

# State of Behavioral Health Services in Greater New Orleans

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# Louisiana Public Health Institute Behavioral Health Action Network



Facilitate a coalition of behavioral health stakeholders to enhance system coordination

Monitor public mental health system community assets, gaps in services and program efficiencies.

Distribute system information to public and private partners for decision support.

# Acknowledgements

BHAN's many active collaborators include

- Baptist Community Ministries
- Metropolitan Human Services District
- NOPD Crisis transport services
- LSU HCSD University Hospital M-HERE
- Orleans Coroner's Office
- Associated Catholic Charities
- Tulane Department of Psychiatry
- LSU Department of Psychiatry
- Louisiana Dept. of Health and Hospitals
- Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority
- Jefferson Coroner's office
- Jefferson Sheriff Crisis Team
- River Oaks Hospital
- VIA Link 2-1-1

## Coalition Priorities

- Comprehensive Psychiatric Crisis Services
- Evidenced-based Community services
- Workforce Development



## Comprehensive Psychiatric Crisis Services

- Provide the appropriate care to citizens in psychiatric crisis
- Coordinate “hand-offs” involving crisis responders to improve patient outcomes
- Monitor crisis system capacity to meet population needs

## Evidenced-based Community Behavioral Health Services

- Shift treatment focus from institutional care to recovery programs in the community
- Identify business models for financial sustainability
- Implement programs with proven success rates for treatment outcomes and system efficiencies

# Workforce Development

- Explore recruitment and retention strategies
- Needs Assessment: Workplace Stress Survey
- Identify training opportunities for providers in evidence-based best practices

## Stepping up to the plate

- La. Department of Health and Hospitals launched Assertive Community Treatment, including a forensic team
- Metropolitan Human Services Districts transformed its Board and Agency leadership
- NOPD Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) trainers graduated its first class

## Stepping up to the plate

- Catholic Charities expanded transitional housing for serious mentally ill citizens at Catholic Charities
- Human Service Districts are planning for a Crisis Receiving Center under Act 447
- Odyssey House is expanding to provide substance abuse medical detox services
- St. Thomas Clinic, Common Ground Clinic, Tulane at Covenant House, to name a few, are integrating behavioral health in primary care clinics

# Assertive Community Treatment

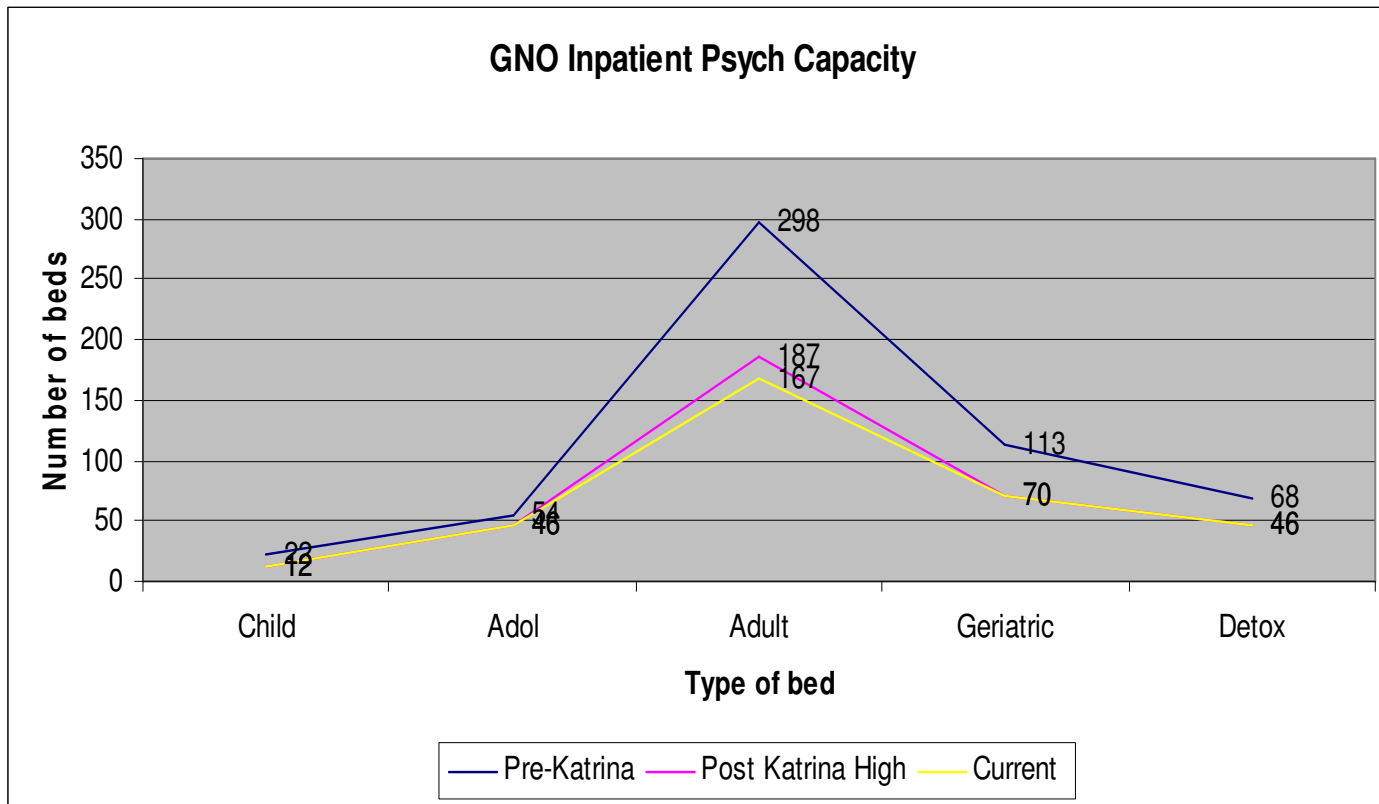
- Evidence-based model proven to:
  - reduce institutional care and
  - promote recovery in individuals with serious mental illness
- Forensic ACT team serves Orleans and Jefferson parish residents

Advocate to expand Medicaid coverage to include ACT services

# Regional Psychiatric System Strengths

- Well-trained and engaged workforce
- Collaborative forum to solve problems
- Data sharing to support decision makers

# Monitoring Inpatient Capacity



# Regional Psychiatric System Challenges

- Systemic criminalization of serious mental illness
- Closure of institutions without a simultaneous increase in community services
- Funding streams that are highly sensitive to economic downturns

# Concluding Remarks

- Our behavioral health system is perfectly designed to achieve the exact results it gets
- We will never have enough hospital or ER beds if we do not strengthen our community and outpatient services
- Psychiatric patients desire and deserve to be treated with the same dignity accorded to physical health patients

# Contact Information

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