



# **Judge Ed Emmett Mental Health Jail Diversion Center**

## **2nd Annual Judicial Summit on Mental Health**

**The Honorable Kim Ogg, JD**  
Harris County District Attorney

**Wayne Young, MBA, LPC, FACHE**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Denise Oncken, JD**  
Bureau Chief, Mental Health

**OFFICE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
**HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS**



**KIM OGG**

# The People We Serve



**18.5K** Adult  
Mental Health

**5K** Children/Adolescent  
Mental Health

**21K** IDD  
& Autism

**15K** Psychiatric  
Crisis

**5K** Forensic  
Mental Health

**21K** Harris County  
Jail

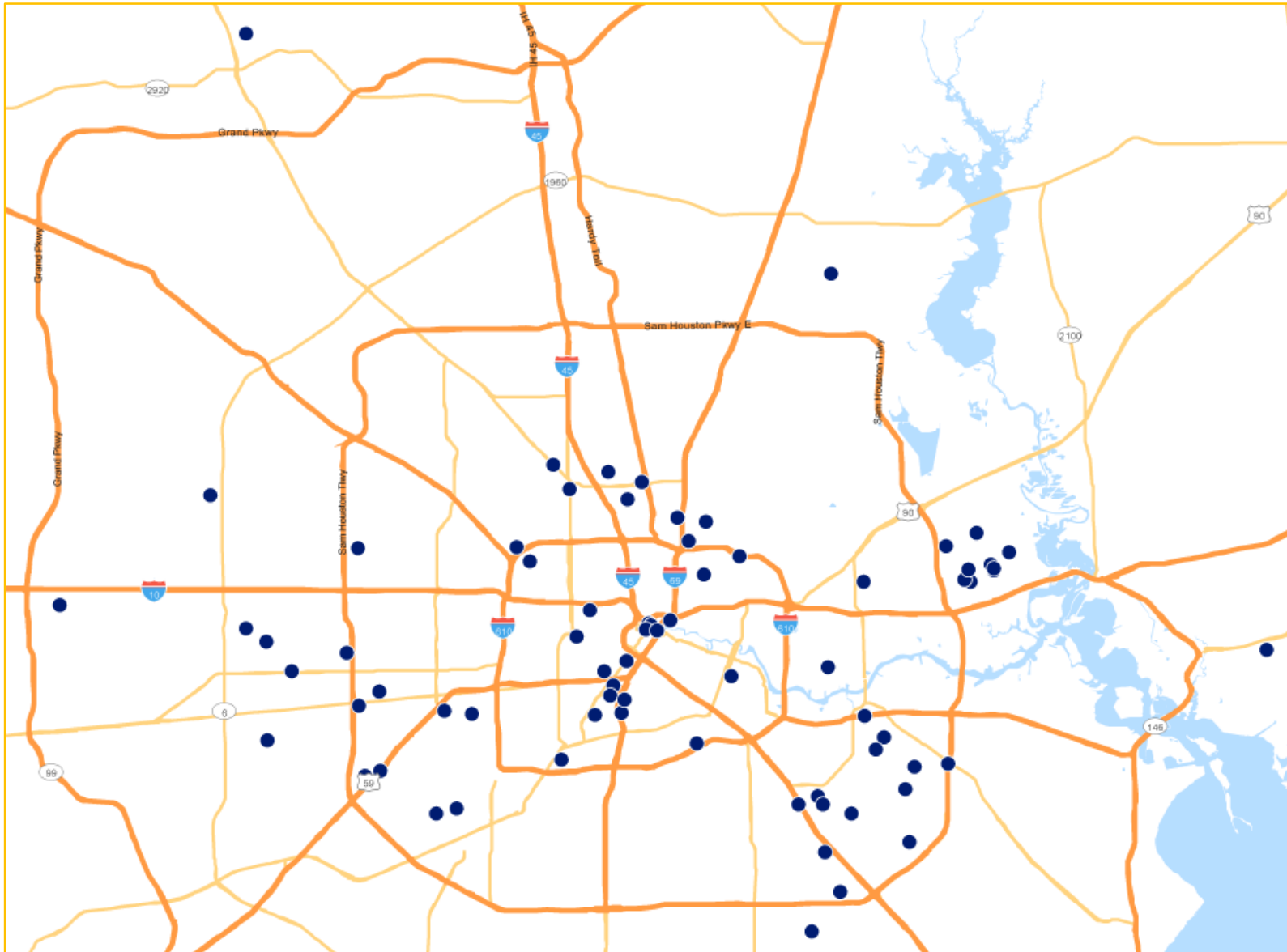
**254K+** Prescriptions  
Filled

**130K** Crisis Line  
Calls

**61K** Hurricane Harvey  
Crisis Sessions

**80% of the people we serve have household incomes at or below the Federal Poverty Level.**

# Map of The Harris Center's Sites

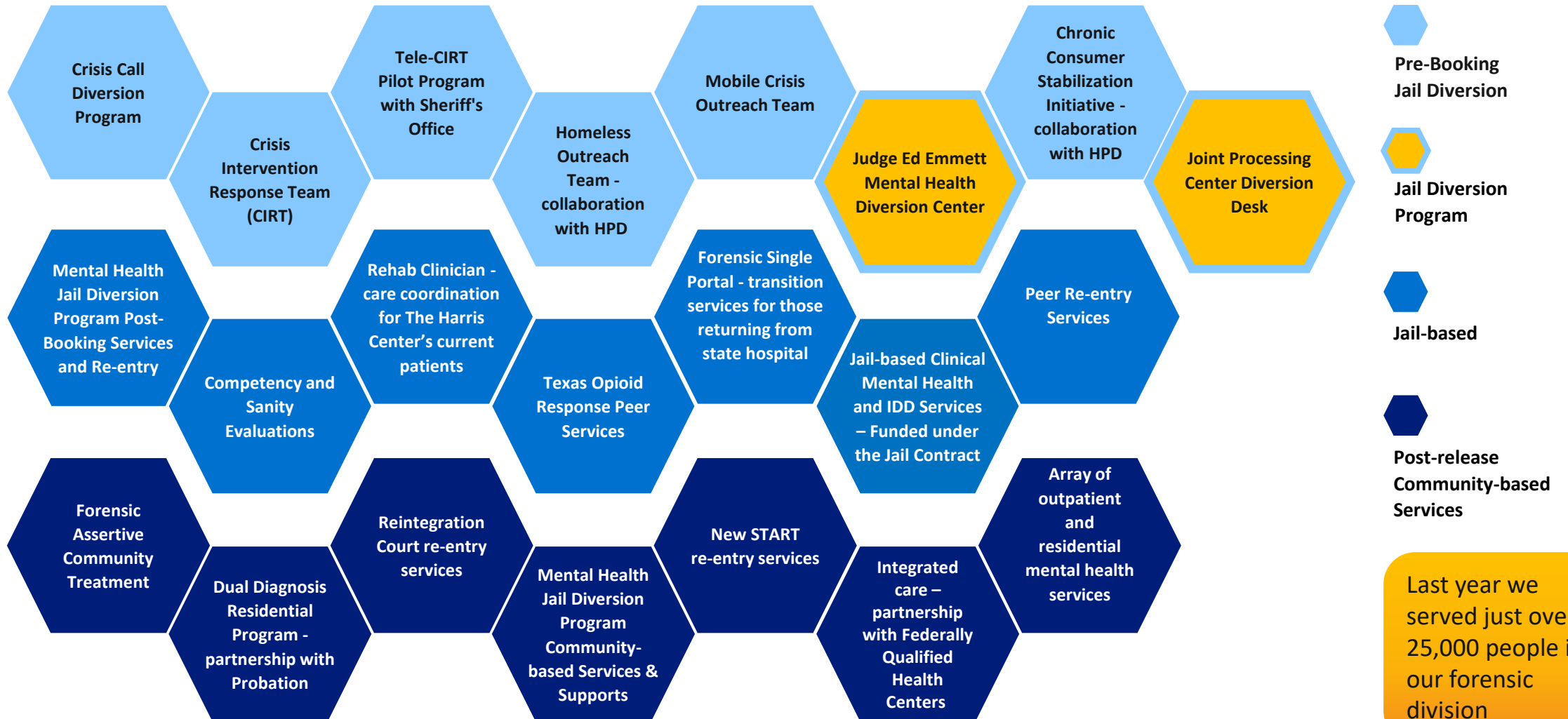


**We have 2,400 team members who provide care in 74 locations throughout Harris County.**

**30% of our services are delivered where people live, work or go to school.**

# Harris Center Continuum of Care for Justice-Involved Persons

Transforming Lives



Last year we served just over 25,000 people in our forensic division



“The Harris County District Attorney’s Office is dedicated to making our community safer through evidence-based prosecution and equal justice for all. This means guaranteeing a fair process to obtain a just result for the victim, the accused and the community in every case.”

*Kim Ogg*  
KIM OGG



## District Attorney's Diversion Programs

- Misdemeanor Marijuana Jail Diversion Program (MMDP)
- Responsive Interventions for Change: Controlled Substance Intervention
- STAR Drug Court
- Mental Health Court
- Driving While License Invalid or Suspended Intervention
- DWI Pretrial Intervention
- Retail Theft Pretrial Intervention
- Project 180 – Prostitution Diversion
- Clean and Green Diversion Program
- Veteran's Court
- FIRST
- Mental Health Diversion Center

# Why a Diversion Center?



- The Neuropsychiatric Center was the current diversion location for anyone with acute mental health issues, but the sub-acute, non-emergency mental health population had few diversion options.
- Of 4,585 defendants booked into Harris County Jail in 2016 for trespassing charges, 3,886 (85%) of cases were identified as having a mental health or homelessness issue.
  - 596 were repeat defendants
- On average, nearly 3,000 inmates are in the Harris County Jail are on psychotropic medications ***every day***
- In 12 months, 170 cases involved a Class B trespassing charge were defendant was deemed incompetent and legally unable to proceed to trial – resulting in a total of 11,785 days in jail

# Collaborative Partners



- The Harris Center for Mental Health & IDD
- Harris County Judge's Office
- Harris County Sheriff's Office
- Harris County District Attorney's Office
- Houston Police Department
- Harris Health
- Harris County Housing Authority
- Harris County Commissioners Court
- Harris County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council





# Resources

---

## SB 292

- Harris County Judge's Office - \$5,000,000

## HB 13

- Harris County Sheriff's Office - \$2,500,000

## In-Kind Match

- Harris County Sheriff's Office
- Harris County District Attorney's Office
- Houston Police Department
- Harris County Housing Authority
- The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD

# Judge Ed Emmett Mental Health Diversion Center

- Pre-charge alternative for law enforcement to drop off people with mental illness picked up for low-level misdemeanors



- Opened September 4, 2018

# Judge Ed Emmett Mental Health Diversion Center

## Eligibility

- Offenders who commit low level, non-violent crimes
- Those who appear to have or have a history of mental illness
- Not in an acute crisis – does not meet criteria for Emergency Detention
- Voluntary
- Adult



## Standardized intake flow for diversion arrivals includes:

- Peer Support (our goal is for this to be the first connection)
- Medical Assessment/Triage by RN
- Evaluation by Psychiatrist
- Evaluation by Internal Medicine physician
- Evaluation by Master's Level Clinician

# Judge Ed Emmett Mental Health Diversion Center

## On Site Services

- Assessments
- Integrated treatment and care plans to assist in an individual's stabilization
- Medication management
- On site primary care
- On site psychiatric care
- Psychosocial programming
- Substance use disorder interventions
- Rehabilitation services
- Respite beds
- Peer support
- Extensive discharge planning to coordinate access to housing, social services and treatment post discharge, utilizing case managers and peer support



## **Aftercare Services (Post-Release Services)**

- Intensive Community Based Case Management
- Medication management
- Psychiatry
- Psychosocial programming
- Respite beds
- Crisis Housing Supports
- Detox/Residential Substance Use Disorder Services
- Peer support
- Permanent Supportive Housing

# Evolution of Diversion Criteria

---



## Initial Focus (SEP 2018)

- Offenders who arrested for trespassing

## Expanded Focus: Misdemeanor Marijuana Diversion Program (FEB 2019)

- Referring those who have a mental health issue and are failing to meet requirements over to Diversion Program (but not actual center) for community based engagement

## Expanded Charges (May 2019)

- Offenders who commit low-level (Misdemeanor), non-violent crimes
- No threat to public safety
- Law enforcement and prosecutors shall review offenders for diversion on a case-by-case basis

# Offenses not eligible for Diversion



- DWI
- Weapons offenses (i.e., UCW, Discharging a Firearm, Deadly Conduct)
- Assault
- Domestic Violence offenses (i.e. Assault-Family Member, Terroristic Threat on Family Member, Violation of Protective Order)
- Terroristic Threat
- Burglary of a Motor Vehicle
- Any offense where public safety could be compromised

***Special Note:*** No open warrants or detainers



# Examples of Expanded Charges - May 2019



Diversion eligibility criteria may include other non-violent, misdemeanor charges that do not create a public safety threat:

- **Criminal Mischief** - Defendant kicked metro bus door and broke glass - \$500 damage
- **Theft <\$750** - Defendant stole coffee pot while trespassing at urgent care clinic
- **Obstruct Highway/Passageway** - Defendant standing in roadway begging for money
- **Failure to Identify** - Defendant identifies himself to officer as Jesus Christ
- **Indecent Exposure** - Defendant urinating in public
- **Interfere with Public Duties** - Defendant approach officer on unrelated traffic stop and refused to leave
- **False Report** - Defendant calls 911 repeatedly to report someone is zapping her brain
- **Drug Possession** -Variety of offenses - Defendant has Xanax in his pocket when detained for trespassing at gas station

# Communication – Expansion of Charges



Very public discussion and announcements regarding the expansion of charges to address questions and build support.



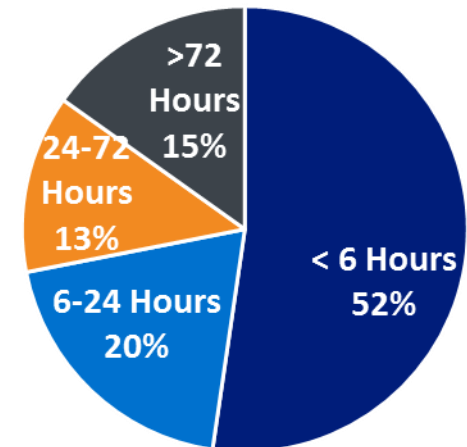
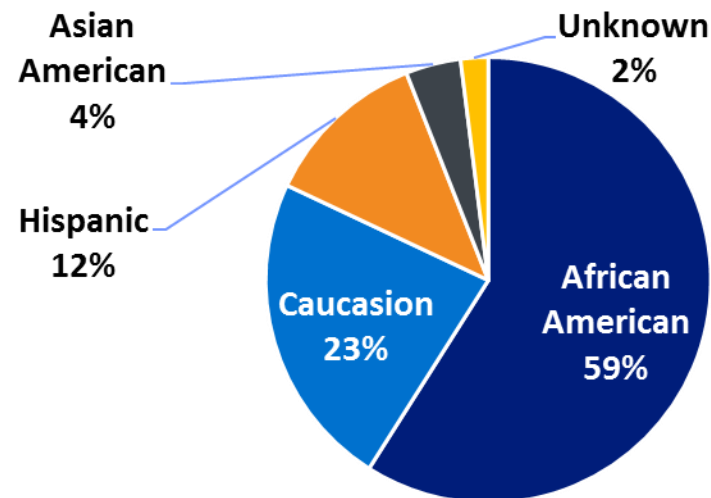
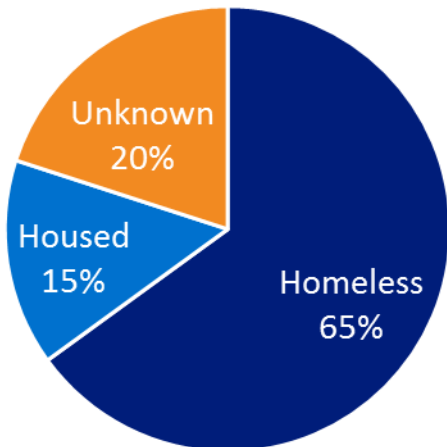
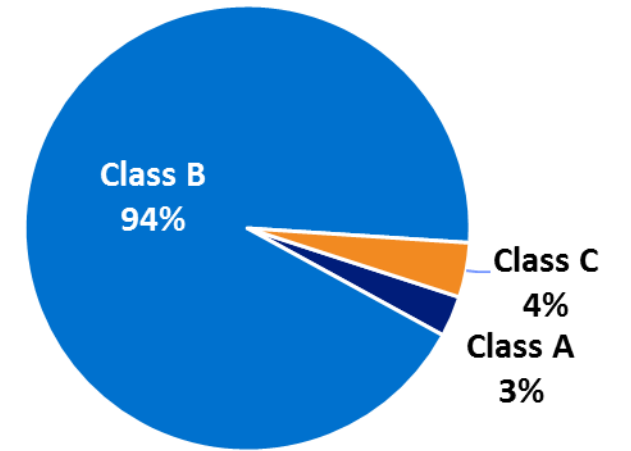
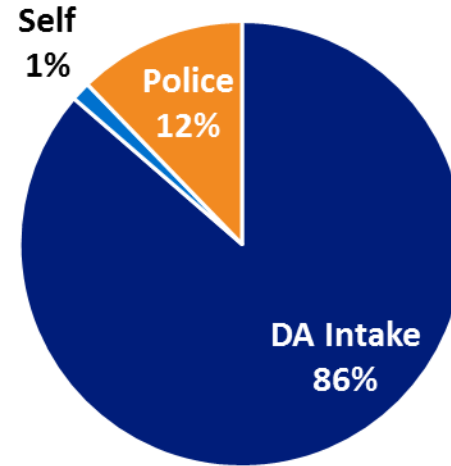
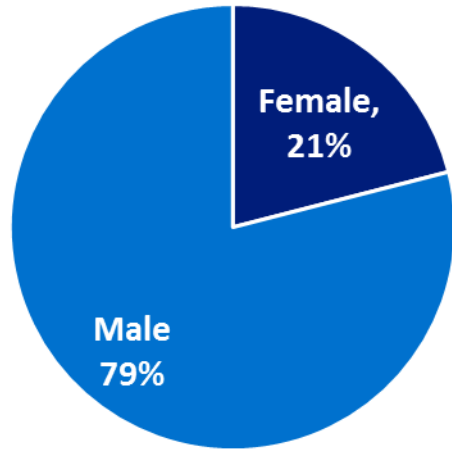
# Law Enforcement Agency Drop Offs



<b>Baytown PD</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Constable Precinct 7</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Metro Transit Authority</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Bellaire PD</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>HCC PD</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Pasadena PD</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Constable Precinct 1</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>HCSO</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>South Houston PD</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Constable Precinct 2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>HISD PD</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>Texas Medical Center PD</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Constable Precinct 3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>HPD</b>	<b>1,178</b>	<b>TSU PD</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Constable Precinct 4</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Humble PD</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>UH Central Campus PD</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Constable Precinct 5</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Jersey Village PD</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>UT PD at Houston</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Constable Precinct 6</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>Katy PD</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>All Others</b>	<b>49</b>
				<b>Not Identified/NA</b>	<b>64</b>

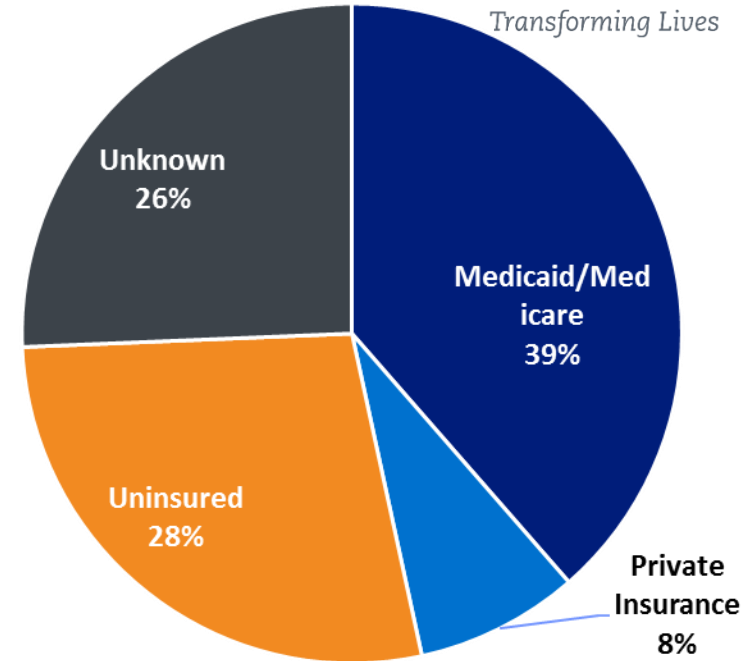
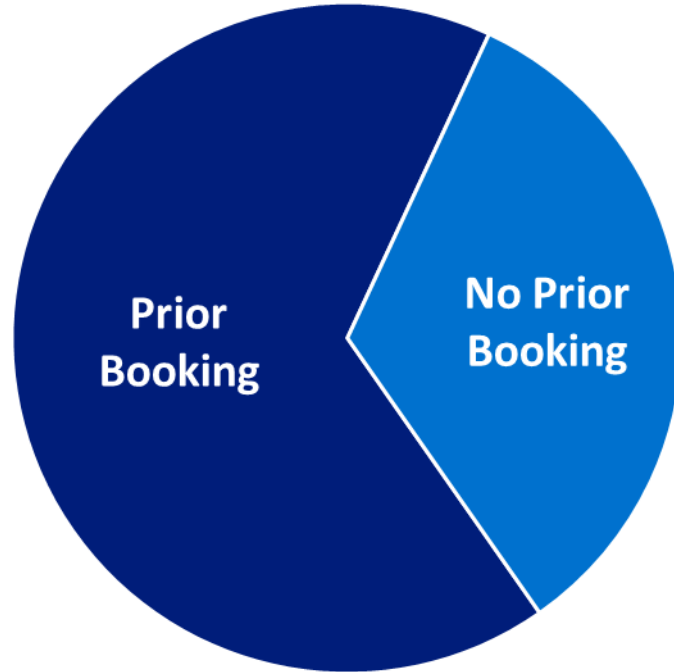
40 Agencies have dropped off at the Diversion Center

# Who We Serve



# Who We Serve

Transforming Lives



Of those with prior jail bookings...

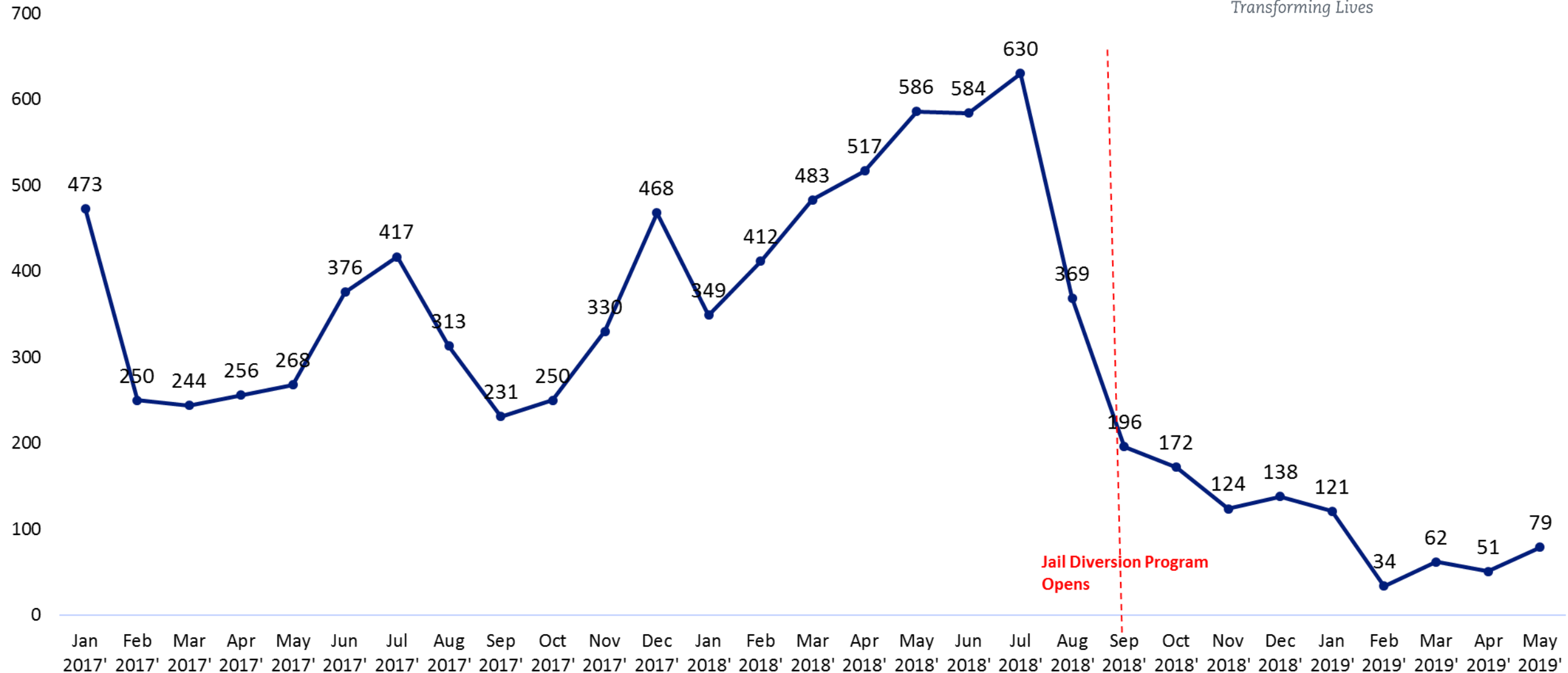
Averaged 8.5 bookings

Averaged 275 days in jail

Cohort totaled 220,679 days in jail

Less than 10% were able to identify a primary care provider

# Harris County Jail Bookings for People with Harris Center History



# Early Impact - FY19



**1,795**  
Diversions



**53.8 Hours**  
Average length of stay



**11 Minutes**  
Average drop off time



**80+ Days**  
Longest stay is 80+ Days

# Early Outcomes - FY19



## **0 New Jail Bookings**

53% had no new jail bookings after 1st diversion



## **53% Participants**

have received mental health services after diversion



## **15% Booking Reduction**

Compared to own baseline



**Projected Year 1 Savings = \$ 9.2M**

**Projected Year 2 Savings = \$ 10.7M**



# Connections to Care - FY19

---

## Post Diversion Center Release Connections to Care:

Crisis Psychiatric Services	38%
Outpatient Mental Health Services	18%
Harris County Psychiatric Center	16%
IDD Services	2%
Emergency Medical Services	21%

# Early Housing Impact – FY19

## Transitional Housing

136

- Transitional housing, residential SUD treatment, personal care home, etc

## Permanent Housing Vouchers

19

- Applications completed

## Coordinated Access Assessments

61

- As of 7/1/19, we are eligible to complete assessments directly

## Accepted on Wait List for Permanent Supportive Housing

49

18.5% of those who reported homelessness (13% of all participants) ended up with a roof over their head. Another 11% are on waitlists for housing.

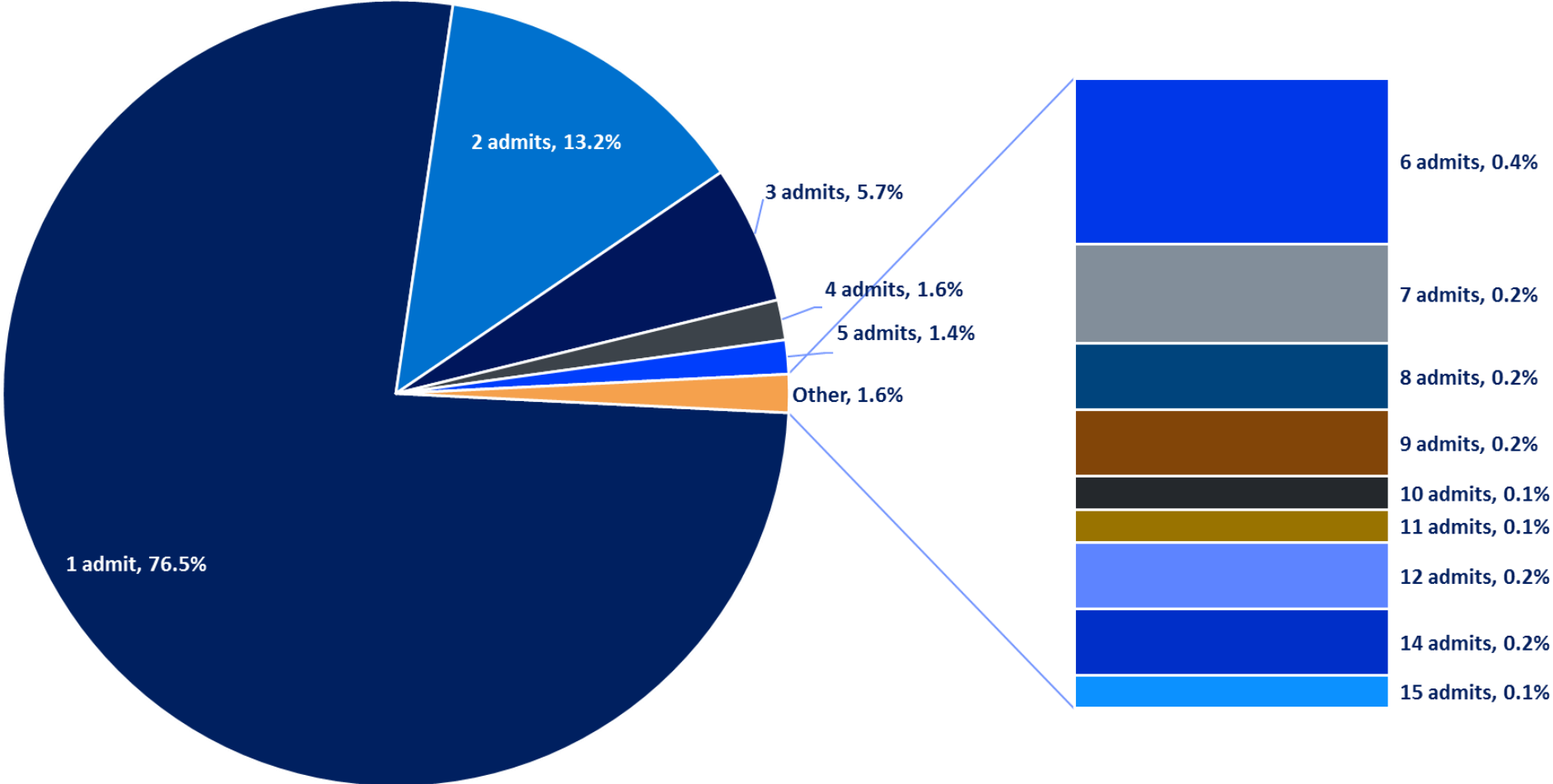
NOTE: Many consumers are connected back with their families, their own homes, homeless shelters, Domestic violence shelters and also had them complete coordinated access applications through a third party (Beacon and SEARCH).

# Early Psychosocial Impact – FY19

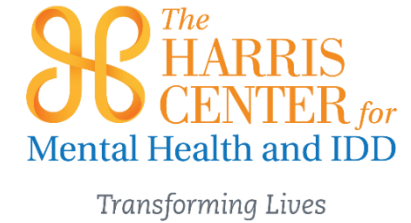
## Psychosocial Linkages

- Recovery Plans 29%
- Food Stamps 11%
- Medicaid/Insurance 11%
- PO Box 9%
- Birth Certificate 7%
- DL/ID Card 7%
- Benefits Application 4%
- SS Card 3%

# Frequency of Visits



# Chronic Consumer Stabilization Initiative



We expanded our existing CCSI program to engage the “familiar faces” who have frequent visits to the Diversion Center with limited impact.

Chronic Consumer Stabilization Initiative (CCSI) is a collaborative effort between the Houston Police Department and THE HARRIS CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND IDD. CCSI is a program designed to identify, engage, and provide services to individuals who have been diagnosed with a serious and persistent mental illness, and have frequent encounters with the Houston Police Department either through their own initiative or by family and/collateral contacts.

## Available Services

- Outreach and Engagement
- Intensive Case Management
- Mental Health First Aid for client, family, & other support systems
- Linkage to secure, stable housing
- Linkage to primary healthcare
- Linkage to outpatient psychiatric care and supportive service
- Linkage with substance abuse treatment
- Empowering client to assume responsibility for mental health compliance
- Crisis Intervention

# Those who are difficult to engage

## Welcome to The Judge Ed Emmett Center

We are so glad to have you here as one of our guests!

Besides the supports and resources you will enjoy here, did you know that you can also earn rewards during your stay in the program?

Ask a team member how you can enjoy the perks of our STEPS Reward Program.



# Joint Processing Center Diversion Desk

## Primary Objective:

Identify and coordinate transition of those with low level misdemeanors to Diversion Center when appropriate



# Joint Processing Center Diversion Desk



- Screening and assessments to facilitate identification of potential diversion candidates
- Review history to facilitate identification of potential diversion candidates
- Answer and respond to questions/requests via Diversion Hotline



# Oversight Committee

---



Began as weekly, transitioned to every other week, and now moved to monthly

Organizations represented on the committee:

- The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD
- Harris County District Attorney's Office
- Harris County Sheriff's Office
- Harris County Budget Office
- Harris County Public Defender's Office
- Harris County Community Supervision and Corrections Department
- Houston Police Department

# Data Committee

---

- The Diversion Center has both the larger data committee and the data research subcommittee
- The Data Committee worked to ensure the data collection efforts from Law Enforcement and the Diversion Center capture the front end data necessary to understand the flow of justice-involved individuals into and through the Diversion Center
- The Data Research Subcommittee developed the overarching goals and specific measures to determine the effectiveness of the Diversion Center

The Data Committee proposed the following two overarching research questions:

- How does the implementation of the Diversion Center impact Harris County's footprint for individuals with mental health issues who have engaged in low-level misdemeanor behavior?
- Does the Diversion Center improve the lives of those individuals who are diverted to the center?

An external organization has been selected to do an outcome evaluation of this project.

# Program Goals/Outcomes

- Reduce the number of individuals with mental health issues engaged with law enforcement on low-level misdemeanor charges
- Reduce the number of individuals with mental health issues in jail on low-level misdemeanor charges
- Reduce the number of individuals with mental health issues in NPC/Psych emergency on low-level misdemeanor charges
- Improve the lives of clients through engagement, assessment, and treatment services.
- Assess and link individuals to necessary programs based on a comprehensive assessment.
- Improve the mental health stability of the individual and reduce the number of psychiatric emergency visits.
- Improve the overall well-being of individuals in the long-term program.
- Improve the daily living skills of clients served
- Improve (or maintain, if stable) the individual's housing situation
- Maintain positive satisfaction scores
- Ensure positive stakeholder satisfaction with consistent positive ratings.

# State Reported Measures

- Total number unduplicated individuals assessed per month.
- Total number unduplicated individuals served per month.
- Number of clients who voluntarily admit to Diversion Center for treatment or social services.
- Number of clients linked to outpatient services.
- Percentage of clients who voluntarily admit to Diversion Center who leave AMA within 6 hours.
- Percentage of clients linked to outpatient services.
- Percentage of clients receiving services who have reduced recidivism of target events.
- Percentage of clients scoring 3 or less in at least one specified domain with score of 4 or higher on all specified domains at follow-up.

# Meet Stephen



# Impact

Transforming Lives

3-22-19  
Hey (smiley face) ED. Emmitt + Diversion Center  
Again I would like to say that the staff you have are amazing. Mostly way that they take such good care of us making sure we are safe, fed, and well Nourish and make us, as clients feel as if we are still somebody, and also they should be recognized and be honored because of the hard work they do, for them showing so much compassion ED. Emmitt you should know that they love their job, and people that come thru your doors, Thank you so much for them, I ask that you make them Director's or Supervisor's because they are great at their job, Thank you.

9/17/2019  
The Harris Center program is very helpful to clients that really want help. I obtained all my I.D. needs and housing papers in just 14 days. I could not have accomplished any of the things without the people here. The Techs and Staff were extra friendly and made me feel at home!

Hello and good bye  
I would like to say thank you for the wonderful treatment that I received in here, it was so effective and very strong.  
I have been working hard on my treatment.  
The people is wonderful and the treatment was so good and great!  
My experience in USA was not so good for my success but I have found a pretty good treatment in Virginia.  
You are the best!  
Thank you all  
God bless you all!

2/11/2019  
Y'all have changed my life for the good and I really didn't have a family before I came here to the jail diversion center now I can say I have a family.

To all the beautiful Diversion Staff just wanted to thank EVERYONE here at The Diversion program, Mr. Emmitt on down. The respect, the genuine compassion and hard work that all of you give is transforming to someone like myself. A gift is what the program and all of you are. Thank you, thank you, thank you.  
Forever Grateful.

I want to thank you for allowing me to go to SuperCuts today. It was special for me to get a haircut today I appreciate it. I feel like a girl today having been pampered and driven to the salon. It turned my day around as far as self-confidence goes. Thank you kindly.

# Follow Us



[TheHarrisCenter.org](http://TheHarrisCenter.org)



[@TheHarrisCTR](https://twitter.com/TheHarrisCTR)



[soundcloud.com/the-harris-center](https://soundcloud.com/the-harris-center)



[harriscountyda.com](http://harriscountyda.com)



[@HarrisCountyDAO](https://twitter.com/HarrisCountyDAO)

