





# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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## Proposed Behavioral Health Access/CIT Center

### What is the issue?

Law enforcement officers throughout Johnson County are currently limited to two options when they respond to behavioral health-related calls for assistance: take the individual to a hospital emergency room or take them to jail. Neither is an appropriate solution, and both options are expensive and the facilities themselves are overwhelmed by behavioral health needs. These calls are time-consuming for officers, taking anywhere from several hours to an entire shift to handle, which may include standing by with the individual at the emergency room. National statistics show that 7% to 10% of law enforcement calls are related to behavioral health issues.

A recent study of four heavy consumers of medical, law enforcement, and social services in Johnson County showed that over a five-year period, the total service cost to provide them with medical, mental health, substance abuse, legal, housing, and case management services was \$2.16 million. Two of these individuals have since died and the other two are still homeless, actively abusing substances, and their mental health is unmanaged.

Other communities have developed restoration or access centers to provide a more appropriate solution for individuals who are experiencing behavioral health crises. These communities have demonstrated that the average turnaround time for officers involved with these types of calls can be reduced to 10 to 15 minutes total. With the assistance of area cities, the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC) Emergency Medicine Department, and local non-profit agencies, Johnson County is in the process of developing such a center.

### What is the solution?

The proposed Behavioral Health Access/CIT (crisis intervention team/training) Center will provide immediate behavioral health intervention and treatment, as well as comprehensive service coordination and transition planning. When fully operational, the facility will contain sobering, detoxification, crisis observation, and crisis stabilization units, as well as a low-barrier shelter, mobile crisis outreach, medical first aid, and 24-hour telemedicine. A working group comprised of law enforcement officers, government officials, physicians, social service providers, and various other stakeholders has been exploring models and associated costs.

### How much is this going to cost?

The initial projected capital cost may be up to \$6.5 million for a 22,000 square foot facility. It is believed that this cost may be lower based upon current estimates. The Board is asking that the capital costs be contributed by participating Johnson County governments, as follows:

- Johnson County: 40%
- City of Iowa City: 40%
- City of Coralville: 10%
- City of North Liberty: 10%

Any additional capital funding received from sources such as other cities, grants, or private donations will be designated toward ongoing building maintenance costs and future capital improvements.

Projected 3-Year Annual Operating Expense:

- Year 1: \$1.46 million
- Year 2: \$1.5 million
- Year 3: \$1.54 million

Projected 3-Year Annual Operating Revenue:

- Year 1: \$1.10 million
- Year 2: \$1.12 million
- Year 3: \$1.15 million

Projected 3-Year Net Operating Income:

- Year 1: **(\$367,000)**
- Year 2: **(\$376,000)**
- Year 3: **(\$385,000)**

**Who will cover shortfalls in annual operating income?**

Johnson County will provide funding in the event that operating expenditures exceed operating income, up to \$400,000 annually. In the worst-case scenario, if no Medicaid reimbursements are received, then net operating losses could be up to \$900,000 annually. The first organizational response to annual deficits will be to re-assess facility staffing levels and the service options provided. If the deficit is greater than \$400,000, the Board will ask the participating governments to meet to find a permanent funding solution, and to fund the shortfall in the same proportion that they contributed to the initial capital costs.

Johnson County will dedicate \$785,000 of its “SF504 fund”—one-time money from the Mental Health/Disability Services of the East Central Region—toward start-up cash for operations and to cover annual budgetary shortfalls. Operating revenue for the facility will be earned through reimbursements for service from Medicaid, Medicare, and private health insurance companies. Iowa County has indicated that they may contribute \$100,000 toward operational expenses. Other counties and philanthropic organizations may provide operational funding.

**Who will own and operate the building?**

Johnson County will be the owner of the building, will coordinate the construction and/or renovation of the structure, and will be the operator of the physical facility.

**Who will manage and operate the programs within the facility?**

A 28E agreement will be drafted between Johnson County and the participating Johnson County governments to detail the funding and obligations surrounding the purchase of real property to construct/remodel the proposed facility. This agreement will also detail the disposal process should the program cease to exist.

A second 28E agreement will be drafted between Johnson County and the participating Johnson County governments to establish a facility advisory board comprised of representatives from participating local governments, local non-profit service providers, and other stakeholders.

A third 28E agreement will be drafted between Johnson County and the UIHC Department of Emergency Medicine. The Emergency Medicine Department will be the overall manager of the various programs and activities that occur within the facility. Local non-profit service providers will be contracted to provide specific services.

**What is the timeline for decision making?**

The working groups (governance/steering), local law enforcement agencies, and involved non-profit service providers are interested in this facility becoming operational soon. The need for the facility is becoming more and more apparent as increasing numbers of law enforcement officers receive training in CIT. The Board of Supervisors has budgeted funds to purchase a building, though they do not have the total amount needed. The Board believes that two of the 28E agreements could be worked out relatively quickly. The agreement with UIHC Department of Emergency Medicine may take a bit longer, but significant progress can be accomplished regarding the facility in the interim. The Board requests that participating local governments make a commitment toward this facility and include funding for the facility in their respective FY19 budgets.