

Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute

Comprehensive Mental Health Needs Assessment for Nueces County – Monthly Progress Report, October 2019

In September 2019, Nueces County and the Nueces County Hospital District executed a contract with the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute (MMHPI) to conduct a comprehensive mental health needs assessment.

We (MMHPI) are pleased to provide our first monthly progress report on the status and the work we accomplished in October 2019.

Milestones for the Month – October 2019

- October 14 and 15, 2019: The MMHPI team that is conducting the comprehensive mental health needs assessment traveled to Corpus Christi for the official kick-off of the system assessment. These events included onsite meetings held over the course of two days, when MMHPI staff and local representatives met to discuss the assessment and the local community context. On October 15, 2019, Nueces County Judge Barbara Canales held a press conference, which included an introductory briefing from John Petrila, JD, MMHPI's senior executive vice president of policy. The press conference was attended by local and state dignitaries, including Senator Hinojosa, leadership and providers from the local hospital systems, mental and behavioral health service providers, school representatives, faith-based organizations, nonprofit entities, members of the public, and more.

This event provided the MMHPI team with an opportunity to meet with local stakeholders and to begin to establish relationships. These relationships will be critical to conducting the key informant interviews in the upcoming months that will ultimately inform the final report and recommendations.

Adult/Criminal Justice

- On October 17, 2019, Paul Stokes, MMHPI's senior director of intervention and diversion policy; Kyle Mitchell, MMHPI's vice president of adult and veterans policy; and Marilyn Headley, project manager, held a conference call with the managing partner of BeHealthle, LLC, Karla Ramirez. This call provided us with an opportunity to discuss the criminal justice work BeHealthle has been conducting through its contract with Nueces County and the Nueces County Hospital District.
- Mr. Stokes conducted interviews with key criminal justice stakeholders, including Nueces County Sheriff Hooper; Deborah Dumesnil, the jail diversion program

administrator; Jenny Dorsey, the diversion prosecutor with the district attorney's office; William Shull, Adult Probation Director; Cheryl Davis, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor; the Corpus Christi Assistant Chief of Police, Mark Schauer; and Corpus Christi Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) officer Amber Buckelew. Mr. Stokes will continue to identify key informants and conduct interviews throughout October and early November to inform the November 30, 2019, preliminary report on criminal justice diversion.

Veterans

- The Veterans Team has begun the process of researching community resources that are available to veterans and their families, and has started identifying additional stakeholders to interview as part of the assessment.

Children and Youth

- The Children and Youth Team continues to conduct local research to develop a local stakeholder and key informant interview list. The team plans to conduct interviews from November 2019 through January 2020.

Deliverables for Month

- October 15, 2019: The Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute conducted an onsite meeting and hosted a project kick-off meeting.
- October 29, 2019: The Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute submitted a work plan for the community needs assessment.

Upcoming Deliverables

- November 30, 2019: The Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute will submit a preliminary report on the prevalence of behavioral health need and its study of hospital/emergency department utilization.
- November 30, 2019: The Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute will submit a preliminary report on criminal justice system diversion.