

Alamance County Stepping Up Initiative

2016-2020

Stepping Up Update

- Nationally the Movement Continues to Expand...now in 544 counties
- State...North Carolina now has 47 counties that have signed a Stepping Up Resolution
- In Alamance County we are actively working with 30+ organizations that are supporting the mission and vision of the Stepping Up Initiative



The Alamance County Experience – Stepping Up Initiative

- Justice Advisory Council (meets monthly):
 - County Commissioner (co-chair)
 - Health Director (co-chair)
 - County Manager
 - Sheriff and Chiefs' of Police all Jurisdictions
 - DSS Director (co-chair)
 - Local MCO/LME Executive
 - District Attorney
 - United Way Executive Director
 - Probation/Parole
 - Chief Medical Officer, Cone Health/ARMC
 - Private Psychiatrist
 - Local NAMI Chapter President
 - Chief Magistrate
 - School Board Member
 - Faith-Based Member



The Alamance County Experience – Alamance Steps Up

- A Broader “Task Force” (meets 2x per year) –Providers, Consumers and Consumer Advocates
 - Cone Health President, Behavioral Health Representatives
 - District Court Judge(s)
 - Private Mental Health Providers
 - Family Justice Center Director
 - Healthy Alamance Director
 - C-Com Director
 - Police Chiefs
 - Allied Churches Ministry (homeless shelter) Director
 - MCO/LME Community and Family Advisory Council Head
 - Residential Treatment Services Director
 - Veteran Services Director
 - United Way Executive(s)
 - Alamance Citizens For A Drug Free Community President
 - EMS Director
 - School Board Representative
 - Other Elected Officials
 - Other Human Service Agency Officials



Stepping Up: Four Goals

**Reduce the
number with MI
in Jail**

**Shorten the time
in Jail**

**Increase
connection to
Services**

**Reduce Jail
Recidivism**

“A number of local law enforcement agencies have recognized the *dire need for mental health and substance use disorder services in local detention centers*. Some county and state officials have made efforts to improve mental health services in their jails, including implementing Stepping Up programs, creating behavioral health units, and instituting pilot programs for providing substance use treatment in jails. These programs highlight the need for statewide action to improve mental health and substance use disorder treatment in NC jails, and illustrate that such programs can be affordably and effectively implemented.”

SUICIDE IN NORTH CAROLINA JAILS- 2017 Report by Disability Rights of NC

Highlights of the Stepping Up Initiative and Bureau of Justice Administrative (BJA) Grant Funding over the last 3 years:

- Over 200 LE officers (including detention staff) and more than 20 EMS staff trained which is shifting the culture of LE and first responders in Alamance County relative to mental health response.
- More than 800 other community professionals and stakeholders including court staff, school personnel, county staff and others trained in mental health first aide; a direct result of Stepping Up Initiative goal to increase both CIT and MHFA Training.

Highlights of the Stepping Up Initiative and Bureau of Justice Administrative (BJA) Grant Funding over the last 3 years:

○ **Positions supported by ACSO**

- *Two Person Law Enforcement Mental Health Response Team in the ACSO—handles Mental Health calls in the field*
- *Clinical Social Worker in the detention center—for early identification, screening and treatment, as well as reentry planning*
- *Pretrial Case Manager in the detention center—divert low-level mentally ill offenders from jail to treatment with supervision*

○ **Coordination with County Planning Team for the 24/7 Diversion and Assessment Center**

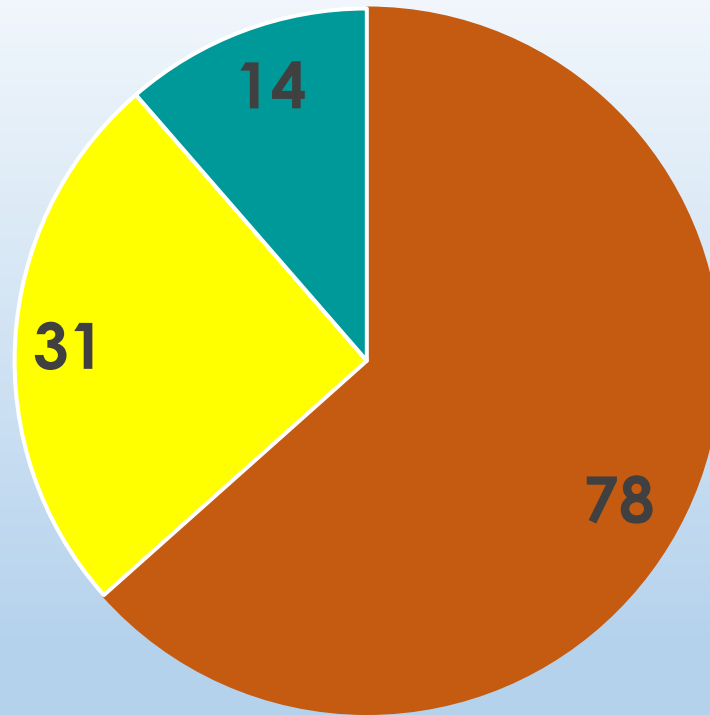
- *A dedicated county building*
- *1.2 million in one-time funding for renovation of the building*
 - *Coordination with RHA Healthcare to see current crisis hours expanded to weekends*

Other successes driven by work of the Stepping Up Initiative in Alamance County

- Formation of Local CIT Training Steering Committee, Law Enforcement run, which has greatly strengthened the CIT Program in this county.
- Pretrial Services Committee in place consisting of Judiciary, DA, Defense Attorney, Commissioner and Detention Staff to further enhance the local Criminal Justice System.
- Formation of the Alamance County Advisory Council (JAC) which merged the Family Justice Center Advisory Board and the Stepping Up Leadership Team in 2017.
- Enhanced Data Tracking and Collection relative to mentally ill in jail and services received—ongoing effort to track length of stay and recidivism.
- 2020 Grant application submitted in May 2020 that if received would support additional expansion of RHA Crisis Center Hours (until midnight 7 days a week) and also provide a Peer Support Specialist to work in Detention with mentally ill and mentally ill/substance users who are being released from jail to reduce recidivism.

Crisis Response Team: CIT Outcomes

3 Months



- Resolved on the Scene
- IVC Transports
- Voluntary Transports
- Arrests--0

Mental Health Positive Screens in Detention (2020)

| MONTH | TOTAL JAIL POPULATION | # POSITIVE SCREENS | % WITH POSITIVE MH FLAG |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| January | 446 | 185 | 41% |
| February | 465 | 213 | 46% |
| March | 455 | 136 | 30% |
| Quarterly Average | 455 | 178 | 39% |
| April | 337 | 68 | 20% |
| May | 324 | 56 | 17% |
| June | 387 | 97 | 25% |
| Quarterly Average | 349 | 74 | 21% |

2019 Average % Mental Health = 36%

**2020 Average % Mental Health = 30%
(2 quarters)**

Alamance County Pretrial Supervision Program

Stepping Up Initiative

- Bureau of Justice Assistance Grant has funded some activities of the Stepping Up Initiative
- Pretrial Release Case Manager Pilot
- Developed by “Criminal Justice Pretrial Release Services Committee”

Attorney General's Pretrial Roundtable

January 2019

- One of 18 counties invited to attend
- Attended by:
 - Tom Lambeth, Resident Superior Court Judge; Brad Allen, Chief District Court Judge
 - Sean Boone, District Attorney; Meredith Edwards, Clerk; Rhonda Crisp, Magistrate
 - Sheriff Terry Johnson; Sherry Hook, Manager's Office; Linda Allison and Gary Ander, Stepping Up Coordinators
- Post Roundtable
 - First Appearances for misdemeanor defendants

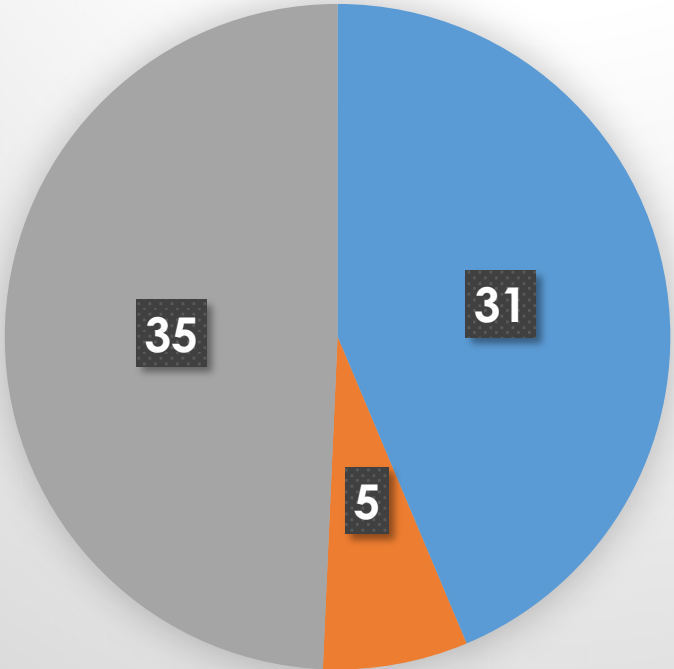
View from the DA's Office

- Benefits of Pretrial Supervision
 - Increased Public Safety
 - Frees up DA's office to focus on more serious offenses
 - Reductions in "Failures to Appear"
 - Reduced Recidivism in Criminal Justice System
 - Reduction in Involuntary Commitments and Emergency Department visits
 - Other

Pretrial Release Data

October 1, 2019 – July 28, 2020

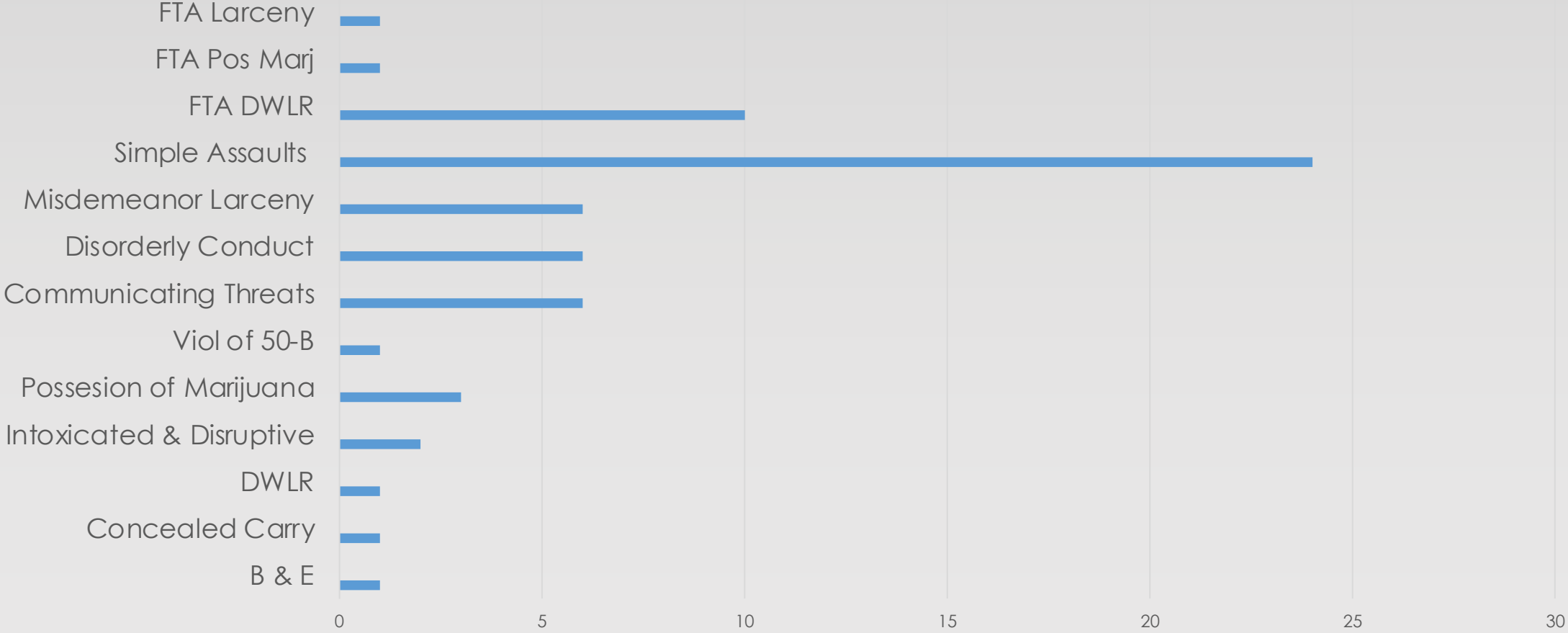
75 Court Approved Cases



- Successfully
- Terminated
- Current Cases

Pretrial Release Court Approved Charges October 1, 2019 – July 31, 2020 (9 months)

Misdemeanor Charges Placed on Pretrial



Outcome Measures

October 1, 2019 – July 28, 2020

| Metric | Min | Max | Average |
|--|------|--------|---------|
| Appearance Rate (keep their court date) | 0.0% | 100.0% | 97.4% |
| Detainee Length of Stay (jail time) | 0.0 | 11.0 | 1.8 |
| Safety Rate (no new charges) | 0.0% | 100.0% | 94.9% |
| Success Rate (program completion) | 0.0% | 100.0% | 81.6% |