

Sheriff's Department Correctional Health Services

Impact of 2010-2011 Budget
Reductions

Impact on Medical Care

- Reduction in physician time will reduce patients being seen by 50%.
- Elimination of any nurse sick call triage. This triage resolves 70% of complaints without a doctor visit.
- Waiting list of 400 patients always.
- Nursing ratio in acute unit of 60 acutely ill patients to 1 nurse in infirmary and detoxification units.

Impact on Medical Care

- No physicians or nurse practitioners on nights or weekends.
- No clinician on site to respond to emergencies on nights/weekends— increase in hospital send outs.
- Increased send outs (\$4 – 20K per occurrence) will cost the County more in hospitalization.
- Custody officers will be pulled from facility for med transfers. Two per occurrence.
- Duration of custody wait in ER's off-site 8 – 12 hours per occurrence.
- Frequent lockdowns of facilities due to loss of custody staff.

Impact of Psychiatric Care

- \$1.1 million reduction in psychiatric services
- Elimination of 7 clinical positions and 1.5 M.D.'s.
- Elimination of 1.0 Discharge Planner
- Could add 3 – 4 days for patient to be assessed and an additional week before patient is put on medication.
- At Mid-year took 500K reduction, total for year \$1.6 million.

Impact on No. of Hospital Days

- Treatment account still underfunded
- Treatment account requires: \$2.0 mill for field arrests, inmate hospitalization \$2.0 million, specialty services \$2.0 million. This was at previous staffing levels.
- Lack of early intervention at facility will cause additional send outs and will increase inpatient/emergency days.

Level of Funding Inadequate

- County Counsel opinion stated that CHS was in danger of falling below “community standard” last year.
- This is the standard required for defensible position in lawsuits and to avoid “deliberate indifference standard”.
- CHS is caught in a bind in terms of cost as we cannot release inmates or deny services that are medically necessary.
- CHS is a constitutionally mandated service. Levels of service are prescribed through Title 15 and case law.