

PROJECT NAME: BRIDGES Project
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TIMELINE: March 2009-Present

CONTENT AREA: Criminal Justice and Mental Health

FUNDER: Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City \$321,157 Jackson County
Community Mental Health Fund

CLIENT: Regional Correctional Center

AUDIENCE: Community Corrections, Mental Health Funders

**RESEARCH
METHODOLOGY:** Quantitative and Qualitative Methods

OVERVIEW:

BRIDGES is an intensive Case Management Project that targets individuals who are incarcerated at Regional Correctional Center (RCC) who have a mild to moderate mental health diagnosis. Participants are typically incarcerated for crimes such as prostitution, stealing and/or possession of drug paraphernalia. Many of the participants also face issues of severe trauma, homelessness, and unemployment. As a housing first model the program is designed to include diagnosis, counseling and intensive case management. Intensive Case Management focuses on five primary areas: Stable Housing, Sustainable Legal Income, Managed Mental Health Care, Managed Physical Health Care, and Freedom from Substance Abuse (addiction). Case managers utilize community-based treatment programs, self-help groups, and link participants to appropriate main stream and community resources to better ensure successful re-entry into the community. The overall goal is to end the cycle of incarceration with clients in stable housing, managed physical and mental health care and having sustainable legal income.

RDI developed client baseline, discharge interviews and a Client Satisfaction survey. RDI implemented a pre and post Quality of Life instrument to measure change in the clients overall satisfaction with their quality of life. Additionally, RDI developed a report form for Case Managers to capture the services that they provided to clients. Outcomes evaluation will determine the effect of the project on expanding the availability of mental health services at RCC. RDI coordinates the data collection for clients who were referred and not enrolled in the program as well as for clients participating in the intensive case management program. RDI conducts quantitative and qualitative content analysis on program data produces quarterly fact sheets and semi-annual reports for the funder. Evaluators also

participate in the Advisory Board meetings and Clinical sub-committee meetings.

LINKS:

Jackson County Community Mental Health Fund

<http://www.jacksoncountycares.org>