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June 6, 2017 at 8:01 AM EDT

CONTACT:
Adina Baer Gross Communications & Outreach Coordinator
Ph.: 843-529-7327, abgross@charlestoncounty.org

Charleston Dorchester Mental Health Center Reopens **Tri-county Crisis Stabilization Center**

CJCC launches Triage Service to provide law enforcement officers alternatives to jail in dealing with individuals suffering from mental illness, substance abuse and homelessness

The Charleston County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) announces its collaboration and involvement in the reopening of a facility aimed at diverting those suffering from mental health and substance abuse issues from jail. The Charleston Dorchester Mental Health Center (CDMHC), a center operated by the South Carolina Department of Mental Health (SCDMH), will reopen its 10-bed Tri-county Crisis Stabilization Center at 5 Charleston Center Drive in Charleston on June 5, 2017. The TCSC will appropriately divert non-violent, medically stable individuals from emergency departments, inpatient hospital beds, and detention centers. The opening of this facility is a testament to the collaboration among agencies across the lowcountry actively addressing the critical need for a clinically and legally appropriate diversion of medically stable and non-violent individuals from unnecessary incarceration, emergency room visits, and hospital admissions.

This Center, serving those 18 and older, is a collaborative effort funded by SCDMH, CDMHC, MUSC, Roper Saint Francis, the Charleston Center, the Charleston County Sheriff's Office, the Berkeley Mental Health Center, and the CJCC. A triage service will be located in the Center to help reduce jail use among individuals living with mental illness, addiction, and/or homelessness and quickly link them to care management or other community-based services.

"The CJCC is thrilled for this collaborative community effort to reopen the Tri-county Crisis Stabilization Center. The launch of the triage service within the center will provide officers real-time alternatives to jail when dealing with individuals at-risk of low-level, non-violent charges," said Assistant Sheriff and CJCC Chairman Mitch Lucas.

The triage service is an essential part of the CJCC's transformative efforts to improve the local criminal justice system and safely lower the jail population by 25%. The service is one of six core jail reform strategies supported by a \$2.25 million John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Safety and Justice Challenge grant. Through the launch of the triage service, officers on the street will have access to a live clinician 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with quick information, expertise, and providing options other than jail such as a short-term psychiatric treatment bed at the center, detox or sobering services, housing assistance, and more.

"Providing local law enforcement real-time options other than jail not only helps these individuals, it allows our law enforcement officers to be back on the street as quickly as possible. It is truly a community effort," said CDMHC Director and CJCC Co-Vice Chair Deborah Blalock.

Leadership is available to answer questions at The Tri-County Crisis Stabilization Center Tuesday, June 6 between 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm. The Crisis Stabilization Center is located on the second floor of The Charleston Center at 5 Charleston Center Drive.

For additional background on the effort to rethink the way Charleston County uses jails, read the [2016 CJCC Annual Report](#).



Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

About the CJCC and the Safety and Justice Challenge Initiative

The CJCC is a collaboration of elected, appointed, and senior officials, law enforcement leaders, judicial and court leadership, behavioral health professionals, various community leaders and many more. The mission of the CJCC is to assist in making sustainable, data-driven improvements to Charleston County's criminal justice system and thereby improve public safety and community well-being. For more information, www.cjcc.charlestoncounty.org.

The CJCC's reform strategies are funded with the support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation as part of the Safety and Justice Challenge, which seeks to reduce over-incarceration by changing the way America thinks about and uses jails. Core to the Challenge is a competition designed to support efforts to improve local criminal justice systems across the country that are working to safely reduce over-reliance on jails, with a particular focus on addressing disproportionate impact on low-income individuals and communities of color.