



Mental Health Re-Entry Program Update

When COVID-19 started to impact our community, mitigation efforts were put into place in the DuPage County Correctional Center that resulted in a significant decrease in the number of inmates. Despite the many changes that were put into place to minimize the risk of a COVID-19 outbreak, the dedication & creativity of Health Department and Sheriff's Office staff to find ways to maintain programming helped ensure that needs continued to be met.

In January & February of 2020, referrals were consistent with those seen in 2019. Beginning in March and throughout the month of April, referrals significantly slowed due to the impact of COVID-19. The Mental Health Re-Entry Manager, Amy Kohlmann, shifted to a remote role in April due to COVID precaution protocols. Amy was set-up with IT resources to be able to work remotely to provide support for those being released. Amy did this through daily coordination with the DCCC mental health team.

In the 3rd quarter of 2020, Amy returned on-site, and referral numbers started to return to pre-COVID rates. The 4th quarter monthly referral numbers now match or exceed what they did in 2019.

To help ensure continuity of care, a new follow-up protocol was added to the program. Amy now coordinates directly with the DCHD Engagement & Intake Specialist, who assists with reaching out to inmates recently released to ensure that they followed through with treatment appointments with whichever provider they were linked to. There have been

many examples where there's been little doubt that without the additional the additional engagement and outreach, the person recently released would not have followed through with treatment.

In response to the opioid epidemic, Amy now also assists with providing inmates with education about Narcan, including assisting with the MAT class offered to inmates. Following release, those inmates can receive a box of Narcan at our DCHD office.

Referrals received	207
% of referrals who received re-entry assistance	82%
Linkage to crisis residential step-down	14
Inmates w/previous or current DCHD treatment history who received linkage	54

Zero Suicide Is Underway

During the December BHC meeting, we discussed the creation of a new subcommittee centered around implementing the [Zero Suicide framework](#) in DuPage County. The subcommittee met for the first time on Tuesday, January 19th and we learned a great deal about the current needs for suicide prevention in DuPage County. At present, we are working to keep a small, core group of community leaders participating on this subcommittee and regularly working within their own organizations to find ways to prevent suicide deaths in our communities. We also learned about the need for potential workgroups that focus on specific topics within suicide prevention, such as prevention of teen suicides. More information about the direction of Zero Suicide efforts will be shared at the March BHC meeting. Those interested in learning more about the Zero Suicide subcommittee or the topics we will be addressing can email Scott Kaufmann at scott.kaufmann@dupagehealth.org.

BHC March Meeting

In March, we will have a virtual meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, March 9th at 8:30am. As always, please register beforehand if you plan to attend, the registration link can be found [here](#). Once you register, you will receive a link to access the meeting. At this meeting we will provide a review of 2020 for our BHC projects and look forward to what's in store in 2021. We are excited to see everyone at the March meeting!