



Chief of Mental Health Services  
Denver Sheriff Department  
Dr. Nikki Johnson

# Background

- Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Kansas State University
- Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology from Regis University
- Doctorate of Psychology in Clinical Psychology from the Colorado School of the Rockies
- Licensed Psychologist since 2008
- Certified Addiction Specialist since 2009
- Behavioral health for 20+ years
- Corrections for 15+ years

# Authority for Chief of Mental Health Services

- I. Serve as the Sheriff's Delegate for Denver Health contract
- II. Represent at meetings, committees and stakeholder groups
- III. Advocate on behalf of the Denver Sheriff Department (DSD) to the community and City of Denver

# 3 Goals for 2021

Competency  
Restoration  
Program

Crisis Response  
Team

Entry to Exit Mental  
Health Treatment

# Competency Restoration Program

## Why?

- Significant increase in competency cases:
  - 2001 – 85 Incompetent to Proceed (ITP) orders
  - 2018 – 733 ITP orders
- DSD had 18% (169 out of 915) of ITP orders in the state of Colorado from August 2020 to January 2021.

## How?

- Pilot program
- Contract between Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) and Denver Health
- Only individuals with Denver charges

## Where and When?

- Building 22A at County Jail
- 12 beds
- Opening end of April/beginning of May 2021

# Crisis Response Team

## Why?

- 2<sup>nd</sup> largest psychiatric provider in Colorado
- Mental health (MH) needs of DSD population:
  - 61% past/current MH alert (as of 3/31/21)
  - 37% psychotropic medications
  - 22% antipsychotic medications

## How?

- 16 civilian, MH professionals, 24/7 post
- 1 licensed supervisor position
- Work with and to support deputies in response to crises involving individuals with Serious Mental Illness (SMI)

## Where and When?

- Both jails, starting at Denver Detention Center (DDC) and expanding to the County Jail
- Task force currently outlining next steps

# Entry to Exit Mental Health Treatment

## Why?

- Ensure DSD is following best practices in regards to all MH services
- Again 2<sup>nd</sup> largest psychiatric provider in the state of Colorado
- Sheriff's Dual Mindset

## How?

- Audit of all Behavioral Health services, including intake process, classification, treatment units, reentry process, connections to community providers

## Where and When?

- Continuous and ongoing at both jails
- Currently reviewing classification, housing, incentives and transition plans for individuals with SMI



Questions?