

ESSEX COUNTY LEMHRS

LAW ENFORCEMENT MENTAL HEALTH REFERRAL SYSTEM



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And
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INTRODUCING ESSEX COUNTY



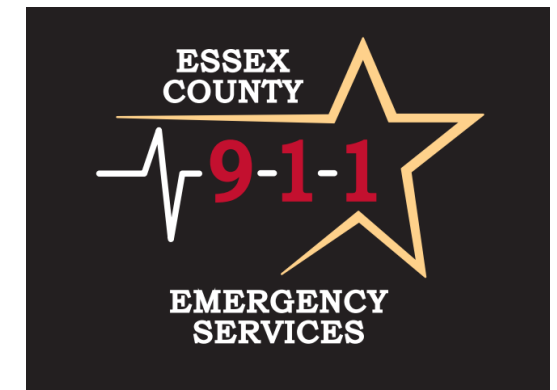
- Essex County
 - 1,916 square miles (including water), that's bigger than Rhode Island and smaller than Delaware
 - Population: 36,933 (2019)
 - Population Density: 20.6 persons/square mile (land)
 - It's rural! There are only 7 stop lights in entire county
 - Mental Health Clinic serves entire county; Mental Health Association provides Supportive Services to those with psychiatric conditions; St. Joseph's Treatment and Recovery Center (predominantly substance use)
 - Essex County Sheriff's Department has 6 deputies, 2 sergeants and the Chief Deputy
 - 3 (of 18) Essex County communities have their own law enforcement (does not include Saranac Lake)
 - New York State Troop B: Clinton, Essex (Zone 3), Franklin, Upper Hamilton & St. Lawrence (approximately 8,456 square miles)

HISTORY OF LEMHRS



- November 2017 NYS Office of Mental Health CIT (Crisis Intervention Team) Training – 7 NYS Troopers (several were Sergeants) and 6 Essex County Deputies
- Spring 2018 – Essex County Heroin & Opioid (ECHO) coalition explored LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion) and determined it was difficult to implement in a rural setting
- Spring 2018 – Essex County provider and law enforcement members participated in a SIM (Sequential Intercept Model) that was AHI sponsored
- April 2018 – Providers and Law Enforcement met to create a unique solution that could work in Essex County – CIT trained LE, active mobile health, close working relationship between mental health providers and LE, two 24/7 Essex County-based crisis response solutions
- May 2018 – Discovery of an on-line platform (Wufoo) for LE to make simple referrals
- July 10, 2018 – First live referral
- Ongoing – Coordinated cross-services solutions

PARTNERS

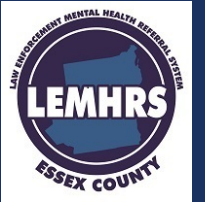


LEMHRS PROCESS



- Law Enforcement makes a decision that someone with a behavioral health condition (who may not have committed a crime*) could benefit from a referral to Care Coordination, Mental Health provider system, and/or Substance Use providers (added in early 2020)
- LE officer fills out an on-line referral using a Wufoo website link
- Referral goes to maximum of 10 behavioral health provider staff emails (limitation of Wufoo) so that the referral is not missed
- Care Coordination and Mental Health triage referral for response
- LE is only provided a “we got it” response to the referral

* Bail Reform has resulted in increased referrals



INSTRUCTIONS FOR LE “WHEN TO MAKE A LEMHRS REFERRAL”

Mental Health Disorders

- Mental health condition or symptoms affect the person’s ability to work, carry out daily activities, and engage in satisfying relationships

Substance Use Disorders

- Recurrent use of alcohol and/or drugs that lead to same disruption as MH disorder

Repetitive calls for the same person/address

- Suicidal gestures, suicide attempts
- Welfare checks with a mental health component (i.e. not enough for a MHL)
- MHLs resulting in transport to CVPH/Glens Falls/AMC Saranac Lake

When in doubt, please go ahead and make the referral.

LEMHRS REFERRAL FORM



■ Components of Referral Form (*Required Fields)

- Date*
- Name*
- Phone
- Address
- Gender
- DOB
- Name of Law Enforcement Officer*
- Email of LEO that completed form is sent to*

- LEO Phone
- What prompted welfare check or 9-41?
- Describe situation/circumstances of person needing MH or SU factors
- Suicide Risk Status
- Safety Assessment
- Legal Status
- Individual's Last Known Location
- Did the person agree to this referral?*

LEMHRS DATA



- Total Referrals since July 10, 2018: 193 (duplicated); 9 individuals have more than one referral
- Gender breakdown: 103 male; 90 female
- Ages: 162 adults; 31 juveniles
- Referrals by LE Agency:
 - NYS Police: 109
 - Essex County Sheriff's Department: 44
 - Ticonderoga Town PD: 33
 - Other: 7

FINER DETAILS OF LEMHRS



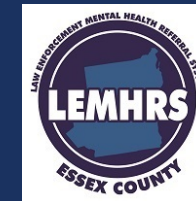
- It is a one-way referral system; information does **not** flow back from the provider to LE
- It is not a crisis referral program
- Doesn't require major training on LE side; Referral Form is self-explanatory and simple to use
- Provider never reveals LE as the referral source when approval not provided by individual
- All 9.41 (transports to hospitals) result in a LEMHRS referral so that the LEMHRS providers can connect with the individual following hospitalization
- Behavioral Health system has received referrals for people whom we have *NEVER* seen before; LE was doing social work and were frequently responding to same individuals
- Because LE and Behavioral Health system are working together, it allows for LE to do more informed warm-handoffs, as compared to before LEMHRS

BENEFITS OF LEMHRS



- In general, law enforcements' job is not designed to be a referral system; and LEMHRS encourages direct MH and SUD referrals
- Low cost to implement
- LE are collaborating *with* “social worker” system – Essex County is being proactive in response to the Black Lives Matter criticisms of current Law Enforcement System
- LE is connecting individuals in need of MH and SU issues to the proper resource
- Reduction of repeat calls to same address – “frequent fliers”
- Program dovetails well with Bail Reform environment
- Program addresses homelessness
- Reduces repeat hospitalizations

SUCCESS STORIES OF LEMHRS



- The story of “Susan”
 - HAS HISTORY OF MHL, ATTEMPTED SUICIDE MULTIPLE TIMES. SHE ATTEMPTED TO DRIVE A VEHICLE OFF OF A BRIDGE ON A SNOWMOBILE TRAIL
- The story of “Jonathan”
 - Suicidal threats, attempted to take gun from gun cabinet, but subsequently left the house unarmed and was later found in a field.



LEMHRS GOALS ALIGNING WITH DSRIP INITIATIVES

- Reduces hospitalizations and ER transports by 20-25% (estimate)
 - Phone follow-up by:
 - Mental Health Association in Essex Co. (case management needs)
 - Essex County Mental Health (mental health needs)
 - St. Joseph's Addiction Treatment & Recovery Centers (substance use treatment needs)
 - Mobile follow-up
 - Mental Health Association, in conjunction with ECMH licensed staff or St. Joseph's CRPA's perform mobile outreach to approximately 10% of the referrals (COVID has limited outreach)
 - Increases post-hospitalization follow-up for 9-41 MHL's
 - Of the 46 referrals in 2020:
 - 7 previously engaged in services at ECMH; One previously engaged with St. Joseph's and 3 already engaged with MHA
 - 16 new engagement with ECMH, one with St. Joseph's and 6 with MHA within 30-60 days of referral
 - 23 were provided outreach and did not engage

FUTURE GOALS OF LEMHRS



- Hospitals making LEMHRS referrals
- Local magistrates making LEMHRS referrals
- Expansion to contiguous counties, such as Clinton, Franklin and St. Lawrence (Vera Institute grant) that each county Director of Community Services will coordinate

COLLABORATION BETWEEN LE AND MH/SU



- Bi-Monthly meetings with all leadership within the Essex County LEMHRS
- Monthly meetings of providers to coordinate and reconcile follow-up
- LEMHRS would not be successful if it wasn't for the positive and trusting relationship between providers and leadership within Essex County.
- A huge THANK YOU goes to:

THANK YOU!!

- New York State Police – Troop B: Major Rueben Oliver, Lt. Christopher Garrow and all Troop B NYS Troopers; along with former Troop B Commanders Major Charles Guess and Major John Tibbitts
- Essex County Sheriff David Reynolds and Deputies
- Essex County Dispatch, Max Thwaites
- Ticonderoga Police Chief Adam Hurlburt and Officers
- Saranac Lake Police Chief James Joyce and Officers
- Lake Placid Police Assistant Chief Chuck Dobson and Officers
- Don Kamin, Director Institute for Police, Mental Health & Community Collaboration
- Leah Pope from the VERA Institute
- Dr. Michael Compton from NYS Office of Mental Health
- Behavioral Health provider leadership and staff of: Mental Health Association in Essex County, Valerie Ainsworth, Doug Meyer, and Markie Te Riele; Essex County Mental Health, Dava Clement and Jessie Morgan, Heather Allen; and St. Joseph's Robin Gay, Krystal Crooker and Brandon Titus

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