

## Tab 4: Project Narrative

### Statement of the Problem

*For both Planning and Implementation and Expansion Grants, describe the problem the project will address. Document the extent of the problem with local or state data and include trend analysis. Describe the project's geographic environment, Target Population, socioeconomic factors, and priority as a community concern. If the Applicant is a consortium of counties, describe the geographic region to be covered.*

3.8.4.1.1 Provide an analysis of the current population of the jail or juvenile detention center in the county or region, which includes:

3.8.4.1.1.1 The screening and assessment process used to identify the Target Population(s);

3.8.4.1.1.2 The percentage of persons admitted to the jail or juvenile detention center that represents people who have a mental illness, substance abuse disorder, or co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders;

3.8.4.1.1.3 An analysis of observed contributing factors that affect population trends in the county jail or juvenile detention center; and

3.8.4.1.1.4 Data and descriptive narrative that delineates the specific factors that put the Target Population at-risk of entering or re-entering the criminal or juvenile justice systems.

Despite a decline in the number of youth involved in the juvenile justice system and similar declines in youth incarceration over the last decade, the prevalence of youth with behavioral health needs who are justice involved has continued to increase. Likewise, the number of at-risk youth is increasing and posing new challenges to the community, school and justice systems that are working to adequately identify and effectively address the emerging needs of Flagler County youth. Unlike the adult population, early identification of the behavioral health needs of youth is achievable with effective community and school-based processes to identify and assess mental health and substance abuse issues enabling appropriate interventions and services to be provided at the earliest possible juncture. The availability of public data to quantify the level of need for youth is also much more comprehensive than for adults due to data collection activities by a variety of government systems including public school systems, Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Children and Families and the Department of Health.

This proposed assessment and planning project will enable community leaders to conduct an in-depth investigation, beyond the current scope and depth of data presented in this proposal, to clearly define the **Target Population** of focus for the Strategic Plan to be developed. It is anticipated that much of the focus of the Flagler Strategic Plan will be at-risk youth identified through **Intercept 1**—to align with the prevention orientation of the Flagler Community and the mandate noted in 2.1.3.2 of the RFA Program Specifications “*to intercept individuals from the system at the earliest point possible.*”

### **Youth with Behavioral Health Needs in the Juvenile Justice System: Extent of the Problem and Trend Analysis**

According to the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, “Over 65% of the youth in the