

SJ47 Criminal Justice Panel update for Deeds Commission

June 5, 2018

- SJ47 Criminal Justice (Jail Diversion) Panel began meeting in April 2016;
- Areas of focus in first 18 months:
 - Review and study of Minimum Standards for Mental Health Treatment in Jails. Visited 8 jails with a survey. Supported new requirement for all jails to complete the Brief Jail Mental Health Screen on every admitted inmate;
 - Review and study of Behavioral Health Dockets nationally and in Virginia to include outcomes for such courts/dockets, experience of the defendants, national and local data; Note: the Panel stopped focus on these dockets once the Supreme Court of Virginia passed Rule 1:25 in reference to specialty dockets. Applications for such dockets are now reviewed by Judge Talevi's Behavioral Health Docket Advisory Cmte);
 - Forensic Discharge Planning for Jails – after much discussion both by the Panel and other statewide committees, a budget recommendation was put forward for funding forensic discharge planners to serve all jails in the Commonwealth;
 - Brief focus on codifying mental health/criminal justice stakeholder groups – we distributed a survey around the state to all CSBs to inventory whether such groups exist and their usefulness in the community. Decision made to table the issue for the time being. Discussion related to potentially include language in any funding for communities who receive forensic mental health project dollars.
- In past year the Panel has submitted a budget recommendation, after considerable study, for funding CIT programs and CITACs (CIT Assessment Centers) in southwest and Central Virginia;
- Related to above item, Panel developed a Readiness Assessment which can be distributed to communities who receive potential funding for CIT and CITACs or regardless of funding, to disseminate to these communities. The assessment measures areas where communities struggle related to mental health and law enforcement partnering.

- Jail Mental Health Standards Workgroup was convened by Dr. Michael Schaefer at DBHDS in Spring 2018. Group has met three times and a 4th meeting is scheduled for June 15. Focus areas: follow up assessments (post-Brief MH Screen) in jails; access to services and medication management for mentally ill inmates; CSBs as mental health providers in jail: pros and cons, and other considerations. This group has developed a document with 14 mental health standards for Virginia's local and regional jails. Each standard is being evaluated for whether it should be recommended or not, is it "essential" or "important," what are the barrier to implementation, what resources are needed, and what are the costs and considerations.