



DOING THE MOST GOOD

William Booth, *Founder*
Shaw Clifton, *General*

Commissioner David Jeffrey, *Territorial Commander*
Lieutenant Colonel Vern Jewett, *Divisional Commander*
Majors Tom & Julie Loudon, *Corps Officers*

January 9, 2013

Representative Matt Caldwell
Chair of Lee County Legislative Delegation
15191 Homestead Road, Building A
Lehigh Acres, FL 33971

Re: Bob Janes Triage Center/Low Demand Shelter Funding

Dear Representative Caldwell,

We are requesting to reinstate and continue support of funding for the Department of Children and Families Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse (CJMHS) Reinvestment Grant Program Act for fiscal years 2014-2015.

This successful program, adopted by the Legislature in 2007, laid the groundwork for community leaders to plan, create and expand innovative services to shift care of offenders with mental illnesses and /or co-occurring substance use disorders from the most expensive, and deep treatment settings to community-based programs.

In Lee County, our CJMHS grant funds are matched by the County and numerous community partners and have resulted in creating the nationally award-winning Bob Janes Triage Center, which became operational in April 2008. The project is a multi-agency collaboration between Lee County Government, Lee County Law Enforcement, Lee Memorial Health System, The Salvation Army of Lee, Hendry & Glades Counties, Southwest Florida Addiction Services, Lee Mental Health Center, Veterans Administration, NAMI and United Way. This collaboration provides law enforcement an alternative to incarceration and diverts individuals exhibiting behavioral health issues who have or are at risk of committing minor offenses from the criminal justice system.

For the first four years of operations, there has been over 2,000 jail diversions for an estimated savings of nearly \$300,000. However, under the first two years of the contract, we were a 22 bed facility and with other additional funding and the anticipated CJMHS Expansion Grant we increased our bed capacity to 58, which could result in potential savings of \$560,000 over the next three years. The cost savings estimate does not include the time savings to law enforcement, which enables officers a quicker return to patrolling the streets. Officers estimate that a minimum of one hour is saved for each admission thus allowing for more effective utilization of the officer's time and increasing public safety.



"...For service is our watchword, and there is no reward equal to that of doing the most good to the most people in the most need." -General Evangeline Booth



Administrative Building:
10291 McGregor Blvd.
Fort Myers, FL 33919
p: 239.278.1551
f: 239.278.9028

Social Services Unit:
2400 Edison Ave.
Fort Myers, FL 33901
p: 239.334.3745
f: 239.334.1473

Bonita Service Unit:
25221 Bernwood Dr.
Bonita Springs, FL 34135
p: 863.674.1441
f: 863.674.0867

LaBelle Service Unit:
180 N. Main St.
LaBelle, FL 33935
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Clewiston Service Unit:
969 W. Sugarland Hwy.
Clewiston, FL 33440
p: 863.233.6190

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15418 S. Tamiami Tr.
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p: 239.267.9652
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1855 Boy Scout Dr.
Fort Myers, FL 33907
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SalvationArmyLeeCounty.org

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- The majority (67%) have admitted they have accessed publically funded mental health or substance abuse services and
- 46% were discharged to a housing situation or treatment facility thereby affording the potential that future interaction with law enforcement will be reduced.


Without the grant funds being reinstated and continued support, the Bob Janes Triage Center will be forced to reduce bed capacity. This will cause staff lay-offs and will reduce the effectiveness of the program and have a negative impact on our community. The current capacity of the Center is for 58 people and the funds allow for these services to continue at a cost of \$68/day. Without the additional \$250,000, for operating, the bed capacity will be reduced by nearly half and several staff positions eliminated. We are currently operating at capacity (58), so the bed reduction will result in the offenders that law enforcement picks up or arrests will be incarcerated at more than double the cost to the community.

Enclosed please find Attachment 1 – 2012 Legislative Summary Fact Sheet. Also enclosed is a Case Study (Attachment 2): We have included a case study of a 61-year old male to show how the program can work with an individual who has had multiple contacts with Law Enforcement and emergency room visits. Through targeted case management, the Bob Janes Triage Center was able to assist this person with obtaining benefits and housing, resulting in cost savings to the community and State of Florida. **Attached is the chart showing Triage Clients With Local Arrest History (Attachment 3) and the annual budget for the Bob Janes Triage Center (Attachment 4).**

We greatly appreciate the leadership and understanding you have demonstrated in the areas of mental health and substance abuse treatment. The collaborative programs created by the CJMHSA grants clearly demonstrate that we can reduce crime and recidivism rates and save taxpayer dollars while helping people remain in recovery and return to work to support themselves and their families.

We are asking that you 'be our Champion' and quarterback our continued funding request through the House of Representatives. Senator Lizbeth Benacquisto is our 'Champion' on the Senate, helping as our quarterback for the second year. Please support the Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance (CJMHSA) reinstatement of funds for 2014-2015.

Sincerely,



Meg M. Gelner

Senior Director for Program Services & Resource Development

MMG/dm
Enclosures



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The Salvation Army of Lee, Hendry & Glades Counties

BOB JANES TRIAGE CENTER/LOW DEMAND SHELTER
2789 Ortiz Avenue, Bldg. K, Fort Myers, FL 33905

2012 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY
May 1, 2008 until April 30, 2012

- Facility opened in 2008 with 22 beds and expanded to 58 beds in 2010
- Intake hours expanded from 9.5 hours/day to 15.5 hours/day in 2010
- 1,722 unique individuals served; 3,022 admissions

Return on Investment

- \$133 saved per jail diversion totaling \$291,536 over the first four years (does not include court and law enforcement costs, only incarceration)
- Every state dollar is matched by \$5.50 from local and federal sources
- 48% of individuals were discharged from the program receiving at least one type of public benefit (Food Stamps; Medicaid; Medicare; SSI; SS; SSD) decreasing the use of state general revenue dollars for services.
- 27% of clients had an increase in income or non-cash benefits at discharge

Community Impact

- 73% of clients self disclosed a disabling condition at admission
- 67% disclosed a substance abuse and/or mental health condition and 22% gained access to treatment services upon discharge.
- 44% were successfully linked to community services at discharge
- 46% were discharged into housing and/or treatment facility
- 46% of clients were discharged into a homeless program such as supportive housing, emergency shelter, or substance abuse/mental health treatment facility within Lee County. Of those clients, 31% successfully completed the program and left for a housing opportunity or remain active in a program.

Law Enforcement Impact

- 84% of law enforcement officers report spending five minutes or less per admission
- 73% of clients are brought to Triage by law enforcement.
- Of the law enforcement admissions, 14% were directly diverted from an arrest or arrest(s) for low level offenses and the remainder was high risk for future incarcerations due to experiencing homelessness and exhibiting behavioral health issues.



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Bob Janes Triage Center/Low Demand Shelter

Case Study

Below is the Case Study of a Chronically Homeless person with local history including costs to taxing the hospital, law enforcement, mental health & substance abuse systems.

Law enforcement history:

- 22 arrests with 743 jail days in last 13 years

Hospital intakes either Emergency Room or Acute Care:

- 19 hospital encounters in five years

Referrals & Intakes into Triage Center:

- 6 triage stays in 3 years
- Longest stay 354 days
- Client waiting for SSI disability and food stamps

Estimated cost of client before intervention:

- Jail cost \$58,771 — no court costs or administration costs
- Hospital cost \$124,811
- Triage cost - \$42,626 which is valued at \$68 a day

Mental health & substance abuse:

- Multiple Baker Act at local Crisis Stabilization Unit and
- Multiple Detoxification Unit history

Through case management, a good outcome for client at Triage Center team:

- Qualified for SSI disability and food stamps. He is receiving this financial support and can live drug and alcohol free.
- He is now qualified for medical services supported by Medicaid. This allows him a much improved quality of life.
- With the back payments from his disability, we have placed him in permanent, supportive housing.
- He has achieved a significantly improved quality of life and is self-sustained through housing and is living independently.

Cost Savings: \$189,460.32

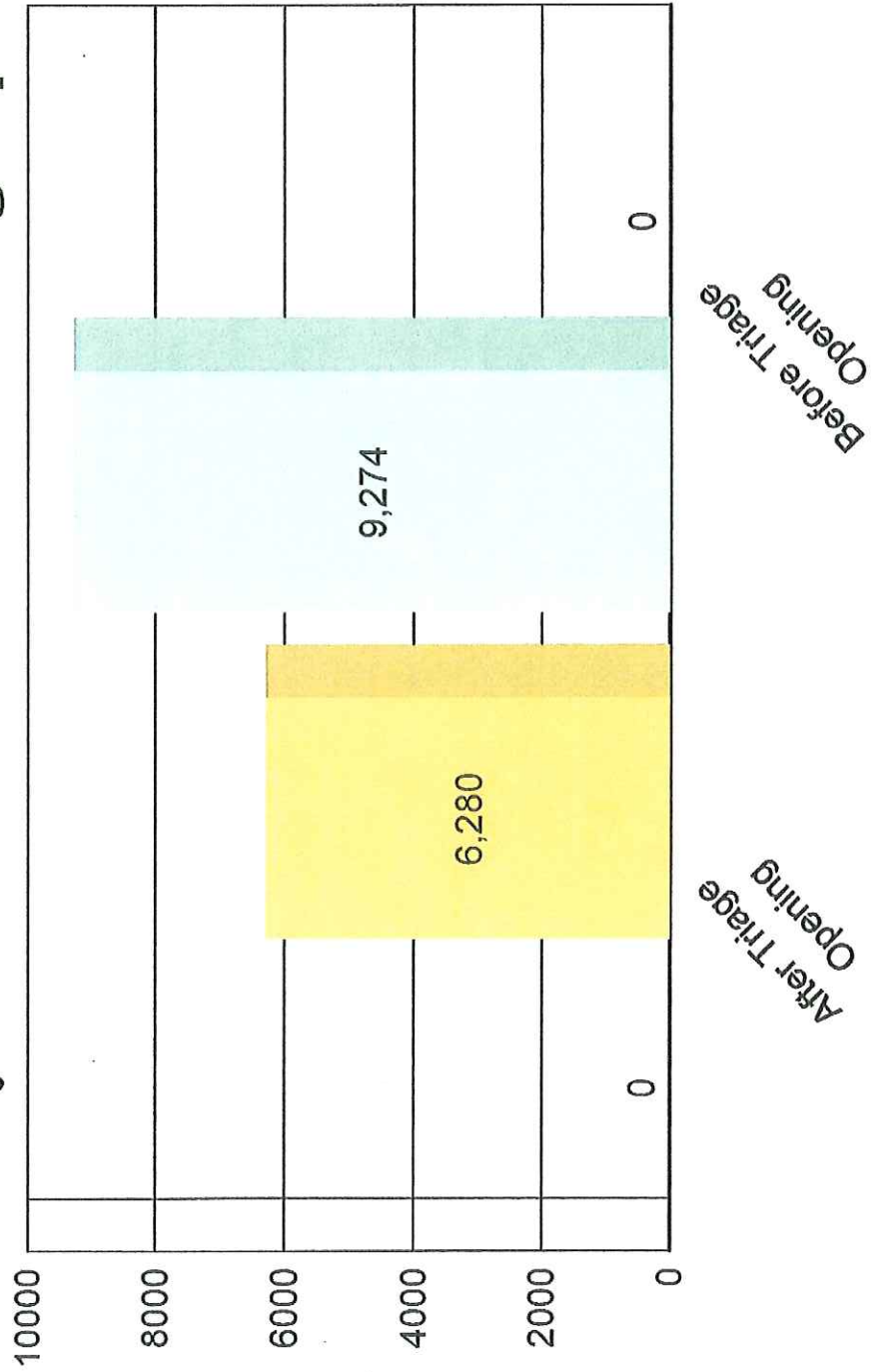
Represents 1 year before and 1 year after Triage Opening

Arrests between 4/27/2007 and 4/28/2009 Print Date: 6/3/2009

Jail Reduction Percentage: 32%

Triage Clients with local arrest history

Jail days served before and after Triage Opening



12 MONTH TRIAGE CENTER PROJECTED BUDGET Revised Dec 1 2012

TOTAL PROJECTED TRIAGE EXPENSES ALL AGENCIES 12 MONTH PERIOD			EXPENSES-REVNUE-MATCH-DEFICIT	
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 991,630.71		TOTAL PROJECTED EXPENSES	\$ 1,569,273.17
Administration	\$ 2,784.90		TOTAL PROJECTED GRANT REVENUE	\$ 1,264,762.00
Program Operating Expenses	\$ 49,010.00	water/sewer; electric; gas; insurance; phone; supplies; equipment	COMMITTED AGENCY MATCH	\$ 384,433.00
Housekeeping - Maintenance (allocated expenses)	\$ 87,322.00		TOTAL REVENUE & MATCH	\$ 1,649,195.00
Rent Equivalency	\$ 217,700.00			
FOOD	\$ 211,325.56			
Financial Assistance	\$ 9,500.00			
Total	\$ 1,569,273.17			