

COLLABORATIVE JUSTICE SERVICES (CJS)

The goal of Collaborative Justice Services (CJS) is to provide jail diversion as an alternative to incarceration and effective discharge planning, linkage and referral to community resources for mentally ill offenders who re-enter the community following their release from the Essex County Correctional Facility (ECCF) and Morris County Correctional Facility (MCCF). Services are designed to reduce the adjudication and incarceration of mentally ill consumers to municipal and county jails, decrease repeated criminal offenses and misdemeanor charges, and to increase access and linkage to mental health and social services for the offender following release.

CJS accepts community referrals from local police departments, municipal court, state prison, other criminal justice providers, community agencies or any other legal organization. Services are started at point-of-referral and discharge planning starts the day of intake. CJS services are consumer-centered and clients' strengths, needs, abilities and preferences are discussed. CJS will use the wellness and recovery model in order to implement individual service planning and advocate for decreased and/or no days additionally served in the correctional facility. The goal is to create a therapeutic disposition rather than a correctional disposition and to decrease county or state time served. Additionally, CJS educates Law Enforcement Officers regarding mental health issues at local municipal levels.

Personnel

CJS continues to benefit from staff retention. At the Essex campus, there are three Forensic Case Managers (FCM), one Administrative Assistant, and a Program Director (PD). All staff work within the jail and community. Staff complete intakes and develop discharge plans for eligible consumers incarcerated at Essex County Correctional Facility, released from municipal courts, county jails or NJ State Prisons, referred from community providers, and/or are at risk of incarceration. At the Morris campus, there is one Program Director, and one Forensic Case Manager. Staff work within the jail and the community completing intakes and developing discharge plans for eligible consumers incarcerated in Morris County Correctional Facility. CJS staffing is culturally diverse and is representative of the persons served.

Caseload

As of June 30, 2023, CJS Essex had 58 active cases. Referrals were made by Essex County Correctional Facility (ECCF) Mental Health and Medical Departments, Essex County Office of Public Defenders, Essex County Probation, and Essex County Prosecutor's Office. Referrals were also made by various criminal justice personnel and community providers such as: Essex County Correctional Facility Social Service Dept., Newark Community Solutions, Justice Involved Services programs, Delaney Hall, self-referrals, family members, and within our own organization. During this same time period in the Morris campus, there were 18 active cases. During FY2023, referrals were made through the Morris County Prosecutor's Office, Morris County Correctional Facility, the Morris County Public Defender's Office, Community Connections, community referrals, and Morris County Probation Services.

Demographics

CJS provides services to residents of Essex and Morris counties who are 18+ years of age and have been incarcerated, or who are at risk of being incarcerated. In addition, CJS assists with discharge

planning from state prisons. Individuals who are eligible for CJS services must have a severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI). CJS inclusionary criteria include DSM V diagnosis of the following disorders:

- (a) Schizophrenia
- (b) Schizoaffective Disorder
- (c) Bipolar Disorder
- (d) Major Depression
- (e) Other Psychotic Disorders

Performance Outcomes

Performance outcomes were measured, as well as monitored, through MHA's Quality Assurance Committee (QA). For FY2023, Essex CJS QA grid monitored consumers' recidivism to the jail within 30 and 90 days. The threshold indicates that less than twenty-five (25) consumers would not return to jail during this time frame and eight (8) consumers were re-incarcerated within 30 and 90 days of their release. CJS QA grid also monitored consumers' recidivism to the jail within 60 days and 120 days. The threshold indicates that less than fifty (50) consumers would not return to jail during this time frame and only one (1) consumer was re-incarcerated within 60 and 120 days of their release.

In the Morris location, consumers' recidivism to jail within 30, 60, 90, and 120 days was monitored monthly. The threshold indicates that less than five (5) consumers would return within 30 and 90 days, and less than ten (10) consumers would return to jail within 60 and 120 days. During FY2023, zero (0) consumers returned to jail within 30 days, zero (0) consumers returned within 60 days, zero (0) consumers returned within 90 days, and zero (0) consumers returned within 120 days.

This year, CJS Essex successfully diverted two (2) consumers from a state prison sentence. As a result of the jail diversions, a total of 2,537 days was reduced in our consumers' prison sentence and 1,723 days was reduced in our consumers' county sentence. CJS continues to monitor the cost-effectiveness for county costs. In FY2023, the program saved approximately \$233,845 in county costs. (Please note the approximate cost to house a county inmate daily is \$135.72). Based on the data gathered, CJS will continue to monitor time saved for consumers both for county and state time.

This year, CJS Morris was successful in working collaboratively with Morris County Correctional Facility as well as the Morris County Prosecutor's Office and the Morris County Public Defender's Office to link three (3) clients to the Morris County Prosecutor's Mental Health Programs. As a result, staff successfully diverted consumers from a criminal sentence by approximately 3,825 prison days. For FY2023, the program saved approximately \$519,129 in state costs.

Consumer Satisfaction Survey

Essex

In Essex County, there were surveys distributed and tallied to measure satisfaction. All consumers were informed that answers would remain confidential. Consumers were provided with a sealed envelope to protect anonymity and informed of several ways to return the surveys:

Approximately fifty-eight (58) surveys were delivered to consumers (hand delivered, mailed and/or left at residence). Out of 58, five (5) consumers responded. For the fiscal year, the overall satisfaction rate was 100%.

Gender

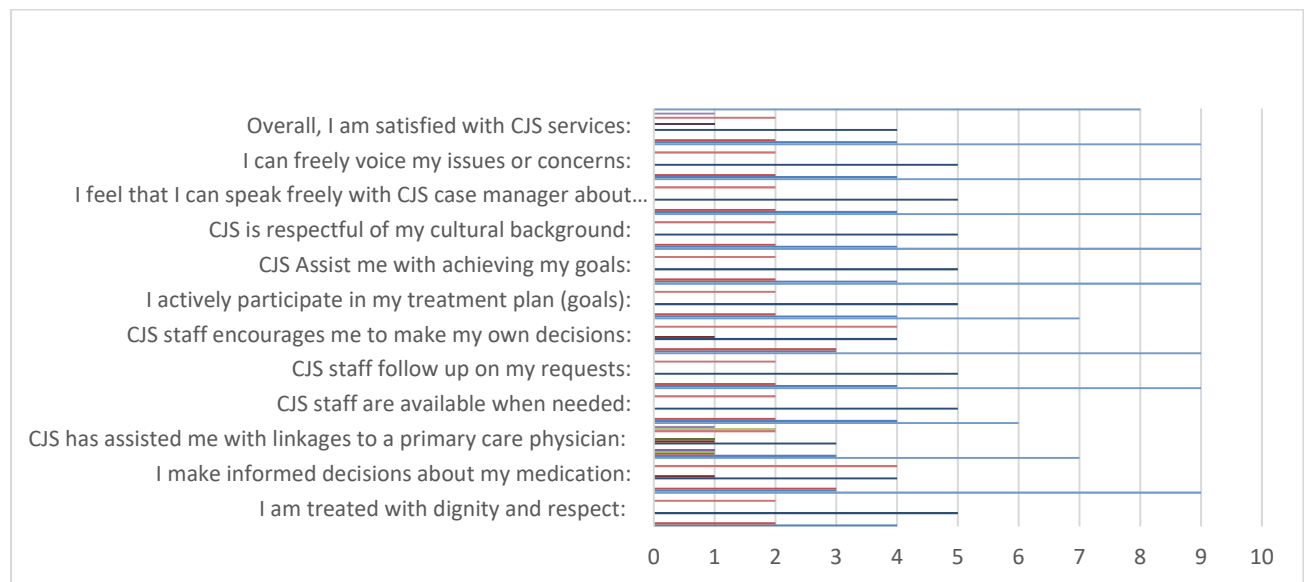
Of the five (5) consumers that responded to the survey; 60% were male and 40% were female.

Ethnicity

Of these five consumers, 75% identify as African-American, 25% identify as Caucasian, and 0% identify as Hispanic.

Age

The exact age of the consumers was collected. Of the five (5) consumers, one (1) identified as being between 18-24 years of age (20%), one (1) as 25-35 years of age (20%), two (2) as 35-44 years of age (40%), one (1) as 45-54 years of age (20%), and zero (0) as 55-64 years of age (0%).



Morris

In Morris County, there were surveys distributed and tallied to measure satisfaction. All consumers were informed that answers would remain confidential. Consumers were provided with a sealed envelope to protect anonymity and informed of several ways to return the surveys.

Approximately eighteen (18) surveys were delivered to consumers (hand delivered, mailed and/or left at residence). Out of the 18 surveys, fourteen (14) consumers responded. This accounts for a 77% response rate. For the fiscal year, 100% percent agreed that they were overall satisfied with CJS services.

Gender

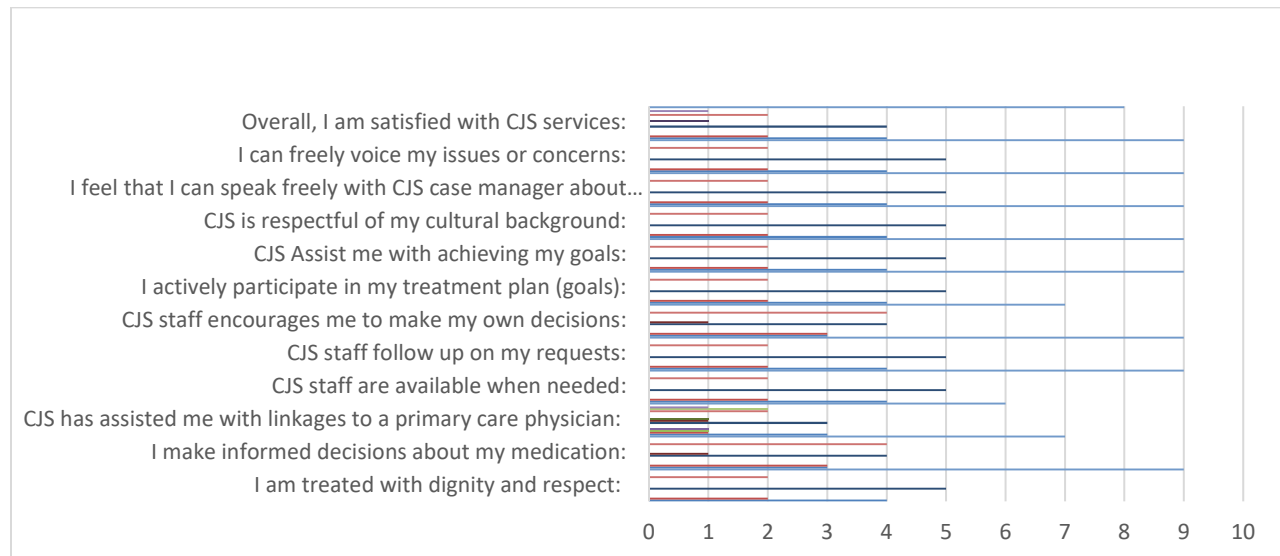
Of the fourteen (14) consumers that responded to the survey; ten (10) were male (71%) and four (4) were female (29%).

Ethnicity

Of these fourteen (14) consumers, eight (8) consumers identified as Caucasian (57%), four (4) as African-American (29%), one (1) as Hispanic/Latino (7%), and one (1) preferred not say (7%).

Age

The exact age of the consumers was collected. Of the fourteen (14) consumers, one (1) identified as being between 18-24 years of age (7%), two (2) as 25-35 years of age (14%), five (5) as 35-44 years of age (36%), two (2) as 45-54 years of age (14%), and four (4) as 55-64 years of age (29%).



Highlights

Essex

During FY2023, CJS staff were able to successfully link clients to 32 community linkages.

In May 2023, CJS Program Director met with their Community Engagement Coordinator from Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) in Irvington to discuss how MHA’s justice involved program can benefit their pilot program here in Essex County.

During FY2023, CJS staff attended a Narcan Training hosted by Hope One.

In March 2023 CJS Director provided training to Essex County Municipal Court Judges on Mental Health/MHA services with the Criminal Justice Reform (CJR) Director.

CJS consumers, in collaboration with all other MHA adult programs, attended a Thanksgiving Dinner at our West Orange location, the annual holiday party at Bloomfield Elks Lodge, and attended the annual consumer picnic at Eagle Rock Reservation in June.

CJS was able to participate in the annual Consumer Achievement Awards ceremony held at Bloomfield Elks Lodge acknowledging the success and progress of program clients.

CJS was able to successfully link three (3) consumers to DMV services via MHA onsite mobile DMV clinic at Prospect House.

During FY2023, Program Director alongside the Essex County Prosecutor's Office provided four hours of Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training to approximately 80 law enforcement officers.

CJS staff attend the Quarterly Civilian Training at Essex County Correctional Facility.

CJS Program Director participated in the PAARI (Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative) which gives law enforcement support, resources and assistance for individuals who are struggling with addiction and mental health issues.

Foothold Technology AWARDS system continues to assist Essex staff with maintaining accurate and organized record keeping as well as assist the Program Director with generating reports and monitoring CJS service delivery and outcomes.

Morris

During FY2023, CJS staff were able to successfully link clients to 57 community linkages.

During FY2023, Program Director and Morris County Prosecutor's Office provided 160 hours of Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training to approximately 125 law enforcement officers.

In November 2022, Program Director presented to students at Centenary College on criminal justice reform.

During FY2023, Program Director alongside members of the Morris County Judiciary met with members of the Union County Judiciary to assist them in the implementation of their mental health initiative.

In May 2023, Program Director and members of the Morris County Judiciary traveled to Miami, Florida to participate in a conference regarding "Decriminalizing Mental Illness: The Miami Model."

CJS Morris consumers, in collaboration with all other MHA adult programs, attended a picnic at Hedden Park, as well as a fall festival at the Morris campus and holiday party held by Holiday Express at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey.

CJS was able to participate in the annual Consumer Achievement Awards ceremony, held at the Morris campus, acknowledging the success and progress of program clients.

Foothold Technology AWARDS system continues to assist Morris staff with maintaining accurate and organized record keeping as well as assist the Program Director with generating reports and monitoring CJS service delivery and outcomes.

Trainings

CJS staff have attended several trainings throughout the year through Relias Learning. Training topics included, but were not limited to, HIPAA for Healthcare Professionals, Corporate Compliance and Ethics, Cultural Diversity, Crisis Management, Defensive Driving, Safety in the Community, and Suicide Prevention.

Advocacy

Essex County participates in the following systems meetings in Essex County: System Review Committee (SRC), Professional Advisory Board (PAC/PACADA), Mental Health Initiative and the Essex County Prosecutor's Office Mental Health Diversion Program. The above mentioned meetings are held on a bi-weekly and monthly basis.

The Director of Morris County CJS also participates as a member of the Review Team for the Morris County Prosecutor's Office Mental Health Diversion Program, Morris Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Steering Committee, and the NJ State CIT Committee.

Morris and Essex County also collaborates with the Statewide CJS Directors' meetings convened by the Department of Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS). The purpose of these meetings is to meet with counterparts in other counties to discuss ways to increase effectiveness of the program, review service delivery concerns, and to obtain needed updates on practices and protocols of the CJS Program.

Morris and Essex County staff work closely with consumers to assist them in developing self-advocacy skills by keeping an open dialogue on various ways they can become involved in different levels of advocacy (i.e., Self-help centers, NAMI-NJ).

Upcoming Year Recommendations:

Essex

- CJS will continue to enhance clinical documentation through internal focus audits and by attending in-services.
- CJS Essex staff will work on increasing the total number of contacts with consumers, their families and service providers.
- Staff will continue to collaborate with Essex County Correctional Facility, Office of Public Defenders, Essex County Probation, and other community providers to increase referrals.
- Staff will continue to work on reducing gaps in the service system with increased linkages and smooth transitioning of services for the consumers reintegrating into the community.
- Program Director will continue partnerships and collaborations with courts and local police municipalities with the hopes of increasing the number of consumers referred for diversion by law enforcement and/or the court before arrest or at the time of initial detention/first appearance hearings.

- CJS Essex will work collaboratively with the Essex County Prosecutor's Office to provide CIT training to local law enforcement.
- CJS Essex will continue to conduct trainings and presentations as needed to those wanting to learn the role of CJS Essex, as well as to local law enforcement.
- CJS Essex will attend any relevant trainings to increase their knowledge in best practice measures.

Morris

- CJS Morris staff will work on increasing the total number of contacts with consumers, their families and service providers.
- CJS Morris will continue to work closely with the Public Defender's Office to increase collaboration for consumer success.
- CJS Morris will continue to collect data and will closely monitor all performance indicators.
- CJS Morris will continue to work with consumers to empower them to reach their goals.
- CJS Morris will attend any relevant trainings to increase their knowledge in best practice measures.
- CJS Morris will continue to conduct trainings and presentations as needed to those wanting to learn the role of CJS Morris, as well as to local law enforcement.
- CJS Morris will continue to work collaboratively with Morris County Correctional Facility to increase referrals.
- CJS Morris will continue to work collaboratively with the Morris County Prosecutor's Office to provide CIT training to local law enforcement.

Morris Mental Health Diversion (MMHD)
Criminal Justice Reform (CJR) - Essex

The Morris Mental Health Diversion (MMHD), under the umbrella of the CJS team, promotes recovery through engagement, assessment of readiness for change, and linkage of individuals to mental health treatment, financial, housing, and other needed services. The team also provides advocacy and supportive counseling. The team partners with the Morris County Prosecutor's Office, Morris County Sheriff's Office, and Morris County Courts to reroute eligible individuals away from the criminal justice system towards appropriate case management and mental health services as early as possible following an interaction with law enforcement. Individuals who are known or suspected of suffering from a mental illness that caused or impacted the criminal behavior that led to criminal charges being filed, might be eligible for the Morris County Prosecutor's Office (MCPO) Mental Health Diversion Program. Through this program with pre-trial intervention, and depending on the consumer's willingness to participate, their level of compliance, and other factors, pre-trial services may divert consumers from state prison, county jail, and/or a conviction. The objective of the MMHD Program is to reduce recidivism, help divert defendants from having or adding to a criminal history and/or serving a custodial sentence, and assist enrolled consumers with connecting to services that help them achieve their wellness and recovery goals.

The Essex Criminal Justice Reform (CJR) promotes recovery through engagement, assessment of readiness for change, and linkage of individuals who have mental health diagnosis who are approved for pre-trial release to mental health treatment, financial, housing, and other needed services. CJR is a consumer-centered outpatient mental health program that provides counseling, advocacy, case management, peer support and psychiatric services. The team partners with Essex County Superior Court, Essex County Municipal Courts, Essex County Correctional Facility (ECCF), Central Judicial Processing Court, Essex County Pre-Trial Services, Essex County Probation, and Essex County Public Defender's Office to reroute individuals away from the criminal justice system towards appropriate case management and mental health services as early as possible from their initial incarceration. Individuals who are suspected or identified as suffering from a mental illness and approved by pre-trial services to have appropriate charges are screened at ECCF by our team and set up with an assessment for treatment at CJR. CJR works closely with consumers to assist them with legal matters on the Superior and Municipal court levels. Additionally, due to Remand Court in Essex County, individuals whose cases are downgraded are eligible for dismissal through Municipal Court. The objective of the CJR Program is to reduce recidivism, assist with achieving a legal benefit, i.e., dismissal or reduction of charges, help divert defendants from having or adding to a criminal history and/or serving a custodial sentence, and assist enrolled consumers with connecting to services that help them achieve their wellness and recovery goals.

Personnel

At MMHD, there is one Program Director, one Administrative Assistant, one Peer Support Specialist, two Forensic Case Managers (FCM), and two Forensic Clinicians (LCSW/LPC). Staff work within the jail and the community completing intakes and developing discharge plans for eligible consumers incarcerated in Morris County Correctional Facility. MMHD staffing is culturally diverse and is representative of the persons served.

At CJR, there is one Program Director, one Peer Support Specialist, one Navigator Case Coordinator, and two Clinicians (LCSW/LPC). Staff work within the jail and the community completing screenings, intakes, and treatment for eligible consumers who are approved for pre-trial release from Essex County Correctional Facility. CJR staffing is culturally diverse and is representative of the persons served.

Caseload

As of June 30, 2023, MMHD had 29 active cases. During FY2023, referrals for MMHD were made through the Morris County Prosecutor's Office, the Morris County Public Defender's Office, and Morris County Sheriff's Department (Community Connections).

As of June 30, 2023, CJR had 41 active cases. During FY2023, referrals for CJR were made through Essex County Correctional Facility, Essex County Public Defender's Office, Essex County Pre-Trial Services, and Central Judicial Processing Court.

Demographics

MMHD accepts individuals who are 18 years of age or older, who are mental health consumers, who are not yet incarcerated but at risk for incarceration due to criminal involvement before incarceration, or who are criminally charged adult residents of Morris County who have a mental illness or a co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorder. The individual is also either;

- pending discharge or incarcerated in the Morris County Correctional Facility (MCCF), or
- who have been released or charged on summons and are facing indictable charges.

CJR accepts individuals who are 18 years of age or older, who have a positive mental health screen, and who are criminally charged adult residents of Essex County on pre-trial release with 3rd and 4th degree charges.

Performance Outcomes

Performance outcomes were measured, as well as monitored, through MHA's Quality Assurance Committee (QA). MMHD consumers' recidivism to jail within 30, 60, 90, and 120 days were monitored monthly. The threshold indicates that less than five consumers would return within 30 and 90 days, and less than ten consumers would return to jail within 60 and 120 days. During FY2023, one (1) consumer returned to jail within 30 days, one (1) consumer returned within 60 days, zero (0) consumers returned within 90 days, and one (1) consumer returned within 120 days.

This year, MMHD was successful in working collaboratively with the Morris County Prosecutor's Office to successfully admit six (6) clients into the Morris County Prosecutor's Mental Health Diversion Program. As a result, staff successfully diverted consumers from a criminal sentence by approximately 7,474 prison days. For FY2023, the program saved approximately \$1,014,507 in state costs. (Please note the approximate cost to house an inmate daily is \$135.72).

CJR's performance outcomes were measured, as well as monitored, through MHA's Quality Assurance Committee (QA). CJR consumers' recidivism to jail within 30, 60, 90, and 120 days was monitored monthly. During FY2023, three (3) consumers would return within 30 days, one (1) consumer within 60 days, and zero (0) consumers within 90 and 120 days. The threshold indicates that less than five (5) consumers returned within 30, 60, 90, and 120 days.

CJR was successful in working collaboratively with Essex County Superior Court, Municipal Courts, and Essex County Public Defender's Office to facilitate nine (9) case dismissals and twenty-seven (27) downgraded cases to Municipal Court. The cases dismissed represents 20% of our census and cases downgraded represents 59% of our census. In addition, ten (10) individuals have not received a positive legal outcome yet which represents 21% of our census. These performance outcomes represent the possible legal benefit of enrolling in CJR.

Consumer Satisfaction Survey

MMHD

In Morris County, there were surveys distributed and tallied to measure satisfaction. All consumers were informed that answers would remain confidential. Consumers were provided with a sealed envelope to protect anonymity and informed of several ways to return the surveys:

Approximately twenty-nine (29) surveys were delivered to consumers (hand delivered, mailed and/or left at residence). Out of the 29 surveys, three (3) consumers responded. For the fiscal year, 100% strongly agreed that they were overall satisfied with MMHD services.

Gender

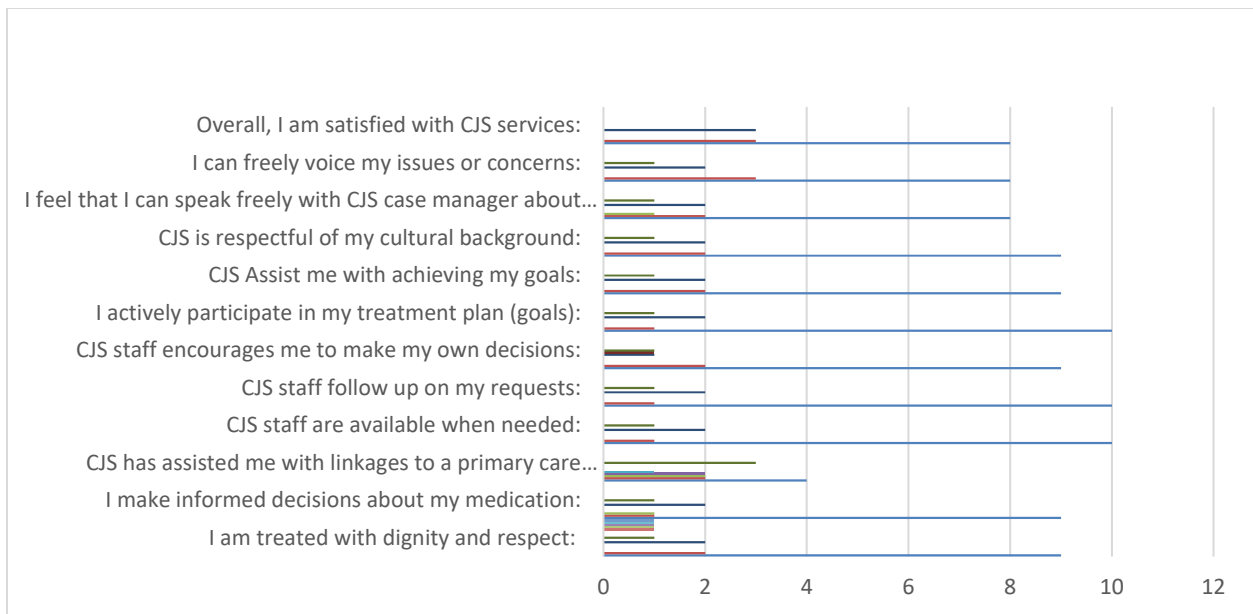
Of the three (3) consumers that responded to the survey, two (2) were male (67%), one (1) was female (33%).

Ethnicity

Of these three (3) consumers, three (3) consumers identified as African-American (100%).

Age

The exact age of the consumers was collected. Of the three (3) consumers, two (2) identified as being between 25-34 years of age (67%), and one (1) as 45-54 years of age (33%).



CJR

In Essex County, there were surveys distributed and tallied to measure satisfaction. All consumers were informed that answers would remain confidential. Consumers were provided with a sealed envelope to protect anonymity and informed of several ways to return the surveys:

Approximately thirty-two (32) surveys were delivered to consumers (hand delivered, mailed and/or left at residence). Out of the 32 surveys, eleven (11) consumers responded. For the fiscal year, 80% strongly agreed and 20% agreed that they were overall satisfied with CJR services.

Gender

Of the eleven (11) consumers that responded to the survey, six (6) were male (54%), and five (5) were female (45%).

Ethnicity

Of these eleven (11) consumers, eleven (11) consumers identified as African-American (100%).

Age

The exact age of the consumers was collected. Of the eleven (11) consumers, two (2) identified as being between 18-24 years of age (18%), six (6) as 25-34 years of age (54%), two (2) as 34-44 years of age (18%), and one (1) as 55-64 years of age (9%).

Highlights

MMHD

During FY2023, MMHD staff were able to successfully link clients to 157 community linkages.

During FY2023, Program Director and Morris County Prosecutor’s Office provided 160 hours of Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training to approximately 125 law enforcement officers.

In November 2022, Program Director presented to students at Centenary College on criminal justice reform.

During FY2023, Program Director, alongside members of the Morris County Judiciary, met with members of the Union County Judiciary to assist them in the implementation of their mental health initiative.

In May 2023, Program Director and members of the Morris County Judiciary traveled to Miami, Florida to participate in a conference regarding “Decriminalizing Mental Illness: The Miami Model.”

MMHD consumers, in collaboration with all other MHA adult programs, attended a picnic at Hedden Park, as well as a fall festival at the Morris campus and holiday party held by Holiday Express at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey.

MMHD was able to participate in the annual Consumer Achievement Awards ceremony, held at the Morris campus, acknowledging the success and progress of program clients.

Foothold Technology AWARDS system continues to assist Morris staff with maintaining accurate and organized record keeping as well as assist the Program Director with generating reports and monitoring MMHD service delivery and outcomes.

CJR

In September 2022, CJR launched as a pilot program.

During FY2023, CJR staff were able to successfully link clients to 196 community linkages.

During FY2023, Program Director and Senior Director of Programs met with the mental health initiative partners bi-weekly to work collaboratively on program initiatives.

During FY2023, Program Director met with Office of the Public Defender weekly to discuss legal intervention for consumers.

In March 2023, Program Director presented to mental health staff at Caldwell Schools on Cultural Humility and Working with Racially Diverse Students.

In March 2023, Program Director presented to the Municipal Court Judges of Essex County on mental illness, trauma-informed care, and CJR Program.

In May 2023, CJR launched weekly peer support groups.

CJR consumers, in collaboration with all other MHA adult programs, attended a picnic at Eagle Rock Reservation, as well as a thanksgiving party and holiday party held at Bloomfield Elks Lodge.

CJR was able to participate in the annual Consumer Achievement Awards ceremony, held at the Bloomfield Elks Lodge, acknowledging the success and progress of program clients.

Foothold Technology AWARDS system continues to assist Essex staff with maintaining accurate and organized record keeping as well as assist the Program Director with generating reports and monitoring CJR service delivery and outcomes.

Trainings

MMHD and CJR staff have attended several trainings throughout the year through Relias Learning and the DOL Grant. Training topics included, but were not limited to, HIPAA for Healthcare Professionals, Corporate Compliance and Ethics, Cultural Diversity, Crisis Management, Defensive Driving, Safety in the Community, and Suicide Prevention. CJR staff have also attended Essex Crisis Intervention Training and Civilian Training at the jail.

Advocacy

The MMHD Program Director participates as a member of the Review Team for the Morris County Prosecutor's Office Mental Health Diversion Program, Morris Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Steering Committee, and the NJ State CIT Committee.

Morris and Essex County staff work closely with consumers to assist them in developing self-advocacy skills by keeping an open dialogue on various ways they can become involved in different levels of advocacy (i.e., Self-help centers, NAMI-NJ).

Upcoming Year Recommendations:

MMHD

- MMHD staff will work on increasing the total number of contacts with consumers, their families and service providers.
- MMHD will continue to work closely with the Public Defender's Office to increase collaboration for consumer success.
- MMHD will continue to collect data and will closely monitor all performance indicators.
- MMHD will continue to work with consumers to empower them to reach their goals.
- MMHD will attend any relevant trainings to increase their knowledge in best practice measures.
- MMHD will continue to conduct trainings and presentations as needed to those wanting to learn the role of MMHD, as well as to local law enforcement.
- MMHD will continue to work collaboratively with Morris County Correctional Facility to increase referrals.
- MMHD will continue to work collaboratively with the Morris County Prosecutor's Office to provide CIT Training to local law enforcement.

CJR

- CJR staff will work on increasing the total number of consumers served.
- CJR staff will work on increasing total number of contacts with consumer, their families and service providers.

- CJR will continue to work closely with Essex County program partners which includes Superior Court, Municipal Court, Central Processing Judicial Court, Pre-Trial Services, Public Defender's Office, and Probation to increase collaboration for consumer success.
- CJR will continue to collect data and will closely monitor all performance indicators.
- CJR will continue to work with consumers to empower them to reach their goals.
- CJR will attend any relevant trainings to increase their knowledge in best practice measures.
- CJR will continue to conduct presentations as needed to those wanting to learn about CJR.
- CJR will continue to work collaboratively with Essex County Correctional Facility to increase referrals.