The PES Initiative in Orange County: A Solution Whose Time Has Come

OC Emergency Medical Care Committee
December 12, 2014

PES Initiative Coalition
- Hospitals
- Individual Emergency Room Physicians and OCMA
- Law Enforcement Officers and the OC Chiefs' and Sheriff’s Association
- NAMI
- OC Psychiatric Society
- Mental Health Association of OC
- Care Ambulance

Problems
- An estimated 75-100 mental health patients each day in hospital emergency rooms -- most of whom do not need emergency medical care.
- Inappropriate care setting for patient; treatment delayed for hours/days; delays for law enforcement; ERs a chaotic environment for patients; ER capacity diminished for everyone.

Hospital/County/Collaborative Objectives
1. Expedite crisis intervention and treatment in appropriate care settings; bypass hospital ERs when not needed.
2. Reduce the need for involuntary inpatient treatment.
3. Same goals as #1 for children and youth.
Solutions

• Dedicated emergency psychiatric response space (PES):
  • Accepts law enforcement drop-offs when medically appropriate
  • Evaluates patient and commences treatment within an hour
  • Ensures appropriate care setting for patient.
  • 70% of patients stabilized within 23 hours, avoiding inpatient hospitalization.

Solutions, cont.

• ETS converted to PES ASAP; a second PES established, both preferably hospital-affiliated.
• Post-discharge follow-up.
• Data tracking system to monitor effectiveness and support continuous improvement.

NEXT STEPS

• Meetings with Board of Supervisors; solidify support and timeline for ETS conversion.
• Continue community awareness efforts.
• OC EMS policy review (field triage/response protocols).
• Community to define plan for establishing second PES and present to County BH/BoS late March/early April 2015.

Julie Puentes
Regional Vice President
Hospital Association of Southern California
jpuentes@hasc.org