

# Alamance Steps Up



**CHIEF DEPUTY TIM BRITT  
COMMISSIONER BOB BYRD**

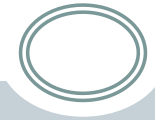
THE  
**STEPPINGUP**  
INITIATIVE

# Jails—a Safety Net?



- Law Enforcement knows that jail only makes the situation worse.
- We also know incarceration of those with mental illness is a burden on our law enforcement and judicial system

# Jails—a Safety Net?



- There is a financial cost to taxpayers
- There is an unmistakable human toll

# The Financial Cost (July 2016)



- **476 new inmates booked**
- **65 identified with mental illness**
  - 51 received psychiatric medications
  - 10 isolated on suicide watch
  - 9 on detox monitoring
  - 42 booked for misdemeanors
  - 40 were repeat offenders

# The Financial Costs



<b>43</b>		<b>(# inmates with mental illness daily)</b>
<b>X</b>	<b>\$77.54</b>	<b>(cost per day—low estimate for MI)</b>
<b>X</b>	<b><u>365</u></b>	<b>(days per year)</b>
<b>\$1.2 million</b>		<b>(annual jail cost)</b>

# The Financial Cost

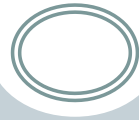
## There is More Than Jail

- **2** trips a day by law enforcement to ED
- **2** trips a day by EMS to ED
- **A TOTAL of 1460** trips per year
- **THESE ARE JUST FOR IVC**

# The Financial Cost

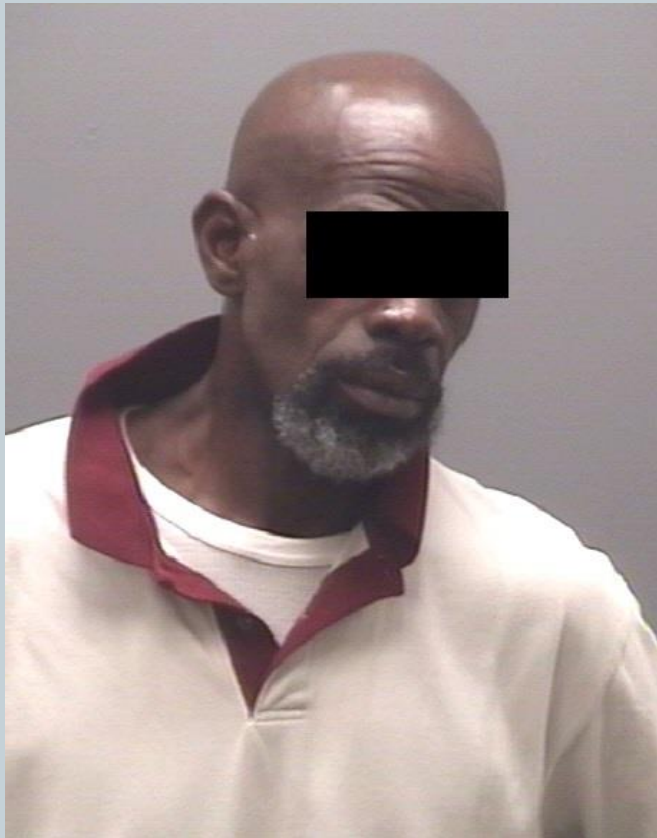
Seven Month Analysis

Jan-July 2016



- **316** MI calls responded to by Sheriff's Department
- **474** MI call responded to by EMS
- These are potentially high risk interactions between law enforcement/EMS and people with mental illness

# The Human Toll



## **Inmate 22197**

- Booked 26 times since 2009 (nuisance and misdemeanors)



# The Human Toll



- 711 days in pre-trial custody
- 27.3 average days/booking
- 23 of 26 bookings resulted in release for “time served”
- 39 “incidents” in custody
- **\$55,130.94 taxpayer cost to incarcerate**

THE  
**STEPPINGUP**  
INITIATIVE

# The Human Toll



- **Inmate 22197 Today**

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# Stepping Up Response to this Crisis



- Begins with **Committed Leadership**
  - **History of collaborative leadership in Alamance**
    - **Community Council**
    - **Healthy Alamance**
    - **Children's Executive Oversight Committee**
    - **Family Justice Center Advisory Council**
    - **Alamance Achieves** (Public Education)



# Question 1 (of 6): Is our leadership committed?



- Four Action Steps (for answering the question)
  1. County Commission has mandated justice and behavioral health reform.
  2. Planning team has been formed with representation that can create change.
  3. The team is committed to a shared vision, mission, and guiding principles.
  4. Planning team chairperson and project coordinator have been designated to manage the work.

# The Alamance County Experience – “Alamance Steps Up”

- Board of Commissioners adopted the NACo resolution August 2015.
- Initial Planning Team:
  - County Manager
  - County Commissioner
  - Director of Social Services
  - Sheriff and Chief Deputy Sheriff
- Invited more to the table.....



# The Alamance County Experience – “Alamance Steps Up”

- **Current Leadership Team (meets monthly):**

- County Commissioner (co-chair)
- Director of Social Services (co-chair)
- County Manager
- Sheriff and Chief Deputy Sheriff
- Health Director
- Local MCO/LME Executive
- District Attorney
- Executive Director, NC Psychiatric Association
- Director of Administration and Community Services, Sheriff’s Office
- Chief Medical Officer, Cone Health/Alamance Regional Medical Center
- Private Psychiatrist
- Local NAMI Chapter President
- Project Co-Coordinator (staff)



# The Alamance County Experience – “Alamance Steps Up”



- A Broader “Task Force” (meets 2x per year) – the Leadership Team plus:
  - Consumers and Consumer Advocates
  - Hospital President, ED Manager, Behavioral Medicine Unit Manager, Medication Assistance Program Manager
  - District Court Judge(s)
  - Private Mental Health Providers
  - Family Justice Center Director
  - Healthy Alamance Director
  - C-Com Director
  - Police Chiefs
  - Allied Churches Ministry (homeless shelter) Director
  - MCO/LME Community and Family Advisory Council Head
  - Residential Treatment Services Director
  - Veteran Services Director
  - United Way Executive(s)
  - Alamance Citizens For A Drug Free Community President
  - EMS Director
  - School Board Representative
  - Other Elected Officials
  - Other Human Service Agency Officials



# The Alamance County Experience – “Alamance Steps Up”

- “Community Dialogue” – UNC Chapel Hill School of Social Work
- Four Working Committees:
  - First Responder Training and Community Education
  - Screening, Assessment, and Treatment
  - Recovery and Re-Entry Strategies
  - Community Service Capacity and Sustainability





# The Alamance County Experience – “Alamance Steps Up”



- **Mission Statement**

- The mission of “Alamance Steps Up” is to reduce the number of persons with mental illness or co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders involved in the criminal justice system in Alamance County, North Carolina.

- **Vision Statement**

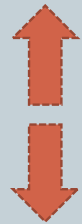
- We envision a community that respects, supports, and embraces persons with mental illness or co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders, and whose systems of health, behavioral health, law enforcement, justice, human services, public safety, and advocacy work together in a deliberate and coordinated fashion to optimize the level of services provided for them and minimize their level of incarceration in the county detention center.

# The Alamance County Experience – “Alamance Steps Up”



- **Project (Co-) Coordinator(s)**

- Part time
- Retired Social Worker Experienced in Mental Health and Social Services
- Retired Deputy Director of Social Services



- **Project (Co-) Chairs**

- County Commissioner (retired healthcare executive)
- Director of Department of Social Services (many community leadership roles)

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# Lessons Learned



- Right people at the table
- Commitment from the Sheriff, County Government, Local Hospital, and MCO
- Good data and outcomes keep people engaged

# Leadership Challenges



- Maintaining progress and support from leadership
- Measuring Outcomes to support ongoing need and cost savings
- Community Awareness
- Coordination with Community Partners and MCO
- Funding Sustainability