

# SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROJECT

## Identifying The Problem

- Lack of behavioral health services leads to incarceration of persons with mental illness
- Arrest and detention is retraumatizing and destabilizing and can result in a crisis
- Consumes millions of dollars in police, judicial, and correctional resources
- Contributes to the overpopulation of the detention center
- Release without services often leads to decompensation and recidivism

## The Extent of the Problem



## Supportive Housing Plan Development Process

- Weekly planning meeting for 9 months between County Public Safety Division and City Health and Human Services Division
- Monthly meeting of County, City and participating providers for 6 months
- Monthly meeting of criminal justice working group
- Periodic meeting of sub-working group of criminal justice mental health stakeholders
- On-going input and oversight by Bernalillo County Criminal Justice Review Commission

## Finding The Solution

- House Memorial 45 Task Force 2012
- Bavelon Center Task Force 2012
- House Joint Memorial Task Force 2011
- West Mesa Task Force 2009
- Chronic Inebriate Task Force
- Gain's Center Crisis Triage Planning Initiative 2004
- Mayor's Symposium on Behavioral Health and Homelessness 2003
- The Statewide Behavioral Health Services Needs and Gaps study 2002
- Annual Continuum of Care Review

## Jail as Intercept Point with Behavioral Health Services

- At the present time, jail provides triage and stabilization needed prior to housing placement
- Jail can be the best place to identify and connect with some homeless persons in need of services
- Persons in jail can be stabilized, assessed, provided an appropriate medication regimen, and transitioned smoothly into community based services
- Other crisis stabilization services such as MATS could also serve as an entry point into these services

## Program Structure



## Best Practices to be Provided

- In-reach programming
- Assessment and acceptance prior to discharge
- Discharge planning
- Continuity of treatment
- Coordination/support for criminal justice requirements
- Wrap-around services
- Long term planning

## Homelessness, Mental Health, and Incarceration

- 54% of homeless individuals, nationally, report prior incarceration
- In the local Heading Home study, 90% of the homeless study group reported prior incarceration
- 27% in the local study had been incarcerated in the prior year
- 15% of jail inmates, nationally, report having been homeless in the prior year
- Inmates with mental health problems are twice as likely to have been homeless

## Prevalence of SMI



## Impact of Homelessness on Pretrial Detention

- CCP will not approve CCP without housing (116 denied in last 6 months)
- Pretrial Services will not accept Third Party Custody without housing
- Risk Assessment Scores increase without stable housing
- Lack of housing is a predictor of failure to appear in court resulting in higher bonds

## Population to be Served

- Persons with mental illness, substance addiction, co-occurring disorders, cognitive impairments, or other special need
- Homeless or precariously housed
- Pretrial or sentenced
- Criminal Justice system involved

## Funding Strategies

- County funding Requested \$1.1 million
- 75 units with intensive services
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- Additional 75 units with intensive services
- Leveraged funds and services:
  - BJA grant request pending \$300,000 a year for two years
  - Medicaid reimbursement
  - Additional community resources

## Expected System Outcomes

- Decreased use of emergent resources
- Fewer in-patient admissions
- Reduced arrests and court filings
- Reduced recidivism
- Decrease in jail population
- Decreased need for CYFD intervention
- Cost savings associated with above results
- Increased Public Safety

## Expected Individual Outcomes

- Stable housing
- Increased income
- Family stability/reunification
- Fewer psychiatric crises
- Improved health
- Increased support for sobriety
- Support in meeting judicial obligations improving opportunity for favorable resolution of system involvement

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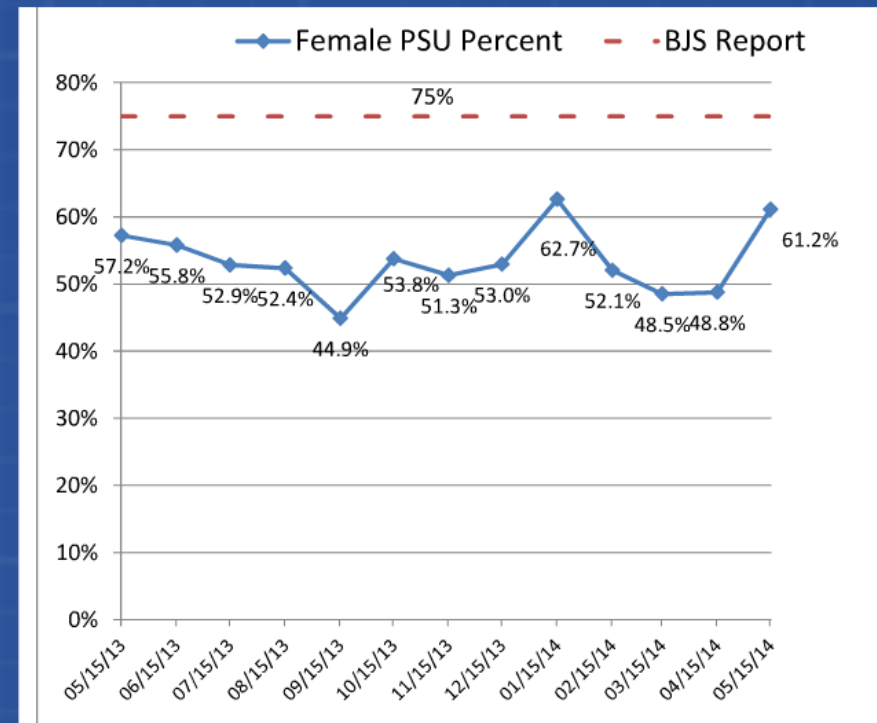
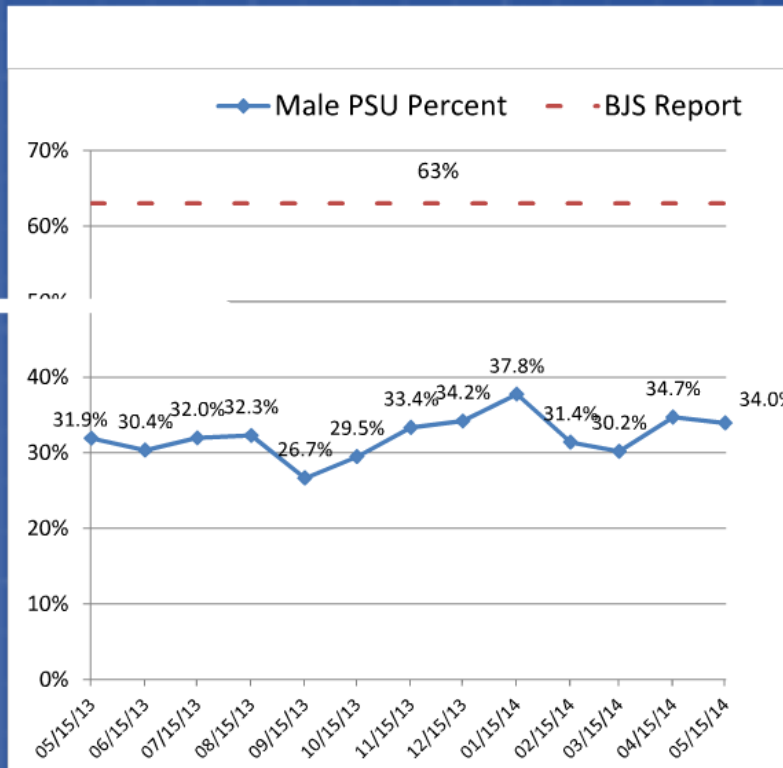
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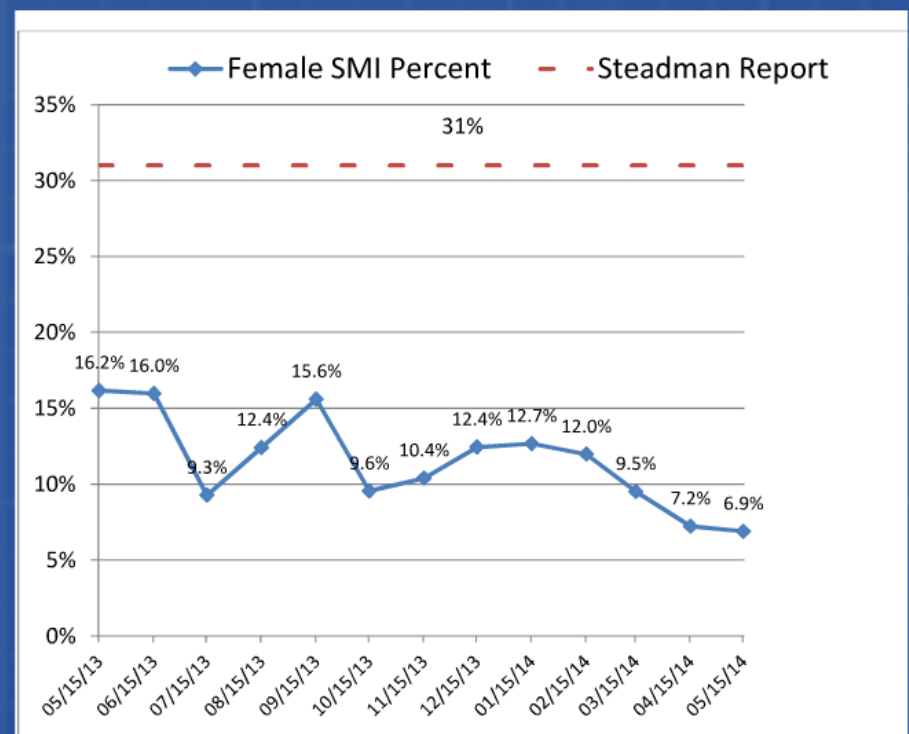
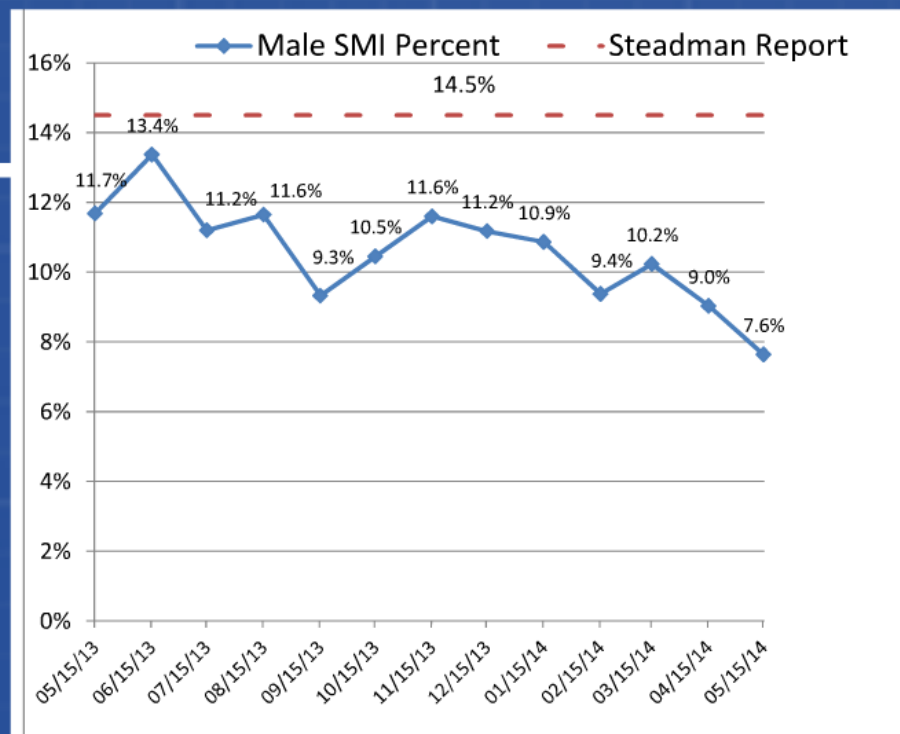
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## Identified Service Priorities

- Crisis Triage Center with linkage to services
- Supportive Housing identified repeatedly as a critical need
- Specialized services for individuals exiting jails and prisons because of inadequate transition planning and unique needs



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# Program Structure

Project Director

Criminal Justice  
Stakeholders

Courts

Pretrial  
Services

Public  
Defender

PSU

Other law  
enforcement

County  
Coordinator

Provider  
Assessment

Court  
Approved  
Release

Judicial  
Oversight

- PTS
- CCP

Community  
Providers  
selected by  
RFP process





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## Wrap-Around Services

- Case management in range of 10-15:1
- Vocational assistance where appropriate
- Life skills education
- Assistance accessing public benefits
- Counseling
- Substance abuse treatment
- Access to psychiatry and medical care
- Housing

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## Cost Savings

Jail Population Reduction Savings to Date:

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Jail Population Reduction Savings from Supportive Housing program:  
Annual cost of 75 beds in the jail is \$1.65 million (at higher cost of psych services inmates, closer to \$2.7 million)

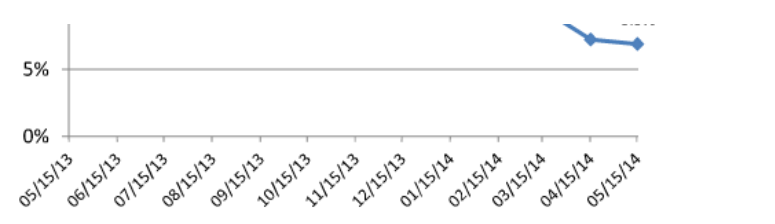
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