



CITY, COUNTY, AND STATE NEWS

SARPY COUNTY, NE: [Sarpy County to launch Nebraska's first mental health problem-solving court](#): Sarpy County will soon launch, a problem-solving court program that officials say will stabilize participants and treat their mental health issues, rather than send them to prison. The Sarpy County Wellness Court will be a voluntary option for those with major mental health diagnoses who are facing nonviolent felony charges. The county on Tuesday unveiled the program that's expected to begin in early February. At full capacity, the program will be able to serve 25 people at a time. Sarpy County District Judge Stefanie Martinez, who will preside over the Wellness Court, said she often encounters people in the criminal justice system who have unaddressed mental health needs. But those people don't always receive the help they need because of limited time and resources.

OLMSTED COUNTY, MN: [New program in Olmsted County partners police with mental health specialists](#): The Co-responder Model's goal is to work with police to identify someone in a mental health crisis, and help them get treatment. The program was conceived last July, and after months of training, three Olmsted County community outreach specialists got to work last week. Leaders of the program said there is unmet need in the community-- where people's mental health issues were falling through the cracks. Sometimes, these people end up in the criminal justice system without treatment for their mental health diagnosis. The outreach specialists help law enforcement identify situations where people may need psychiatric or substance abuse services.

GREENVILLE, NC: [Greenville Police launch first Co-Responder Mental Health Response Program](#): The Greenville Police Department on Wednesday announced the launch of its Co-Responder Mental Health Response Program, in partnership with Integrated Family Services' (IFS) Mobile Crisis Unit. The program officially begins next week. Following the national call for mental health options within the public safety system, GPD Chief Mark Holtzman spearheaded an effort to expand the department's response and handling of call types relating to mental health in a manner that provides the highest level of safety and service to all involved.

NATIONAL

[Biden Administration kills Trump plan on opioid-treatment prescriptions. Says plan was issued prematurely.](#)

“On January 14, 2021, HHS announced forthcoming Practice Guidelines for the Administration of Buprenorphine for Treating Opioid Use Disorder,” the White House’s drug policy office said

in a message obtained by The Washington Post. “Unfortunately, the announcement was made prematurely. Therefore, the Guidelines previously announced cannot be issued at this time.”

The Biden administration also vowed to continue working to “increase access to buprenorphine, reduce overdose rates and save lives” in the announcement, which was also posted on the website of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration. The Trump administration’s plan was plagued by legal and operational problems, including a failure to get necessary clearance from the White House budget office, said two officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss it.

WEEKEND READING

NPR: Beyond COVID-19: 4 Other Key Health Issues Congress Recently Addressed

NPR: Experts Express Concerns Over Mental Health Of Some Kids In The Pandemic

ROLL CALL: Insurrection aftermath: Staffers struggle with trauma, guilt and fear

BBC: Social media damages teenagers' mental health, report says

JOHNS HOPKINS: Coalition publishes principles to guide state and local spending of opioid litigation settlement funds. The coalition, coordinated by faculty at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, is urging state and local officials to avoid the mistakes of the 1998 tobacco settlement and use the expected settlement funds to support evidence-based strategies that save lives.

THE BMJ: Association between county level cannabis dispensary counts and opioid related mortality rates in the United States: panel data study

FORBES: National Standards For Mental Health In The Workplace: A Catalyst For Commitment

****The information compiled in this email originated from the following news sources:
Omaha World Herald, KTTC, The Washington Post ****