



**Sabine
Center**
Longview,
75601
107
Place

Valley
TX
Woodbine

Phone: (903) 237-2341
Fax: (903) 753-8008
E-mail:
lee.brown@sabinevalley.org

DIVERSION ACTION PLAN 2006



*A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND SABINE VALLEY
CENTER IN GREGG COUNTY*

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INTRODUCTION

Since FY04 there has been a cooperative plan between Gregg County and Sabine Valley Center. Each successive year this plan has been built upon to encompass new needs and refine existing activities as directed by the jail diversion task force. Gregg County was selected as it has the highest population of the six-county catchment area. With a Jail Census of 500 and 25 to 40 bookings a day, it is by far the busiest jail in our area. Likewise the Juvenile Probation Office for Gregg County works with 600 adolescents annually.

This Plan then builds on last year's efforts and works to promote a more effective system when persons with mental illness are arrested or placed into juvenile detention.

TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Sabine Valley Center wishes to thank the following persons for their willingness to serve on this project.

- **Judge Bill Stoudt, County Judge – Gregg County**
- **Sheriff Maxey Cerliano, Sheriff – Gregg County**
- **Rodney Burns, Sheriff's Office, Jail Captain – Gregg County**
- **Stephen L Clark, Sheriff's office, Jail Lieutenant – Gregg County**
- **Mike Dooley, Sheriff's Office – Gregg County**
- **Molly Lewis, Asst. Dist. Attorney – Gregg County**
- **Charles Homes, Advocate, Family Member, NAMI representative**
- **Clair Balliett, Advocacy Incorporated, Advocate**
- **Shelly Smith, Casework Supervisor, Juvenile Probation Dept – Gregg County**
- **Cindy Martindale, Juvenile Probation**
- **Prudence Thrasher, Advocate, Consumer, & local PAC Member**
- **Inman White, Director of Sabine Valley Center**
- **Kathryn Jones, Director of Community Health Services (SVC)**
- **Rick Douglas, Crisis Services Program Manager (SVC)**
- **Tom Tinsley, MH Outpatient and Children Services Program Director (SVC)**

- **Johnny Stone , STAR Program Manager (SVC)**
- **Lee A. Brown, Contract Manager (SVC)**

MISSION

Working together as a Community System:

- Keep People out of the Criminal Justice System who do not need to be there due to their mental health or co-occurring illness.
- Provide better coordinated services to persons in jail / detention.
- And to provide linkage to services and supports upon release from incarceration.

Adopted from Dr. Stedman of the TAPA Center for Jail Diversion

SYSTEM COMPONENTS

COMPONENTS OF THE JUSTICE SYSTEM IN GREGG COUNTY

- The Gregg County Jail. This facility houses a jail population up to 500 persons. With 20 to 40 bookings a day, it is estimated that 11,000 persons are booked into the County Jail a year. Using a national average of 15% for persons in jail who have a mental illness, it is estimated that 1,095 persons in the Gregg County jail have a mental illness.
- The Gregg County Juvenile Probation Department. This unit of the justice system works with 200 adolescents at any one time. Annually they serve 600 adolescents. Of these it was estimated that 50% or 300 adolescents have mental health needs.
 - The Gregg County Juvenile Detention Center on Turk Street, Longview, TX is a short term facility where adolescents live until their disposition; usually occurs within 14 days.

- The Marvin A. Smith Regional Juvenile Facility, Gladewater, TX is a 40 bed facility that serves counties all over Texas as a long-term facility.

COMPONENTS OF SABINE VALLEY CENTER

- Crisis Services. This is a 24 hour crisis response unit that will respond to crisis needs within a one hour response time (often in less time).
- Outpatient Clinics for both Children and Adults. Sabine Valley Center operates clinics in five of the six surrounding counties. All five of the clinics are open 5 days a week including evening hours and at least one day a week is visited by a Board Certified Child Psychiatrist.
- Services to at Risk Youth (STAR). Sabine Valley Center operates a STAR program that works with youth and their families in thirteen surrounding counties. It is a grant funded by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.
- CORE Team. The CORE Team is Sabine Valley Center's process that brings key components of Sabine Valley Center together to staff difficult cases.

INTEGRATION OF SYSTEMS

- Crisis Screenings. If there is a need from the jail, juvenile probation or other justice component to screen and assess a person for possible inpatient hospitalization, a call is placed to the 24-hour 1-800-832-1009 making the request. Information from the caller is screened to determine if the person is at risk of injuring self or others. Cases that meet the criteria are referred on to the on-call crisis team member who will come to the location and make a determination if the person is a threat to

self or others. (Note: transportation for Crisis Screenings is not an issue as Sabine Valley Center crisis staff travel to the individual whether in jail or detention.) In such cases when this occurs, and the Mental Health Deputy agrees, the person is transported to Rusk State Hospital for treatment.

DELIVERABLES

ADULT

GREGG COUNTY JAIL BOOKING PROCESS

Flow charts of the booking process at the Gregg County jail will assist all participants to better understand how the process works and identify potential opportunities for pre or post-booking jail diversion. It will include points of interaction between Sabine Valley Center staff and the process. Molly Lewis, Clair Balliett, Deputies, and Lee Brown combined to diagram this process.

EARLY AND ONGOING IDENTIFICATION FOR PERSONS IN COUNTY JAIL

Since February 2005 Gregg County Jail has sent Monday – Friday a listing of all persons who have been booked since the last submission. Through funding provided by TCOOMMI this information comes in an electronic format that is CARE batch ready. Sabine Valley Center staff upload this information and submit to CARE. The next working day, the results are emailed to the jail identifying persons who have received services in the past from within the Department of State Health Services or its contractors.

Since January 2006 Sabine Valley Center staff have faxed to the nurse at the local jail a list of any prescribed medications ordered by Sabine

Valley Center psychiatrists if currently under their treatment. This information is sent in response to a request to improve continuity of care for persons currently receiving treatment by Sabine Valley Center.

The task force agreed that this process was working well and recommended its continuation.

SCREENINGS FOR NON-CRISIS INMATES AT THE COUNTY JAIL

Gregg County jail will contact Rick Douglas, Crisis services, when there is a particular case that they would like to have screened. As already described above, Sabine Valley Center screens persons in the jail who appear to be a threat to themselves or others. The service described here is for cases that don't meet that definition but something seems to be going on and the Jail would like a consultative look. The results of the screening will be shared with the Jail. Some of the cases may be referred to the Sabine Valley Center CORE team, where high profile / difficult cases are staffed. For example if a person is routinely going into jail for vagrancy as they are both mentally ill and homeless, the core team could explore if there are any services or supports that might meet this need.

- Status: Implemented
- Estimated Cost: \$20,160 (MH General Revenue)
- Due Date: NA

The task force agreed that this process was working well and recommended its continuation.

TCOOMMI REQUEST FOR JAIL DIVERSION

In FY05 Sabine Valley Center did apply for and received a TCOOMMI request for Jail Diversion. A system was implemented in early summer and operated through August 31, 2005 when the grant expired. Unfortunately this type of grant was not funded by the Texas Legislature. Both Judge Stoudt and the County sheriffs commented that this was beneficial to the county and were disappointed that it had ended.

DSHS REQUEST FOR JAIL DIVERSION

Kathryn Jones reported that Sabine Valley Center applied in January 2006 for a very competitive grant sponsored by the Mental Health Program Services Unit of the Department of State Health Services. If funded Sabine Valley Center would receive \$79,000 to fund a Jail Diversion Case Manager, Psychiatrist time, and medications to support persons being diverted from the County Jail. Judge Stoudt stated that he would seek matching funds to expand this grant based upon the success of the grant in diverting persons out of the county jail last year.

- Status: Submitted
- Estimated Cost: \$79,000 (Grant DSHS)
\$19,000 (MH General Revenue)
No amount identified at this time
- Due Date: Awaiting notification

DEVELOP A MODEL FOR JAIL DIVERSION

The Task Force discussed and agreed that it should further explore and then develop a model for jail diversion that is based on best practice suited for our size. Kathryn Jones will describe the grant proposal and send this out prior to our next meeting. The task force will meet in

approximately one month to discuss the process and to share other models.

- Status: Initiated
- Estimated Cost: \$500 (Sabine Valley Center)
- Next Step: February 28th
- Due Date: June 1, 2006

TRAINING FOR FIELD DEPUTIES AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Task Force discussed the training needs for law enforcement personnel. It was identified that the mental health deputies (3 in Gregg County) have had the 3 day mental health training. However it was believed that Field Deputies and local law enforcement would benefit from training. Training should focus on understanding mental illness and describe how to access the system. Helping deputies and officers in understanding the difference between an emergency and a need for help was specifically requested. Lee Brown will contact Shirley Kincaid, Instructor, to explore what type of training could be made available and the cost. Lee Brown will also work with Rick Douglas to help incorporate Sabine Valley Center's Crisis services and the intake process into the training.

- Status: New
- Estimated Cost: \$500 (Sabine Valley Center)
- Due Date: June 1, 2006

JUVINALE

GREGG COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION – IDENTIFICATION OF DETAINEES WITH HISTORY OF MENTAL ILLNESS

In FY05 Shelly Smith, Casework Supervisor, Gregg County Juvenile Probation Department explored the availability of sharing information with Sabine Valley Center electronically for the purposes of identifying persons in detention who have a history of mental illness. This does not appear to be an avenue that is going to produce the hoped for results to the interpretation of the law surrounding juveniles.

Shelly will pursue the sharing of information. Due to confidentiality laws she had doubts as to whether such information could be shared. Shelly did say that they typically had good information from parents and school regarding any mental health issues.

- Status: In progress.
- Estimated cost: to be determined
- Due Date is June 1, 2006.

COUNSELING SERVICES

Last year the need for adolescents to receive counseling services was identified. Sabine Valley Center will be able to provide this service within the Resiliency and Disease Management (R&DM) model while available resources last. Shelly Smith will share this resource availability with juvenile probation caseworkers. Sabine Valley Center will be alert to referrals coming in from juvenile probation and work to see these adolescents.

- Status: Implemented
- Estimated Cost: \$28,800 (\$9,540 Medicaid Billing and \$19,260 MH General Revenue).

Shelly Smith reported that the process appears slow in getting appointments to access the service. Kathryn Jones will ask Tom

Tinsley to establish a red flag system to help prioritize this population if possible.

- Due Date: 2/23/2006

CRCG MEETINGS

Sabine Valley Center sends one or more representatives to the CRCG meeting. However, if Juvenile Probation has a special case and would like additional support at a CRCG meeting to staff this case, Tom Tinsley of SVC Children Services is to be contacted and he will arrange for additional staff to attend based upon the needs of the case.

- Status: Implemented
- Estimated Cost: \$490 (MH General Revenue)
- Due Date: NA

Cindy Martindale, stated that Sabine Valley Center has consistently been in attendance and there were no special needs cases this past year requiring additional staff.

ANGER MANAGEMENT

Through the reduction of funding, the Juvenile Probation Office is not able to directly provide anger management training as it has been able to in the past. The Juvenile Probation Office will discuss with the STAR program the possibility of Anger Management being provided by the STAR staff.

- Status: In process
- Estimated Cost: \$3,010 (Grant Funding from TFPS)
- Due Date: Evaluation of this possibility should be completed by February 28th with services beginning the subsequent month if feasible.

This continues to be a need. Johnny Stone offered to redeploy a staff person to increase the capacity in Gregg County. Shelly Smith will follow up with Johnny Stone further to utilize this service.

OTHER DISCUSSION POINTS

FORENSIC BEDS

The Task Force received copies of the Criminal Code Commitment Admissions to State Psychiatric Hospitals dated 12/22/2005. Kathryn Jones and Inman White summarized with the group the changes that are going into effect and how it might impact local commitments from the County Jail to a State Hospital.

LOCAL HOSPITAL

The Task Force discussed a new psychiatric hospital that has opened in the area. Judge Stoudt shared his desire to find out more about their services now that it is operational.

TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP

The Task Force review the current members of the Task Force and recommended the following additions:

- Representative from Adult Probation
- Representative from Parole
- Medical Staff from the County Jail – Head Nurse and Psychiatrist

Lee Brown will seek out representatives prior to the next meeting.

ONGOING COLLABORATION

The task force's next meeting will be in late February or early March to hear reports back regarding on-going deliverables particularly development of a Jail Diversion Model.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX A – ASSIGNMENT TABLE

Appendix A – ASSIGNMENT TABLE

DELIVERABLE	TASK	RESPONSIBLE Persons	DUE DATE	STATUS
Gregg County Jail Booking Process	Develop a flowchart of the process	Molly Lewis and Lee Brown	Completed	Completed
Early and Ongoing Identification for Persons in County Jail	Send		Ongoing	Ongoing
Screening for Non-Crisis Inmates at the County Jail	Jail Emails list of persons. SVC returns matches and list of current medications for those in current service	Captain Burns and Rick Douglas	Ongoing	Ongoing
DSHS Request for Jail Diversion	Submission of a grant to DSHS	Kathryn Jones	Completed	Awaiting Notification
Develop a Model for Jail Diversion	Send out description of Grant.	Kathryn Jones	2/17/06	New
Training for Field Deputies and Local Law Enforcement	Identify training for field deputies and local law enforcement	Lee Brown & Rick Douglas	6/1/2006	New
Identification of Detainees with History of Mental Illness	Explore sharing of information for CARE Batching for persons in the Juvenile Detention Center.	Shelly Smith, Cindy Martindale & Lee Brown	6/1/06	Revised

Counseling Services	Creation of a Red Flag system to help prioritize persons in the juvenile probation system	Kathryn Jones & Tom Tinsley	2/23/06	New
CRCG Meetings	Send additional staff if needed for special cases	Cindy Martindale & Tom Tinsley	Ongoing	Ongoing
Anger Management	Follow up to access services	Shelly Smith & Johnny Stone	2/28/06	Revised
Local Hospital	Obtain more information re current operations	Sabine Valley Center	3/1/06	New
Task Force Membership	Seek additional members from Adult Probation, Parole, and County Jail Medical Staff	Lee A Brown	2/23/06	New