

# Homelessness, Housing, Mental Health Task Force

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March 22, 2023



# Meeting Purpose:

Learn about the long-term and follow-up services provided to Tulsans in mental health crisis, including those experiencing homelessness.



OKLAHOMA

Department of Mental Health  
and Substance Abuse

Commissioner Slatton-Hodges



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**Tulsa**  
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# About Us

- ***Mission statement:***
  - The mission of the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services is to promote healthy communities and provide the highest quality care to enhance the well-being of all Oklahomans.
- ***What general services does your organization provide to address mental health crisis, specifically for those experiencing homelessness.***
  - The ODMHSAS serves as the state's safety net mental health and substance use treatment services system. Founded in 1953, this agency is the leading expert in Oklahoma for all efforts associated with mental health and addiction, including prevention, treatment and recovery support services. The ODMHSAS also operates 11 [treatment provider organizations](#) and is leading the nation's launch of the [988 Mental Health Lifeline](#) – creating the most comprehensive crisis response continuum in the nation that leverages technology and alternatives to law enforcement involvement.
  - ODMHSAS maintains a strong commitment to those experiencing homelessness, including the provision of housing and housing support services, and advocacy for people with mental illness and/or addiction disorders.
  - The ODMHSAS funds a variety of housing options and services for homeless individuals and families across the state and specifically in Tulsa ranging from discharge planning subsidies to Oklahoma's only Safe Haven. We accomplish this both directly and through collaborative grant efforts. Full overview found [HERE](#)

# About Us Continued

- ***What general services does your organization provide to address mental health crisis, specifically for those experiencing homelessness.***
  - ODMHSAS funds 83 permanent and supported transitional beds in Tulsa for those at risk of becoming homeless or experiencing homelessness with mental health concerns.
  - 33 Oxford Houses in Tulsa offering over 300 beds to men, women and women with children.
  - 17 OKARR certified homes in Tulsa with 189 beds for men, women and women with children.
  - Scholarships and vouchers to provide financial assistance to connect to safe substance use recovery housing through Oxford House, Oklahoma Association of Recovery Residence (OKARR) or ODMHSAS approved locations. This currently represents more than \$1.5 million a year for those wanting a safe place to begin or maintain their path to recovery.
  - **Outreach teams** provide specific interventions for the homeless population;
  - **SSI/SSDI assistance** – We are the state team lead for SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, Recovery (SOAR) to increase access to disability income for eligible adults who are experiencing homelessness and have a mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder.
  - We fund the **Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless**' work to provide specialized case management services to homeless individuals. In 2021, more than 1,650 individuals were served through the center.
  - Active referral to **Tulsa Continuum of Care programs** (Housing Solutions, Domestic Violence Intervention Services, and the Mental Health Association of Oklahoma.
  - **Crossroads Clubhouse** is a community in recovery from mental illness in Tulsa that provides opportunities for housing, education, employment and social activities.

# About Us Continued

- ***What general services does your organization provide to address mental health crisis, specifically for those experiencing homelessness.***
  - **Projects for Assistance in Transition and Homelessness (PATH)**, located at **Family & Children's Services**, delivers assertive outreach and engagement services to people with serious mental illness experiencing homelessness.
  - **Runaway and Homeless Youth** – We fund a variety of housing and other services targeting runaway and homeless youth in Tulsa ranging from youth discharge planning subsidies to the Rise Above Project (RAP). RAP provides connections to housing financial assistance and wraparound supports to victims of human trafficking.
    - Host Homes is an innovative and cost-effective diversion from homelessness program matching young adults to homes of community volunteers and is available in Tulsa.
  - Lastly, the ODMHSAS provides more than \$1.2M in funds specific to the Tulsa community that assists with flexible programming to support those experiencing homelessness.

# Services in Tulsa

- ***How does the overall mental health crisis response system help individuals experiencing homelessness?***
  - The crisis response system is part of a continuum of treatment and support services, ranging from resource identification and navigation to intensive wraparound behavioral health case management services designated at our partnering treatment provider organizations and at all of our Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) and Comprehensive Community Addiction Recovery Centers (CCARC). These services assist people who are unhoused and have behavioral health challenge accessing needed treatment and support services.
  - The state has invested \$94 million across Tulsa's mental health and addiction treatment system in state fiscal year 2022 alone. This funding includes treatment provider contracts with organizations like Family and Children's Services, Counseling and Recovery Services, Center for Therapeutic Intervention, and GRAND Addiction Recovery Center as examples. In addition, the acute psychiatric hospital operations provided through the Tulsa Center for Behavioral Health as well as the state's Medicaid match is inclusive of this total dollar figure.
- ***How is 988 integrated into the existing mental health crisis response system in Tulsa?***
  - The 988 Mental Health Lifeline connects someone directly to a mental health professional to talk you through what's going on and get the resources you need for either yourself or your loved one. About **90% of the time**, things can get sorted out with just a phone call, by either resolving the situation at hand or connecting someone to a local treatment provider. The call center also follows up with the person to make sure they made connection to treatment resource. If more immediate help is needed in that moment, a mobile crisis team is dispatched from the 988 call center.
- ***How do mobile teams assist with crisis response in Tulsa?***
  - Several partner organizations to respond locally, face to face, within community to deescalate crisis situations. Team consists of a licensed behavioral health clinician and a certified peer recovery support specialist or case manager.



# Panel Discussion

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**Dr. Crystal Hernandez**, Executive Director - Tulsa Center for Behavioral Health

**Carrie Slatton-Hodges**, Commissioner - ODMHSAS

**Jill Young**, Chief Program Officer - Family & Children's Services

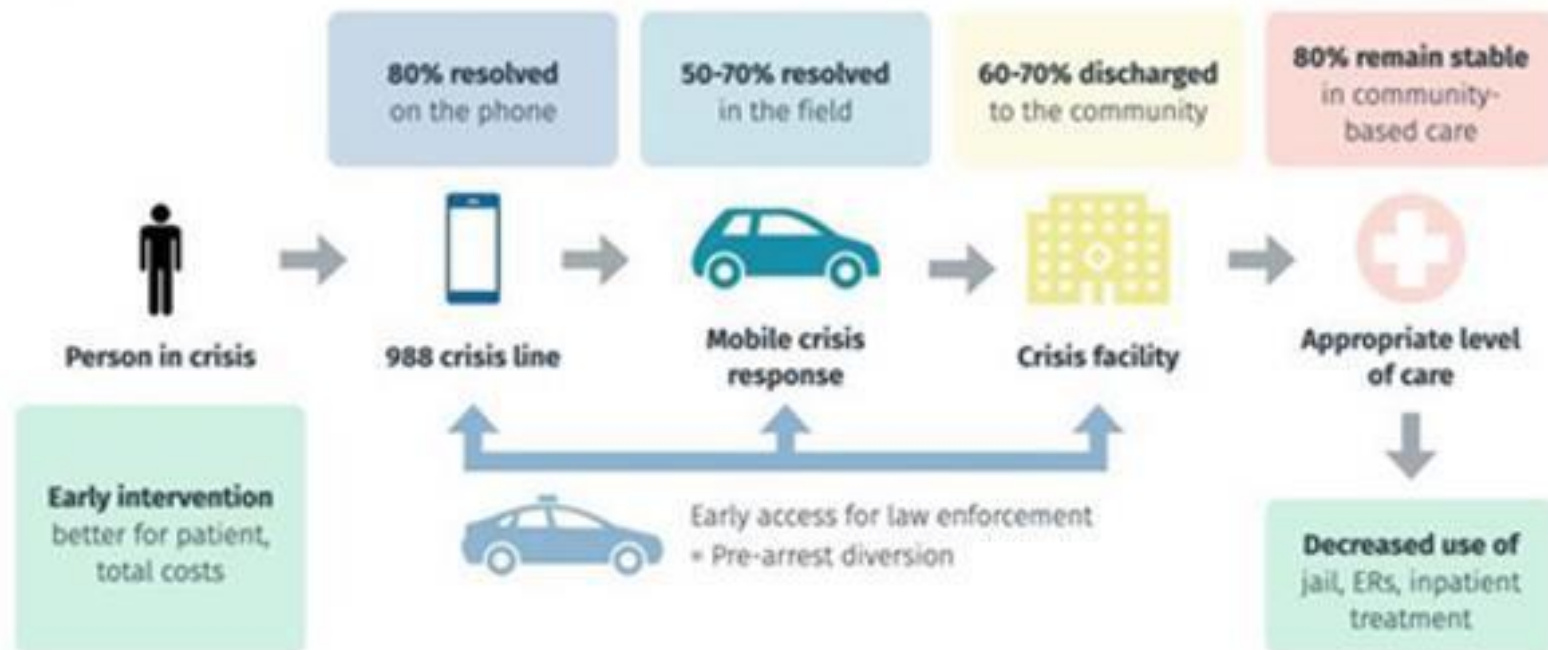
**Kathy Loehr**, Homeless Services Program Director - Family & Children's Services

**Jim Serratt**, Chief Executive Officer - Parkside Psychiatric Hospital & Clinic

**Josh Cantwell**, Chief Operating Officer – GRAND Mental Health



## Key priorities for Tulsa: Enhancing mental health crisis response



# Mental Health Services in Tulsa

- What is the single most important item you want to share with the task force?
- What community partners or city departments do you interact with to assist when needed?
  - What is going well?
  - What improvements are needed?
- How does your organization address the various needs of people experiencing homelessness?
  - What is going well?
  - What improvements are needed?

# How can the City help to more effectively support an individual's mental health needs, who is also experiencing homelessness?

- Policy changes in local ordinances and/or state laws.
- Convening among community partners and broader public.
- Financial resources for programs, services, staff, etc.