



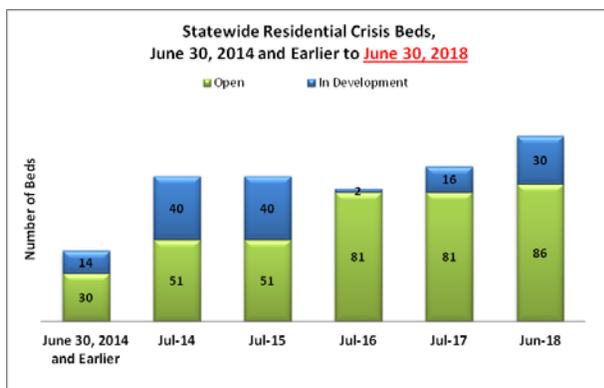
October 11, 2018

Progress Continues on Mental Health System in Iowa **Statewide Report Demonstrates Significant Improvement**

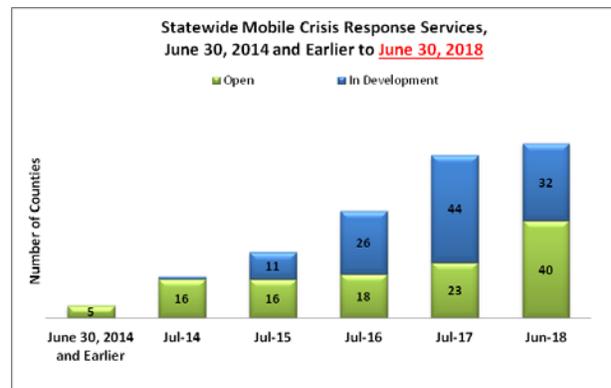
(Des Moines, Iowa) – The Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) has completed the Iowa Mental Health and Disability Services (MHDS) Regions Statewide [Report](#) for state fiscal year 2017. This report monitors the implementation and accessibility of core services to Iowans with mental illness or intellectual disability. It also looks at utilization of MHDS Regional funded services.

The MHDS Regions have demonstrated the ability to develop networks of service delivery that meet, and in some instances, exceed requirements. MHDS Regions have developed required core services and nearly all meet the accessibility standards. Many MHDS Regions are expanding additional core services such as crisis services and jail diversion services. Most MHDS Region spending is on services for individuals with a mental illness. A total of 30,161 unduplicated individuals received Region funded services in SFY2017.

The number of statewide residential crisis beds nearly tripled from 2014 to 2018, as shown in Table A. Statewide mobile crisis response services increased nearly five-fold in the same period, shown in Table B.



(Table A: MHDS Regions Statewide Report SFY17, page 22.)



(Table B: MHDS Regions Statewide Report SFY17, page 25.)

Assertive Community Treatment Programs (ACT) provide comprehensive, community-based outpatient services to individuals with a serious mental illness. ACT is currently available in 30 counties. Services are available for individuals located within 30 minutes (urban) or 45 minutes (rural) from where the team is located.

Jail diversion services provide community-based treatment and support services to individuals with mental illness involved in the criminal justice system to eliminate unnecessary incarceration. In 2014 there were only 11 counties in the State of Iowa with jail diversion services. Now, 66 counties provide jail diversion services.

Director Jerry Foxhoven says “This is further proof that the transition to the Regions system for mental health was the right choice, and that we are moving in the right direction. With the additional services being rolled out due to recent legislation, there will be even greater access to vital services for Iowans in need.”

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