

Alachua County Board of County Commissioners (AC-BoCC) and subcontracted partner Meridian Behavioral HealthCare are jointly applying for BJA funding of **\$615,472.84** over the three period for the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (ID BJA-2020-18312, Embedding Clinicians in Law Enforcement Agencies). Alachua County is mid-sized with urban and rural elements in North Florida. In 2019, Alachua County's population was 269,043 (Census Bureau). In 2015, the AC-BoCC, partners from law enforcement, behavioral health, and criminal justice joined the National Stepping Up Initiative, demonstrating a commitment to reducing the number of adults with mental illness in the County Jail. The JMHCP Category 1 (2017-MO-BX-0027) team conducted a process analysis of the prevalence of individuals with mental illnesses in the County Jail identifying areas needing improvement and results in difficulty addressing the problem.

JMHCP Grant 1 Goals addressed:

- Collected extensive data from primary agencies
- Developed a report with research consultants, informing the strategic plan to be presented to the Alachua County Public Safety Coordinating Council
- Developed informal planning, law enforcement advisory, and data collection/ evaluation teams
- Provided inter-agency training for law enforcement and behavioral health

Planning stage results:

1. Evaluated co-responder model data since inception (serves up to 80 per month per team)
2. Significant, although splintered, services and initiatives exist, though incomplete coordination.
3. Proposing interventions that have been shown by empirical evidence to reduce recidivism including expanding our co-responder model.
4. Data collection is fragmented and difficult to access for evaluation.
5. Implemented validated screening tools at jail booking and in the field to target offenders with a moderate or high risk of recidivism and a need for treatment services.

Implementation Objectives and Deliverables:

1. Promote effective strategies by law enforcement to identify and reduce risk of harm to individuals with MI or MCISA and to public safety by Embedding a Clinician into Law Enforcement Agencies resulting in mitigating unnecessary jail admissions.
2. Develop a formalized Coordinating body to consistently liaise between partner agencies.
3. Promote effective strategies to expand the use of mental health courts and related services by dedicating a Peer Specialist to the grant and leveraging Peer Specialists in partner agencies.
4. Small scale manual data collection from partners and advocate for a common database hub.
5. Formalize the coordinating, law enforcement, and data teams using MOU's developing cross-system and inter-agency teams.
6. Utilize Technical Assistance support
7. Submission of all required financial, programmatic, and final reports.