

MIDD 2 Initiative PRI-04: Older Adult Crisis Intervention/Geriatric Regional Assessment Team (GRAT)

How does the program advance the adopted MIDD policy goals?

This initiative impacts the adopted MIDD policy goal of “divert individuals with behavioral health needs from costly interventions, such as jail, emergency rooms, and hospitals.”

GRAT provides a comprehensive assessment, crisis intervention and referral and linkage to community resources for older adults struggling with mental health and/or chemical dependency issues. By intervening early, GRAT effectively diverts many of the older adults it serves from using other more costly services, such as inpatient psychiatric hospitalization, emergency rooms, skilled nursing facilities and jail. GRAT also provides consultation, care planning and education on older adult mental health issues for other community providers.

1. Program Description

◇ A. Service Components/Design (Brief)

GRAT provides a specialized outreach crisis and mental health assessment, including a substance use screening, that is age, culturally, and linguistically appropriate for King County residents age 60 years and older who are experiencing a crisis in which mental health or alcohol and/or other drugs are a likely contributing factor and/or exacerbating the situation, and who are not currently enrolled in mental health services under the King County Mental Health Plan.

◇ B. Goals

GRAT provides assessment, crisis intervention and referral for older adults throughout King County, and for many, this service diverts them from using more intensive and costly crisis services (hospital emergency room, psychiatric hospitalization, jail, etc.). This program is consistent with the recovery model, in that it focuses on helping those older adults most in need to improve their well-being, get the assistance needed to accomplish this, and to help older adults live as independently as possible.

◇ C. Preliminary Performance Measures (based on MIDD 2 Framework)³⁴

1. How much? Service Capacity Measures

This initiative serves 340 unduplicated individuals annually.

2. How well? Service Quality Measures

- Diversion of referrals from costly dispositions, such as homelessness, emergency department and psychiatric hospital admissions

³⁴ Throughout 2017, review and refinement of Results-Based Accountability (RBA) performance measures for MIDD 2 initiatives will be conducted whenever applicable, in consultation with providers. Updates to performance measures that may result from this collaborative process will be reported in the next MIDD Annual Report in August 2018.

3. *Is anyone better off? Individual Outcome Measures*

- Reduced unnecessary hospital and emergency department use
- Reduction of crisis events

◇ *D. Provided by: Contractor*

2. Spending Plan

Year	Activity	Amount
2017	Continued specialized outreach crisis and mental health assessment, including substance use screening, for older adults	\$329,025
2017 Annual Expenditure		\$329,025
2018	Continued specialized outreach crisis and mental health assessment, including substance use screening, for older adults	\$337,580
2018 Annual Expenditure		\$337,580
Biennial Expenditure		\$666,605

3. Implementation Schedule

◇ *A. Procurement and Contracting of Services*

Continuing its contracting arrangement from MIDD 1, King County BHRD contracts with EvergreenHealth (EH)³⁵ for GRAT services. The County expects to re-RFP this service in late 2017.

◇ *B. Services Start date (s)*

King County BHRD is currently working in partnership with providers and other stakeholders to improve the crisis continuum for children/youth and adults in three areas: a) ensuring that the crisis continuum is reflective of the move toward integrated care and therefore meets the needs of individuals with mental health and substance use disorders; b) ensuring high quality, standardized response to those experiencing crisis regardless of payor; and c) offering increased options for diversion from emergency room and hospitalization to provide some relief to the current system. Because MIDD initiative PRI-4 is part of the crisis continuum and linked to the system improvement efforts underway, implementation planning for this

³⁵ EvergreenHealth also receives funding from other sources that supports the program.

initiative is staged so that it can align with the larger crisis system improvement planning process. Re-RFPd services would be in place by Q1 2018.

4. Community Engagement Efforts

GRAT is included in the community engagement process associated with the crisis system redesign, described above.