

## **Criminal Justice and Mental health Intercept Project**

Improving the response to adults with mental health needs who are in contact with the criminal justice system is the goal of a collaborative planning project among criminal justice and mental health systems in Johnson County. UCS is facilitating the 12-month project that is supported by a grant from the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City. A final report is expected to be released in June 2010.

An increasing number of individuals in jails, prisons, and in community settings have mental health issues. Estimates indicate that 24 percent of individuals in state prisons have a recent history of mental disorders. \* The goal of this collaborative planning process is to develop a system that intervenes at the earliest point possible in order to get mental health services to people before they enter the criminal justice system or get too far into the system, and help people with mental illness who are incarcerated prepare for a safe and successful transition to the community.

“Unfortunately, many people with mental health issues end up in the criminal justice system. Many of them, particularly those with serious and persistent mental illnesses, are better served by appropriate care and treatment which may not be able to be provided through the criminal justice system. Clearly, community safety can be enhanced by focusing community resources to provide appropriate treatment in a quick and responsive manner”. Stephen Tatum, Chief Judge, 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial District

A 12-member leadership team is guiding the project. In addition, representatives from each member’s organization are serving on a work team that meets monthly. The Council of State Governments Justice Center is providing technical assistance. For more information about the project contact Marya Schott, maryas@ucsjoco.org or 913-438-4764.

*\*U.S. Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Statistics*

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### **Leadership Team Members**

Frank Denning, Johnson County Sheriff  
John Douglass, Chief, Overland Park Police Department  
Betsy Gillespie, Director, Johnson County Department of Corrections  
Rise Haneberg, Criminal Justice Coordinator, Johnson County Government  
Ellen Hanson, Chief, Lenexa Police Department  
Steve Howe, Johnson County District Attorney  
Sharon Manson, Past President, National Alliance on Mental Illness Johnson County  
Michael McCulloch, 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Public Defender  
Kathleen Rieth, Administrative Officer, Johnson County Court Services  
Marilyn Scafe, Kansas Dept. of Corrections, Re-Entry Policy Council  
Stephen Tatum, Chief Judge, 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial District  
David Wiebe, Executive Director, Johnson County Mental Health