes Peer Support Specialists and offers wrap around services to improve engagement and retention in behavioral health services among those individuals identified as at-risk for criminal justice involvement. Mental Health Partners uses a comprehensive system of evidence-based approaches (Motivational Interviewing (MI), CIT, Psychiatric/Psychosocial Rehabilitation (PSR), Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), Brief Strengths-Based Case Management for Substance Abuse (BSBCM), Integrated Dual Disorder Treatment (IDDT), Assertive Community Treatment (ACT), Seeking Safety, and others) to meet the complex interplay between behavioral health and criminal justice issues. The following services will be offered to all Project EDGE participants: case management, full psychiatric services, psychotherapy, substance use treatment, detoxification treatment, benefits enrollment, housing support, employment support, skills training, and supportive counseling. Through Mental Health Partners, Mobile Emergency Response Services will be available to Boulder County law enforcement which will increase access to services for people when they are in crisis and at their highest level of need.