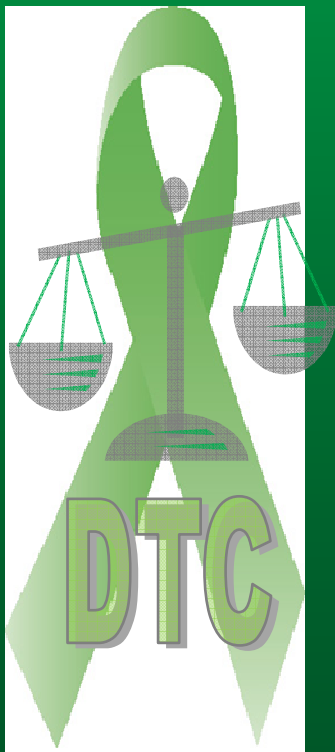


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National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month JULY

Dear Community Partners, NAMI DeKalb members and Friends of NAMI DeKalb:

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

DeKalb and The Health Initiative celebrate National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, designated in July, as a time to increase public awareness of mental illness among diverse communities. Established in 2008 by the U.S. House of Representatives, it honors Bebe Moore Campbell, distinguished author and NAMI advocate of mental health education and support.

National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month brings to the forefront the devastating impact of mental illness on the lives of undiagnosed individuals in minority communities, their family and friends. During July, individuals and families can raise awareness of mental illness, treatment and research in diverse communities during this month by hosting special events and partnering with local businesses and organizations.

By informing the communities you serve and live in about mental illness and reaching out to our diverse community members, NAMI's goal is to reduce suicide, incarceration, substance abuse and other harmful consequences associated with undiagnosed mental illness and eliminate the stigma that too often prevents individuals and families from seeking much-needed mental health care.

With this in mind, NAMI urges you and your organization to get involved and proclaim July as National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, thereby encouraging the community to better educate themselves about mental illness, undergo mental health and depression screenings and, if necessary, seek successful treatment for themselves or family members.

NAMI DeKalb and The Health Initiative have joined forces to observe National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month. NAMI would like to ask your organization to join them by posting an announcement to their event on your social media and covering it in your communication with your stakeholders. You may even want to feature one of your members who have a story to share of living with mental illness. The event details are as follows:

In Our Own Voices
July 27th, 2014
3:00-5:00 p.m.
Phillip Rush Center
1530 DeKalb Avenue, Atlanta GA 30307
Phone: 404-688-2524 | Fax: 404-6880-2638 |
info@thehealthinitiative.org

For more information on National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, NAMI, and cultural community-specific mental health facts, please go to www.nami.org/minoritymentalhealthmonth. We hope you will participate in and support the area's residents with mental illness.

Source: Alisa Porter, NAMI DeKalb and Linda Ellis,
The Health Initiative

RESOURCE INFORMATION – JAIL

Metro Atlanta Area Jails

DeKalb
www.dekalbsheriff.org

Fulton
www.fultonsheriff.org

Gwinnett
www.gwinnettysheriff.com

DeKalb County Jail Medical Information

Medical Sections: 3NW, 3SW, 3A

Jail Mental Health:
404-298-8330

Health Services Coordinator:
404-298-8531

Confidential line to leave health information:
404-298-8525

Visiting the DeKalb County Jail

Last Names A – K
Monday, Wednesday, Saturday

Last Names L – Z
Tuesday, Thursday, Sunday

Your name MUST be on the inmate's visitation list for you to visit the inmate housed in the DeKalb County Jail

How to alert and send medications to the DeKalb County Jail

- Send prescription bottle with the police/arrestee
- Call confidential medical telephone line 404-298-8525 and leave medical information
- Bring prescription bottles to the jail. Request medical assistance from the nurse on duty



Graduate Gab

We are VERY proud of our graduates and have highlighted two of these very special and determined individuals below.*

Ms. H. was accepted into the DTC Program on October 3, 2013. She had been arrested for misdemeanor domestic violence charges involving her family. Ms. H. resided with her mother and there had been some on-going family issues that needed to be resolved.


Ms. H was diagnosed with schizophrenia at an early age and had problems accepting her diagnosis.

Ms. H. had DTC case management support from Ms. Edwards and also Ms. Smith. While in DTC, Ms. H attended the Women's Group where she was able to express common concerns and receive support from other women dealing with similar mental health issues. She completed her Women's Group participation in January of this year.

Ms. H is receiving treatment at the DeKalb Community Service Board, Winn Way location, where she has always remained compliant with appointments as well as taking any prescribed medication. Ms. H

completed the DTC on June 12, 2014 after securing placement into a Psychosocial Rehabilitation Program (PSR) that she started in May.

Ms. H continues to have excellent attendance with her treatment providers and kept in constant contact with her DTC case manager weekly. Ms. Smith has noticed a positive change in Ms. H. since her

involvement in DTC. She now has a more positive attitude, her home life has improved, and she is learning to deal with issues in a more productive way. Ms. H. completed DTC more accepting of her mental health diagnosis because she is now more informed as to what she needs to do to maintain her mental health stability. 

From the moment **Ms. O** started the DTC Program in April 2013, she faced her challenges head-on. Ms. O speaks limited English, with Spanish being her primary language. Family members would assist when she


would report to her DTC case manager, Mr. Forte, and DeKalb Probation graciously provided an interpreter during her DTC court appearances.

Ms. O's family was looking for a solution to her mental health issues. She refused to take medication prescribed to her because the doctors here in the United States

"I appreciate from the bottom of my heart all the help this program has given me."

Ms. O

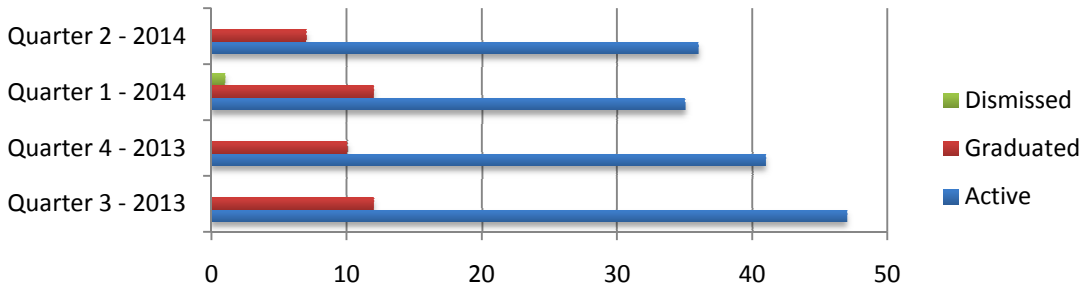
were unfamiliar to her. With family and DTC support, Ms. O did become and remained medication compliant.

Ms. O had difficulties finding a treatment program for female Spanish speakers to attend during the day. James Tomlin (featured in this newsletter) found Ms. O a day program through the Latin American Association that provided the treatment she needed. Ms. O was very pleased with the treatment program and graduated DTC this June. 

*Names are always redacted or changed to safeguard our participants' identity.

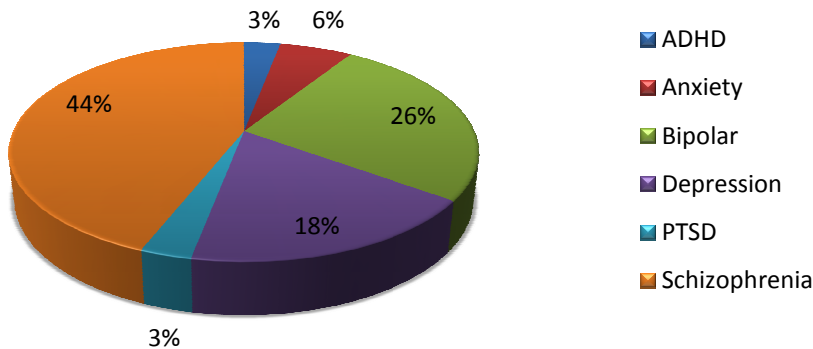
BY THE NUMBERS

During the second quarter, a total of **thirty-six (36)** defendants were active participants in DTC. Of these thirty-six, **seven (7)** defendants graduated from the DTC. **Zero** defendants was dismissed from DTC during this quarter for non-compliance or for having symptoms later revealed which required services of greater intensity than the DTC can provide.



All participants in the Diversion Treatment Court must have an Axis I mental health diagnosis. Many have co-occurring substance usage and alcohol abuse issues as well. The diagnostic breakdown for Axis I DTC active participants is as follows:

Axis I Diagnosis



SPOTLIGHT ON James C. Tomlin



In April 2014, James C. Tomlin became the newest team member of HOPE Atlanta. He is also a member of Hope Atlanta's Path Team which helps persons transition from homelessness. He coordinates outreach and provides supportive case management services in DeKalb County.

His role with DTC is to find housing placement for participants who would otherwise be homeless or in a shelter. HOPE Atlanta (formerly known as Travelers Aid of Metropolitan Atlanta) was founded in the 1900's to assist newcomers to the city who needed help with employment, housing or family reunification after a period of homelessness. Their Vision is simple but intentional, "A safety net for people in need," and their Mission is, "To provide emergency services and housing assistance to individuals and families who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or who are experiencing crisis."

RESOURCE INFORMATION – LEGAL

Low-Cost Civil Legal Services

DeKalb Legal Aid Society
404-377-0701

DeKalb Volunteer Lawyers Foundation
404-373-0865

Public Treatment Providers

DeKalb Community Service Board – Central Access
404-892-4646

Georgia Crisis and Access Line
1-800-715-4225

Clayton County Mental Health
770-4478-1099

Cobb Community Service Board – Central Access
770-422-0202

Fulton County Health Department
404-730-1212

Gwinnett County Mental Health Center
770-963-8141

Rockdale County Mental Health Center
770-918-6677



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The mentally ill are far more likely to be victims, not perpetrators, of violence

New research shows that almost one-third of adults with mental illness are likely to be victims of violence within a six-month period, and that adults with mental illness who commit violence are most likely to do so in residential settings. The study also finds a strong correlation between being a victim of violence and committing a violent act.

The work was done by researchers at North Carolina State University; RTI International; the University of California, Davis; Simon Fraser University; and Duke University. "We hear about the link between violence and mental illness in the news, and we wanted to look not only at the notion that the mentally ill are a danger to others, but the possibility that they are also in danger," says Dr. Sarah Desmarais, an assistant professor of psychology at NC State and lead author of a paper describing the work.

The researchers compiled a database of 4,480 mentally ill adults who had answered questions about both committing violence and being victims of violence in the six months. The researchers found that 23.9 percent of the study participants had committed a violent act within the previous six months. The majority of those acts - 63.5 percent - were committed in residential settings, not in public. Only 2.6 percent of the violent acts were committed in school or workplace settings. The researchers found that a significantly higher percentage of participants - 30.9 percent - had been victims of violence in the same time period. And of those who said they were victimized, 43.7 percent said they'd been victimized on multiple occasions. "We also found that participants who had been victims of violence were 11 times more likely to commit violence," Desmarais says. "This highlights the need for more robust public health interventions that are focused on violence. It shouldn't just be about preventing adults with mental illness from committing violent acts, it should also be about protecting those at risk of being victimized ... (I)n addition, while correlation is not necessarily causation, preventing violence against the mentally ill may drive down instances of violence committed by the mentally ill."

<http://medicalnewstoday.com>

Mental Matters

"The vast majority of news stories on mental illness either focus on other negative characteristics related to people with the disorder (e.g., unpredictability and unsociability) or on medical treatments. Notably absent are positive stories that highlight recovery of many persons with even the most serious of mental illnesses"

(Wahl, et al., 2002)

DTC Newsletter Issue 2 Volume XI June 2014



**Diversion
Treatment
Court**

556 North McDonough Street, Suite 1200 · Decatur, GA 30030



JOIN US FOR AN
OBSERVATION OF A
DIVERSION TREATMENT
COURT SESSION

You are welcome to observe a DTC court session. DTC convenes every Thursday at 9:00a.m., and the DTC Veterans Calendar convenes every 2nd Thursday of the month at 10:30a.m.

DeKalb County Courthouse,
Magistrate Court of DeKalb County
First floor, Courtroom 1200 D

For further information, or if you would like to receive the DTC newsletter or submit an article for consideration, contact:

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The Diversion Treatment Court (DTC) operates under the direction of the DeKalb County Magistrate Court and is a collaborative effort of the Superior Court, State Court, Magistrate Court, Office of the District Attorney, Office of the Solicitor-General, Circuit Public Defender's Office, Adult Probation, Pre-trial Services, Office of the Sheriff, Jail Mental Health Services, DeKalb Community Service Board (DCSB), National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Traveler's Aid of Atlanta, Inc. and the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council (GPDSC).

The impetus behind this effort is the decriminalization of persons suffering with serious mental illness. The DTC seeks to decriminalize mentally ill offenders by offering treatment instead of incarceration.