

Subcommittee on Behavioral Health

Identify and propose resources to treat those who suffer from mental illness and/or co-occurring substance use disorders. These individuals are at a higher risk of becoming involved with the criminal justice system, as a defendant or a victim. Establish a model for effective jail deflection and diversion strategies that fosters an ongoing and successful exchange of information among courts, criminal justice agencies, behavioral health professionals, and community stakeholders. The Subcommittee on Behavioral Health will identify available data across criminal justice, public health and social service agencies to identify those individuals with the highest number of contacts with police, emergency medical services, emergency departments, and other services, and work collaboratively to support programs that focus on public safety and public health. The Subcommittee will utilize the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) as a planning tool to develop, promote and identify gaps and strategies. The philosophy of the subcommittee is that every intersection is a decision-point and an opportunity to deflect or divert those with behavioral health issues away from the criminal justice system. The activities focus on law enforcement and behavioral health crisis interventions, training, provision of housing, accessible and affordable treatment within the jail system and upon release. Additional activities work to promote policies that adequately fund appropriate services and avoid unsuitable criminal justice system responses.

Subcommittee on Community Safety

The Subcommittee on Community Safety is focused on coordinating data relative to crime and safety in Polk County, and making analyses. Every interaction within the criminal justice system offers an opportunity to divert, deflect or mitigate the impacts of incarceration, while ensuring public safety. In addition, this subcommittee will assist in analyzing the impact on public safety the strategies put forth by other subcommittees. The goal is to ensure that public safety remains a top priority of the Polk County CJCC and whatever strategies, programs, initiatives, etc., that are being considered get reviewed for any potential negative impact on public safety. Moreover, this subcommittee will be tasked with identifying opportunities to safely deflect and divert low risk adults and young people from being arrested, charged, or processed into the Polk County Jail.

Subcommittee on Community Deflection and Diversion

The Subcommittee on Community Deflection and Diversion is focused on developing intervention strategies that help at-risk populations find assistance they need so they don't end up in the criminal justice system. It is expected that the subcommittee will work closely with the Behavioral Health subcommittee. The subcommittee identifies strategies, gaps, and opportunities to deflect and divert with initiatives that are neighborhood, community or individual focused. In addition, by working with the County Attorney's Office and the District Court, the subcommittee can harness the power of the social service network, community leadership and the justice system to address local issues. The goal is to connect adults and juveniles committing less serious crimes to judicially supervised treatment, alternative sanctions, and other community-based services. By utilizing a holistic approach to address the individual, the subcommittee works to identify programs that reduce crime, reduce recidivism, and improve quality of life issues. Quality of life improvements focus on those who find themselves homeless, jobless or in need of social system supports. Policy considerations recognize that developmental differences between children and adults must be taken into consideration. By developing approaches that reduce risk factors and enhance protective factors to control delinquency and reduce recidivism.