



**Mental Health
PARTNERS**
Healthy Minds, Healthy Communities

Project EARLY DIVERSION, GET ENGAGED (EDGE)

Overview:

- Initially funded as three-year, \$966,666 federal grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA)
- Boulder County one of three sites nationwide to receive this early diversion grant award
- SAMHSA's goal/program design to divert individuals with mental health and/or substance use disorders from the criminal justice system before arrest
- Clinicians accompany law enforcement officers to respond to calls in the community which involve an individual with suspected or diagnosed behavioral health conditions

Collaborative Partners:

- Mental Health Partners
- Boulder County Sheriff's Office
- City of Boulder Policy Department
- City of Longmont Police Department

EDGE Team Response:

- 6 behavioral health clinicians and 2 part-time peer support specialists
- Provides coverage in the cities of Boulder and Longmont, as well as county-wide response with Sheriff's Office; hours 8am-10pm/7 days/week
- Assists client in accessing behavioral health services including psychotherapy/counseling, substance use & detoxification treatment, case management, housing & employment support
- Assists client and law enforcement in accessing other community-based services

Additional Project Goals:

- Reduce ED visits and 72-hour holds
- Increase law enforcement capacity in crisis intervention

Demographic Experience to Date:

- > 800 encounters from 3/2014 – 7/2015; avg. 70 encounters/month (40 Longmont, 30 Boulder)
- Approx. 23% are 18-29 years; range from 14 to 60+; genders roughly equal in total
- Nearly 44% of encounters complete at least one visit with behavioral health provider

For More Information Contact:

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