



Early Diversion, Get Engaged (EDGE) Public Talking Points

- I. Mental Health Partners and the Boulder County Sheriff's Office received a three-year, \$966,666 grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
- II. PURPOSE: The EDGE grant provides an array of community-based diversion services to help keep individuals with behavioral health issues out of the criminal justice system
- III. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN: The grant implementation offers an alternative to arrest and incarceration, and, for situations not involving potential arrest, provides individuals with on-scene mental health resources
- IV. HOW DOES IT WORK:
 - a. Mental Health Partners staff is dispatched to crisis scenes, along with specially-trained law enforcement officers
 - b. Officers may also drop off individuals at Mental Health Partners' 1333 Iris Ave., Boulder, location
 - c. The program is voluntary
 - i. If the individual agrees to participate, the individual and service providers establish an individualized treatment agreement that generally begins with a commitment for that individual to show up for an appointment at an appropriate agency at an agreed-upon time
- V. PARTNERSHIP: This grant is a collaborative effort that includes:
 - a. Mental Health Partners
 - b. Boulder County Sheriff's Department
 - c. Longmont Police Department
 - d. Boulder Police Department
 - e. Boulder County Addiction and Recovery Centers Division (ARC)
 - f. Chief judge of the 20th Judicial District
- VI. BENEFITS/OUTCOMES:
 - a. Improves the quality of life for the individuals and their families by helping to get those who need help on a trajectory toward recovery
 - b. It provides increased safety for the individuals, law enforcement, and those in the community at large
 - c. It provides a cost savings for law enforcement by reducing criminal justice involvement, including contacts, arrests, and days spent in correctional facilities among people with behavioral health issues.
 - d. Builds a robust infrastructure for ongoing criminal justice diversion efforts that follow evidence-based practices