

Mental Health Crises & Police Contact in Midtown Detroit

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Bazelon Performance Improvement Project

A proposed study looking into root causes of police interactions with persons in mental health crisis.

This study further will explore the cost of police response to persons experiencing mental health crisis

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The Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law

- The Bazelon Center envisions an America where people who have mental disabilities exercise their own life choices.
- The Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law is a nonprofit organization devoted to improving the lives of people with mental illnesses through changes in policy and law.
- For nearly four decades our legal and policy advocates have engaged in impact litigation, policy reform and public education to ensure the rights of people with mental illnesses in all areas of life, including housing, employment, education, public systems, health care, the judiciary and more.
- The Bazelon Center envisions an America where people who have mental disabilities exercise their own life choices and have access to the resources that enable them to participate fully in their communities.

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Bazon Performance Improvement Project

- The Bazon Center, in partnership with five communities across the country, is conducting a three year Performance Improvement Project (PIP) designed to reduce reliance on law enforcement officers in responding to psychiatric emergencies.
- The goals of the PIP is to help community mental health systems to take responsibility for meeting the needs of consumers at risk of arrest or incarceration.
- The goal is for communities to take a proactive -- and more cost-effective -- approach to psychiatric emergencies.
- This project goes beyond the calls for closer collaboration between mental health and criminal justice agencies or better mental health care in jails.
- Five communities—Travis County, TX, Allegheny County, PA, Wayne County, MI, Multnomah County, OR, and Westchester County, NY—participate in the PIP.

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Performance Improvement Project Desired Outcomes

- Identify when and where mental health emergencies are occurring
- Establish what systems were involved during and prior to the mental health crisis
- Ascertain gaps in the service continuum intended to address the needs of individuals with Severe and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI)
- Identify systems and interventions that assist in preventing or reducing severity of the mental health crisis
- Determine the level of police involvement in addressing mental health crisis
- Use findings to create better mental health services to address the needs of individuals with SPMI
- Utilize data on costs to advocate for policy change to support such interventions

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Performance Improvement Project in Detroit

- Neighborhood Service Organization (NSO) was selected as one of the five sites that are participating in the PIP project.
- The population targeted for the Detroit site are homeless with SPMI
- The Midtown area of Detroit has been selected as the focus area for this initiative

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Midtown

- NSO is located in Midtown
- Key service providers are located in the heart of Midtown
- The Wayne State police department patrols Midtown
- Cost efficient



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Committees

Steering Committee

Goal: To advise NSO and its Performance Improvement Team* on strategies to reduce and prevent the occurrence of psychiatric crisis (mental health emergencies) in the midtown area of Detroit.

Performance Improvement Team

Goal: To serve as the central point of data collection, data analysis and accountability for performance improvements in the reduction and prevention of the occurrence of psychiatric crisis (mental health emergencies) in the midtown area of Detroit.

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Data Collection goals

- Root Cause Analysis

One of the major goals is to identify the root cause of police interactions with persons in mental health crisis.

- Cost Analysis

The other goal is to explore the cost of police response (and hospitals) to persons experiencing mental health crisis

Data Collection Protocol for Root Cause Analysis

- Interviews and focus groups will be done to identify factors contributing to mental health crises that lead to police contact
- Two key groups will be recruited; heavy service using homeless with SPMI and key stakeholders (Police officers, County Mental Health providers, Midtown community org. members, hospital staff, and homeless service providers)
- Interviews will be completed with 10 stakeholders (police officers & hospital staff) and 16 interviews with homeless with SPMI
- A focus group, informed by interviews, will be completed with all stakeholder groups and one group of homeless with SPMI

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Data Collection Protocol for Cost Analysis

- Secondary data analysis will be completed of organizational management information systems of Police and Hospitals identifying cost in services and man hours for individual mental health crisis contacts
- Current proposed organization data sources; WSU Police, Detroit Police, Henry Ford Hospital, and Detroit Medical Center

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