



## **For Immediate Release**

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## **Alliance Awarded Grant for Jail Diversion Program**

(Durham, NC) – Alliance Behavioral Healthcare has been awarded a two-year, \$554,000 grant from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services to fund a Critical Time Intervention program in Cumberland County.

Alliance manages the public mental health, substance abuse, and intellectual/developmental disability services for citizens of Cumberland, Durham, Wake and Johnston counties.

Critical Time Intervention, or CTI, is a time-limited intensive case management model designed to assist adults with mental illness who need help in successfully managing critical transitions in their lives. CTI promotes a focus on recovery, psychiatric rehabilitation, and full inclusion in the community. A lack of support during these crucial transitions often results in perpetuating poor life outcomes such as homelessness, institutionalization, high usage of crisis services and incarceration.

The grant will be used to develop a forensic post-release program utilizing the CTI model to target persons with mental health, substance use or co-occurring conditions incarcerated at the Cumberland County Detention Center with a history of repeated incarcerations. They may be at risk for returning to jail after discharge due to housing instability or unemployment, and may be hampered by limited or no social supports and difficulty engaging in behavioral health services. The program will offer jail in-reach, assertive engagement, peer support services, case management, and other services necessary to help ensure that individuals discharged from the Detention Center have access to behavioral health aftercare and community resources they need to make it outside jail, including stable housing and assistance with education and employment.

“This program personifies the principles of Alliance’s system of care approach to employing community partnerships to provide people with the comprehensive, whole-person care that optimizes their chances for recovery,” said Rob Robinson, Alliance CEO. Robinson points out that Alliance views Cumberland County as an ideal implementation site for this specialized service due

to the almost 600 members of law enforcement and other first responders who have received Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training to respond appropriately to calls about individuals in behavioral health crisis. He also cited the CIT/Diversion Program Coordinator housed by the Sheriff's Office at the Detention Center, as well as the presence of the Jail Health Program, administered by Cumberland County Department of Public Health, which provides a natural linkage to medical care and pharmacy services.

Like the successful grant application, the program implementation will involve a broad partnership between Alliance and multiple community agencies and organizations including Cumberland County Government, the Health Department, Sheriff's Office, jail and court personnel, the Fayetteville Police Department, vocational rehabilitation, the Employment Security Commission, housing providers, local colleges and universities and the faith community.

"This is a beneficial collaboration between Alliance Behavioral Healthcare and the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office. The Detention Center will provide the space and assistance necessary to the Critical Time Intervention program with the goal of achieving the best possible outcome for individuals that are released from the jail," said Sheriff Earl "Moose" Butler.

"This grant award is good news for Cumberland County and reflects the great partnership that exists between local service agencies and the Alliance Behavioral Healthcare team," said Kenneth Edge, chairman of the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners and an Alliance Board member.

"The selection team stated that this is one of the most innovative and comprehensive proposals they have ever seen. Perhaps through working together with all agencies, we can reduce recidivism through the jail diversion program," Edge said.