



CRIMINAL JUSTICE SUBCOMMITTEE
July 23, 2021; 10:00AM – 11:00AM

Location: 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Melbourne, FL 32940 – Magnolia Room
and Via Zoom Online Meeting

I – GREETINGS, INTRODUCTIONS, OVERALL UPDATES

- Stanley Brizz opened the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance.
- All signed in, introduced themselves and their respective roles.
- Stanley Brizz mentioned the reason for all gathering today, development of a warm handoff procedure that will be acceptable to Brevard County Jail for opioid dependent inmates and other inmates with SUD.

II –Discussion of Warm Handoff Process at Brevard County Jail

Isa Kennedy suggested allowing Carolyn Ramsey to discuss what already exists at the jails. Carolyn Ramsey – Jail Oversight Coordinator mentioned the following:

- *The Bridge* is picking people up in a **few** days (less than two weeks, 10 days); department of corrections funds it (Bridge in Orlando)
- Those who are court-ordered to treatment also get access to MAT.
- Mentioned the yellow cards created by Eckerd Connects and Brevard Prevention Coalition with mental health and substance misuse treatment/prevention resources has been given to Major Morris at the jail.

Issues Brevard County Jail has had with MAT and similar services in that past:

- Liability issues for use of MAT in the jail in the past in Brevard County
 - However, Michael Pirolo, Public Defender, mentioned that psychotropics are allowed in the jail, why not MAT?
- Previous Jail staff seemed opposed to implementing MAT or warm handoff process. But Chief Dan Singleton is now newly appointed over the jail and seems more open to changes.
- Detox process is currently “cold turkey”.
- Inmates are often separated by pods depending on the “programs” they are following. There may be a way to utilize that system to categorize who can receive MAT or benefit from the warm handoff.
- CFTC, RASE and STEPS are contracted through CFCHS and can be available to provide services.
- Part of the appeal can be showing the current cost the jail has funding services in the medical department related to SUD.
- Need to find out if the jail would be open to induction.
- Classification is a barrier. For instance, is the inmate a violent offender, do they have disqualifying charges?
- Referrals to MAT or a warm handoff can be dependent on an inmate’s recovery capital, as well as individuals awaiting sentencing.



- Shannon Wilson related some of the other challenges that will need to be overcome and steps that need to be taken prior to presenting a plan to Brevard County Jail.

III – Discussion of Warm Handoff Process in Other Counties

- Maria Bledsoe of CFCHS discussed the process in other counties in which CFCHS funds services. She also related the challenges that she has had over the years in Brevard.
- In Osceola County, a designated provider picks those up from the jail who want treatment
- In Seminole:
 - Utilizes SCORE team to assess for appropriateness
 - Treatment pod for women and men – sentenced and pending cases
 - Nurse assesses inmate, RASE engaged in the jail, then when they are released RASE arranges transport of inmates to any appropriate provider facility for treatment.

IV – REVIEW OF NEXT STEPS / SET NEXT MEETING DATE

- Pull three counties' plans together to develop a plan to start MAT in Brevard County Jail (Orange, Osceola, Seminole)
- Cheryl Sink with Brevard County Jail will estimate number of inmates who could utilize MAT and the warm handoff process. Perhaps it could become part of booking questionnaire.
- Mike Pirolo, Chief Assistance Public Defender, suggested us of interns to reduce hesitance of inmates to be open with jail staff. If it is coming from the Public Defender's side, inmates may be more open to admitting their SUD. Mike Pirolo also recommended perhaps using tents on site at the jail.
- Next meeting **scheduled for August 6, 2021 at 10AM**. Meeting will be held once again in the Magnolia Room. Confirmation of the date, address, Zoom links to join for a virtual option, will be sent out to all.
- Isa Kennedy will handle reserving the Magnolia Room.

V – OPEN FORUM

- N/A

VI – MEETING CLOSURE

- Stanley Brizz closed the meeting at 11:00 AM.