

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

**OC Emergency Medical Care Committee  
December 12, 2014**



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## **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**



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## **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.**



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## **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.**



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## 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.**

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