

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM (BHC) TALKING POINTS

1. The BHC works to provide Jefferson County residents with (behavioral Health) treatment and recovery supports as they move toward stability and the recovery of their health and wellness.
2. The **mission** of the Behavioral Health Consortium (BHC) is to address opioid morbidity and mortality in Jefferson County by serving as a strong infrastructure between agencies, identify methods, integrate mental health and substance abuse services, lower cost, create access to appropriate services at the appropriate time, and implement evidenced-based, innovative approaches for value-based Healthcare.
3. The BHC, funded by a HRSA RCORP Grant, is working with the **Health Facilities Development and Planning consulting team (HFPD)** to support the Behavioral Health Consortium's (BHC) effort **to identify solutions to address the County's need to provide improved access to Behavioral Health services**, specifically the **feasibility of a Crisis Stabilization Facility or equitable alternative**, and provide support in the development of a Strategic Plan for the project.

HFPD will provide data:

- **Around the need for a Crisis Stabilization Center in Jefferson County** as part of a deliberate regional evolution to provide earlier intervention at a local level
  - **To clarify underlying assumptions, determine capital costs, licensure & regulations, location, etc.** to build a Crisis Stabilization Center in Jefferson County
  - **To identify a sustainable operations model(s)** that could be employed for a Jefferson County Stabilization Model, including Workforce recruitment and maintenance plan.
4. **BHC members are working to establish next steps:** Jefferson County currently does not provide Crisis Stabilization services. The majority of Law Enforcement and EMS calls deal primarily with the County's OUD/MH demographic. Some outpatient services are available, but for a resident in crisis, the Emergency Room or Jail are the most likely options to be utilized.

Next steps are needed to address:

- The current situation of OUD/MH individuals who are not being connected with the MAT or social services necessary for stability, treatment, recovery and wellness.
- The expensive, ineffective use of City and County Law Enforcement, EMS and Hospital Emergency Department resources.
- The challenge of Western State Hospital closing, **and the need for a focused effort to provide avenues of earlier intervention at a local level.**