

**Criminal Justice Mental Health and Substance
Abuse Reinvestment Grant**

DCF RFA 2021 001

Hanley Center Foundation

Hendry and Glades County Addendum



Statement of the Problem

Utilizing the Sequential Intercept Mappings from Glades and Hendry Counties, the committee determined that the highest priorities for the strategic plan would be: first, increasing access to treatment services; second, providing an alternative to incarceration through a mental health court; and third, begin working towards a trauma-informed system of care. These address the combined reported needs from both SIMs which identified more case management and access to local care as the top priority for each. The improved access to local treatment will benefit the community as a whole, not just those at risk for interaction with the justice system.

Drug arrests in Hendry and Glades Counties for 2019 data place both counties in the top quartile of Florida counties.

Arrests	Hendry	Glades
Individual Arrests	435	219
Rate Per 100,000	1,084	1,669
Quartile Rank	1 st Quartile	1 st Quartile
Source: Florida Drug-Related Outcomes Surveillance and Tracking System (FROST)		

Project Design and Implementation

Additional screenings: Participants in mental health court will be screened for acceptance into the program based on a tool that has yet to be designed but will be based strongly on the Alachua County mental health court screening tool. Participants will also receive a needs assessment screening to determine their needs and ability to meet the program criteria. The exact screening tool has not been determined, but it will target transportation, finances, and family and community supports. We will be following the Alachua County program as a guide as they have a successful program and have agreed to mentor this project.

Through partnership with the county court systems, the district attorney's office, the public defender's office, and the Department of Juvenile Justice, the mental health court will be utilized as an alternative to incarceration program for qualifying candidates. Potential participants will be identified by the public defender's office and the Department of Juvenile Justice and a judge from the county court system will oversee the judicial aspects of the program for participants. The participants will be engaged in more structured mental health treatment and will be given case management services to ensure their compliance with the program. This addresses the Sequential Intercept Mapping priority of case management services. Partnering with the United Way to staff their community mental health center will provide the increased access to services priority of the SIM.

Performance Measures

Performance measures regarding the teen court and mental health court will be collected and reported by the specialty court coordinator on a monthly basis. The reports will be shared with the planning committee and evaluation team every quarter and the committee will assess progress towards goals for each program implemented. The program will be assessed on process outcomes (screening results, needs assessment results, program participation) as well as program deliverables. The planning committee, in conjunction with the program leads, will work to overcome any obstacles that reduce the opportunity for program success among participants.

Capability and Experience

Many members of the planning committee will be participating in the program implementation activities, bringing their experience to bear. The county court system has experience working with specialty court programs, the two counties currently share an adult drug court program. The mental health court will be following the model utilized by Alachua County, who has agreed to be a mentor program for the project. For the trauma-informed care trainings, the SEDNET Project will be providing that program to the Hendry and Glades County School Districts. This is part of the SEDNET priorities, they have provided the program across Florida for the past ten years. The evaluation of the program will be managed by WellFlorida, who have extensive experience in program evaluation.

Evaluation and Sustainability

According to a 2003 study of the Clark County (Wash.) mental health court, participants had significantly more case management, outpatient service days, and medication monitoring after enrollment than before enrollment. Additionally, participants had 68% fewer crisis intervention and 75% inpatient treatment days post-enrollment. This leads us to believe that mental health court participants in Hendry and Glades County will also benefit from fewer crisis intervention and inpatient treatment days, thereby reducing the number of individuals committed to a state mental health treatment facility.