



Mental Health Adult Pre-Charge Diversion Program

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Why Pre-Charge Diversion?



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Why Pre-Charge Diversion?

The Mental Health Perspective

- Client directed to appropriate services
- Early intervention and linkage
- Opportunity to engage clients we might not otherwise see
- More effective symptom management and reduced recidivism

The Police Perspective

- Reduced calls for police service
- Reduced load on court system
- Positive police contact for the client and their family
- Accountability



Program Development, Description, and Criteria



Program Development

- Direction came from Durham's HSJCC
- Partnership developed:
 - Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS)
 - Durham Mental Health Services (DMHS)
 - Crown Attorney's Office
- Program began as a Whitby-focused pilot in September 2009
- In 2010, program was implemented region-wide



Program Description

- Voluntary program
- Provides support to individuals who have been identified by DRPS as appropriate for diversion to health and human services before being charged with a criminal offense
- Average length in program is 3-6 months



Program Criteria

- Evidence that a minor criminal offense has occurred
- Client appears to be or known to be experiencing a mental health disorder
- Client commits to meeting DMHS Community Mental Health Worker once per week (voluntary)
- The Police Officer handling the case believes that the offender would benefit from this program
- A victim does not require protection
- 18 years +



Offences but not limited to....

- Theft under \$5000.00
- Take motor vehicle without consent
- Possession of stolen property under \$5000.00
- Mischief
- Fraud under \$5000.00
- Minor drug possession
- Passenger in a stolen auto
- Weapons Dangerous
- Assault



Service Process



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Intake and Assessment

- DRPS officers identify potential clients
- Clients have seven days to attend a Pre-Charge Diversion Intake at 150 Bond St, Oshawa
- DMHS Mental Health Court Support Worker completes assessment and reviews program expectations
- Service plan is developed
- DMHS Case Manager follows through on service



Client Accountability

- Timeframe for service is established early on
 - More severe offences or needs mean longer service



- If the client fails to follow through on program expectations, Police contact the client to remind them of their obligations

- If lack of follow through continues a case conference is arranged between:
 - Crown Attorney
 - Durham Regional Police
 - Durham Mental Health Services
- Criminal Prosecution may proceed

- DRPS is contacted upon successful completion of program



Outcomes and Future Plans



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Outcomes

- Referrals
- Successful program completions
- Police awareness training
- Feedback from Officers, clients and service providers



Challenges

- Is the person able to appreciate and understand what they're signing? Meet the criteria under section 17 of the MHA?
- Clients out of Region or north Durham
- Clients without transportation
- Balancing administrative duties for the Pre-Charge Program
- Acceptance at the Policing level



Future Plans

- A MCIT Coordinator to handle the cases and training frontline Officers and new recruits
- Increase the utilization of the program throughout Durham Region
- Continuing to adapt to client needs, expanding capacity where possible



Questions

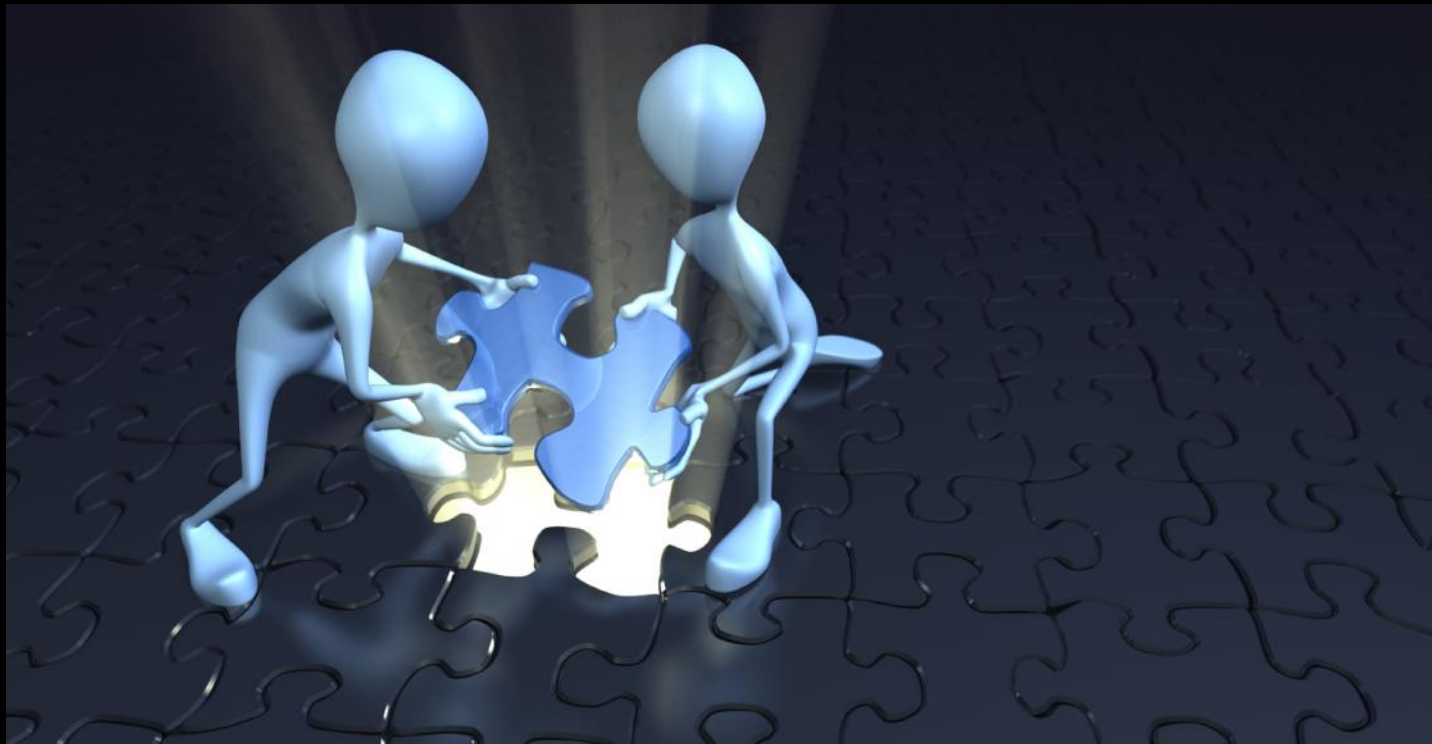


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