



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 10, 2020

The Task Force on Mental Health Crisis Services Delivers Final Report to Centre County Board of Commissioners and State College Borough Council

State College, PA – On Tuesday, November 10, the Task Force on Mental Health Crisis Services delivered its final report to the Centre County Board of Commissioners and State College Borough Council. This report is organized in two main sections and an appendix to provide additional information. **Section I** of the report describes the system and the work process and **Section II** of the report contains the Systemwide Key Recommendations.

The Task Force findings, on behalf of those individuals and families living with the wrenching, life-limiting and life-threatening impact of serious mental illness, as well as the confounding damage caused by implicit bias and racial inequity, provide a significant opportunity for Centre County and our community to enhance and expand services provided through the mental health crisis delivery system as it currently exists.

We believe with these recommendations being developed and implemented with the necessary fidelity and credibility, the crisis care system in Centre County can become a model, not just in Pennsylvania, but in the nation, in serving all residents in need of mental health crisis services.

-Dr. Patricia Best, Task Force on Mental Health Crisis Services Chair

The Task Force conducted a concentrated work process that included the perspectives, expertise, knowledge, and skills of its members. Members analyzed a consultant's report of structured interviews with 60 representatives of identified key populations. They were educated on the processes of the four areas, and considered data, best practices, research, regulations, and diverse resources during the many months of work. Using a Strengths, Gaps, Opportunities, and Barriers organizing format, the draft recommendations were produced.

I want to thank every member of the Task Force for their work. This report contains the critical steps that we must take to improve the mental health crisis services in Centre County. I look forward to continuing to work with members of the task force to ensure this important work does not stop with the issuing of this report. We must extend every effort to implement these recommendations to ensure we make the proper enhancement to our mental health crisis services.

-Jesse Barlow, State College Borough Council President

There are 11 systemwide recommendations, organized by Enhancements Through Coordination of Care; Through Training, Education, and Data; and, Through Advocacy. Separate Key Recommendations, of which there are eight, address enhancements for Crisis and Delegate Services, Law Enforcement, and the Emergency Department. Finally, there are two Key Recommendations for Implementation. The report lists each recommendation, provides brief explanatory/descriptive information, and supporting examples and resources.

This report represents the dedicated commitment of many individuals who have given generously of their time and expertise. We are indeed grateful for this work and the comprehensive recommendations. These recommendations will serve as a blueprint

going forward as we strive to improve and enhance mental health crisis services across Centre County.

- Michael Pipe, Centre County Commissioners Chair

The full report is available on the Mental Health Task Force's [webpage](#).

[Download the Report](#)

Background

The Task Force on Mental Health Crisis Services was jointly appointed in 2019 by the Centre County Government and the State College Borough following the tragic shooting death of Osaze Osagie on March 20, 2019, during a law enforcement response to a mental health 302 warrant service and subsequent concerned community response during a well-attended public meeting in June seeking action to address concerns. to recommend enhancements to, and identify strengths of, the mental health crisis delivery system in Centre County. Specifically, the Task Force is tasked to examine the continuum of mental health crisis services, including:

- Mobile Crisis Services
- Delegate Crisis Services
- Involuntary Commitment Warrant Procedures
- Police Officers' role in responding to Mental Health calls and 302 Warrant Procedures
- Emergency Department Procedures
- Post-Emergency Department Services

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For additional information contact Centre County Government at mngray@centrecountypa.gov or the Borough of State College at dshontz@statecollegepa.us.