



JBBS Program Connects Inmates to Treatment

By Southeast Health Group

Over the past two years, SHG has provided jail-based behavioral health services to over 300 individuals in the Baca, Bent, Crowley, Otero and Prowers County jails. Jan Dutton, a licensed professional counselor, heads up the program.

“The inmates tell us we make a difference,” said Dutton. “They feel accepted, they talk about what they’ve learned in treatment, and they say it’s a good experience.”

The goal of the program is to engage inmates in mental health and substance use disorder treatment while they are in jail, so they will continue with treatment services upon release. The program has not only achieved the

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performance incentive requirement, but done so by a significant amount. The JBBS program has had several inmates who have remained in outpatient services for a year following release.

Dutton, Lauren Carlson, MS, NCC-JBBS clinician and JBBS case manager, Randy Malden, average 30-32 open cases in the five jails at any given time. The jails screen new inmates for issues related to mental health and substance use in the first few days of custody. Dutton receives the referrals from the jails and determines eligibility for services.

“We go into the jails and provide a second level of evaluation,” said Dutton. “It’s important to gauge an inmate’s willingness to engage in treatment, and the factors that lead to their addiction or mental health disorder.”

Dutton, Carlson and Malden provide substance use and mental health counseling, as well as case management, helping people find resources they’ll need upon release from jail. The JBBS staff provides coordination of care with medical providers to assist some inmates with psychiatric medication needs.

“It can be scary for a person with a severe mental illness, if they are arrested and jailed without access to medications. Someone who hears voices or has debilitating delusional thoughts can deteriorate quickly and may become a danger to themselves, even in the jail setting,” said Dutton.

“This program saves lives,” said Dutton, who recently participated in a



Jan Dutton, MA, LPC

regional Naloxone training sponsored by the Harm Reduction Center out of Denver. “The Baca County Sheriff’s Department is on the cutting edge where the heroin epidemic is concerned. They distribute Naloxone kits to identified inmates with a heroin or opiate addiction upon release from jail, which can reverse an overdose situation.”

“If inmates have a good [treatment] experience with us,” said Dutton, “they learn to trust systems and treatment providers. Over time, it has been shown to reduce recidivism and improve lives.” The program is funded by the State of Colorado Office of Behavioral Health.

For more information about Southeast Health Group’s JBBS program, contact Jan Dutton at 1-800-511-5446.