



Scott County RESIDENTS REPORT

January 2020



Delivering What Matters

Safe

Quality Parenting Initiative

Healthy

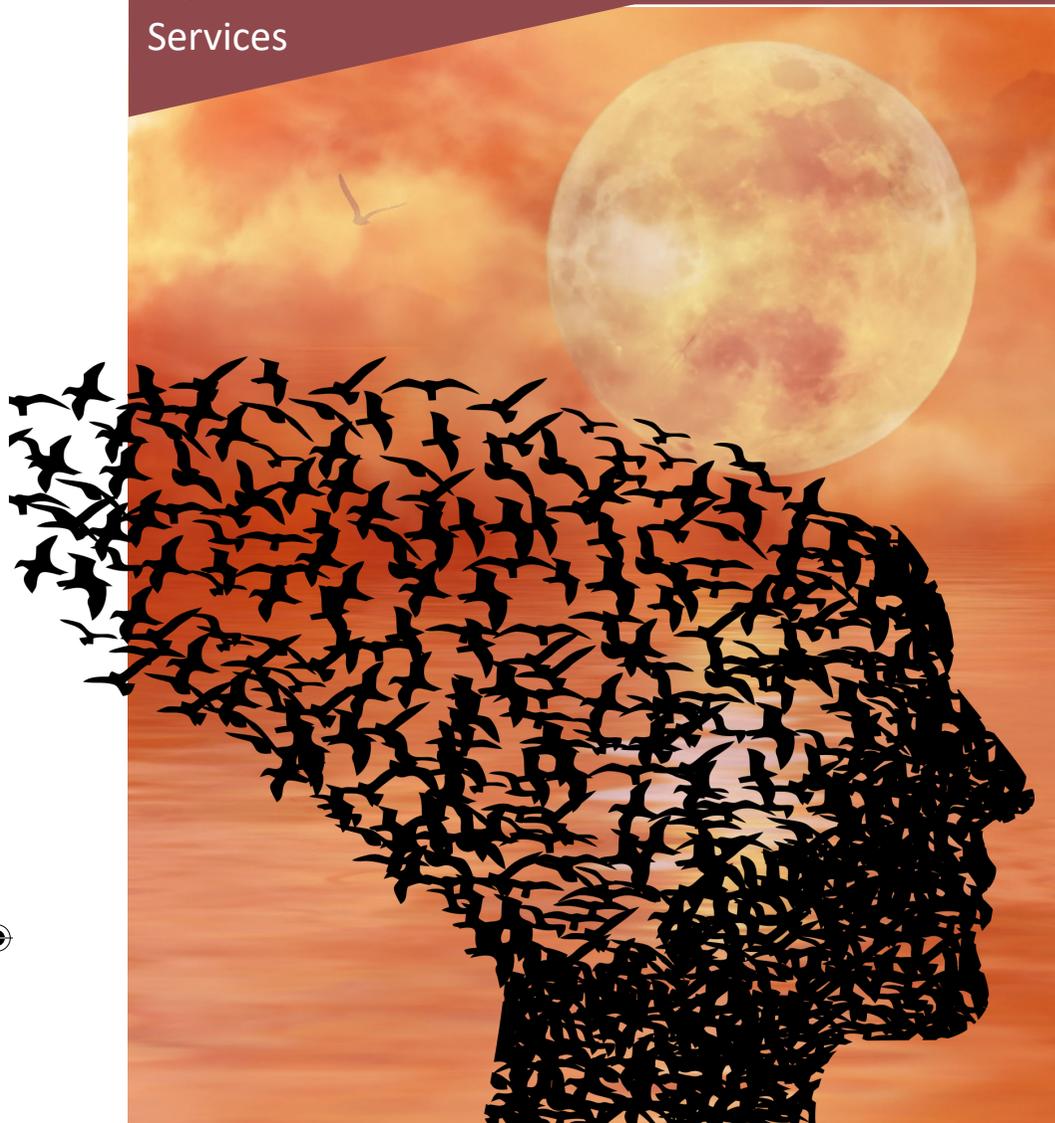
Expanding Mental Health services

Livable

Tackling affordable housing

Responsible

Gearing up for the 2020 elections



Scott County's Expanding Mental Health Services

Include new mobile crisis team, residential facility, and supportive programs.

When local residents are in need of mental health services, Scott County and its partners are there to help.

Whether those in need of services are students attending schools within the County, the homeless, incarcerated, or any resident with short- or long-term mental

health issues, the array of services available are designed to stabilize, treat, and/or refer them for additional help.

"The work that has been done by Scott County and its partners has resulted in some really big service improvements, and there's more coming," Danielle Fox, Scott County

Adult Mental Health Manager, reported to the Scott County Board at a recent meeting.

The County's Strategic Plan has focused on expanding mental health services for several years. While the Scott County Mental Health Center has been available for over four decades providing a wide array of outpatient mental health services to the community, other services have been added in recent years. Further, a new 16-bed Intensive Residential Treatment Services (IRTS) and crisis facility will be opening this year in Savage. "We talked about developing a facility like this for about five years, so to see it being built now is just incredible," said Fox.

Other new programs include the Canvas Mobile Mental Health Crisis Program, a half-time position at the County jail to help inmates access mental health services, Treatment Court, a half-time homeless outreach worker, and the Sheriff's new Vitals App (see story on page 8). The County Board has also recently approved the start-up of a Veterans Court that will assist those who have served our country and may be struggling with mental health and addiction issues.

Here is a review of Scott County programs designed to assist people with mental health issues.

Scott County Mobile Crisis Response Services

Scott County contracts with Canvas Health to provide a mobile mental health crisis program. Responders from Canvas Health are located

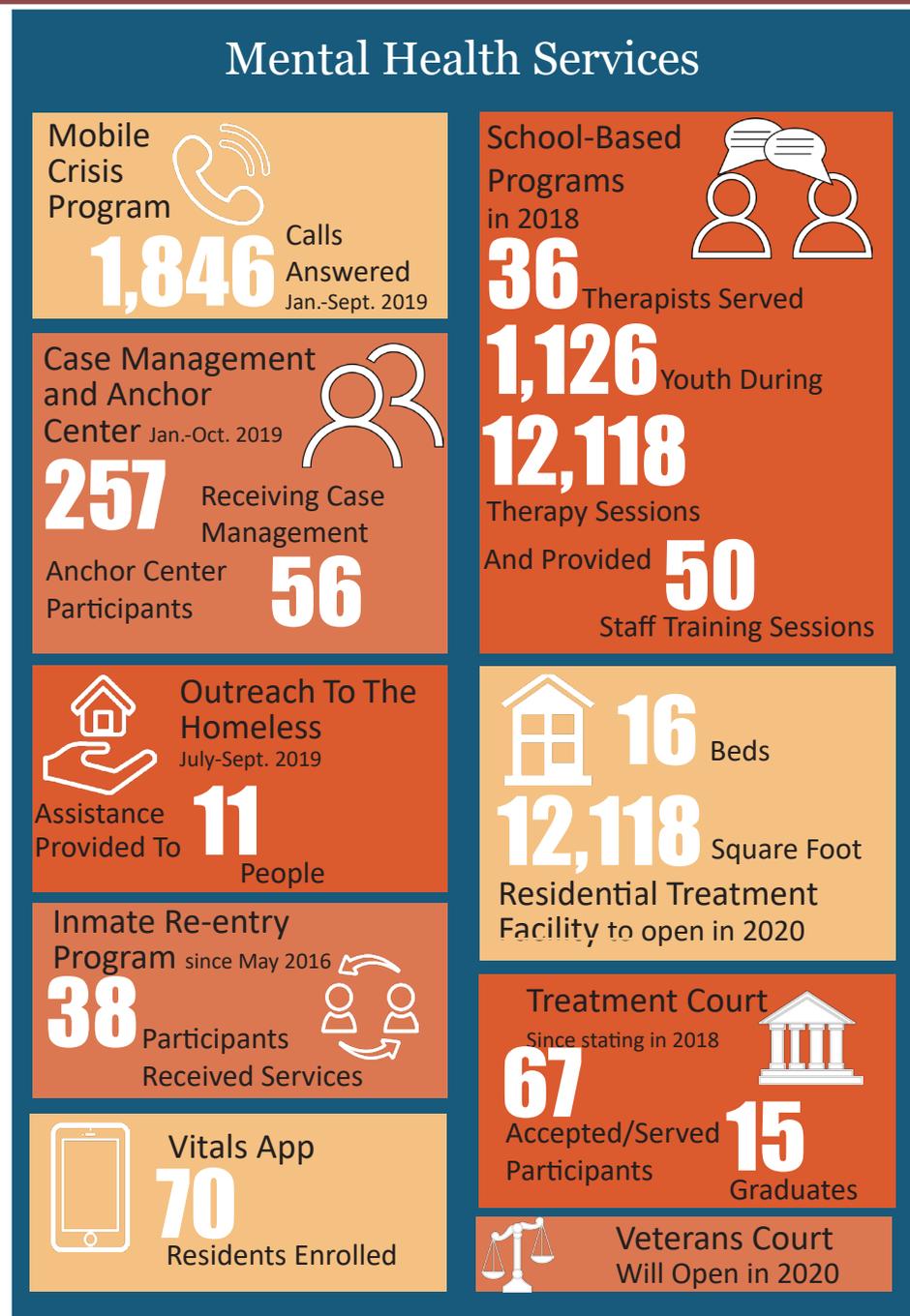
at the Scott County Government Center in Shakopee, but they are able to respond to a person's home, school, or anywhere in the community 24 hours a day, seven days a week, when contacted at (952) 818-3702.

These interventions may include: De-escalation, short-term safety planning, provisional diagnosis, initial crisis plans, referrals/recommendations, subacute crisis stabilization facility, in-patient hospitalization referrals, and/or referrals to other needed programming and supports.

Scott County residents are encouraged to contact Mobile Crisis Response if they or someone they care about is experiencing a crisis involving the following: Suicidal feelings, panic, hopelessness, mood swings, defiance, angry outbursts, severe anxiety, hallucinations, depression, delusions, increased substance use, isolation, self-injury, or other behaviors that indicate a mental health crisis.

"Our hope is that our community members will contact our mobile mental health crisis team instead of calling 911 to have their needs met, and before they have a full-blown crisis," said Fox.

Scott County Sheriff Luke Hennen said the crisis team has reduced the number of calls his office receives when individuals are experiencing a mental health crisis. "We used to get many repeat calls, and we'd have deputies going back to the same home often in a short amount of time," he said. "We don't get repeat calls like that now.



Our deputies are better trained to address the issues and provide resources, and now Canvas takes over the follow-up and provides services."

Adult Mental Health/Anchor Center

Case management services are available to help adults with serious

and persistent mental illness gain access to needed medical, social, educational, vocational, and other needed services. The focus of these services is to help individuals thrive in their communities, maintain stability, and maximize self-sufficiency. Contact the Center's Intake Department at (952) 496-8481 for further information or to schedule an appointment.

The Anchor Center is a community support program that offers social, educational, and recreational activities to Scott County residents 18 years old and older with mental health needs. It is located at 752 Canterbury Rd. S., Shakopee. For more information, call (952) 496-8666.

School-Based Mental Health Program

The Scott County Mental Health Center, under the direction of Dr. Terry Raddatz, is currently providing mental health services in 36 schools, including those in Belle Plaine, Jordan, New Prague, Prior Lake/Savage, Shakopee, and Southwest Metro Intermediate. The Connect Program staff meets with parents whose children may need services in order to arrange an assessment. If the assessment indicates a need for services, and the parents agree, a treatment plan and goals are set. The County’s team of 36 school-based licensed therapists provides their services year-round right in the schools. The services are funded through families’ individual insurance, a state grant received by the County, and district contracts. In 2018, the Scott County therapists served 1,126 youth during 12,118 sessions of therapy and diagnostic assessments.

Besides working with students and their families, the school-based therapists also provide training for staff, and they have been offering educational sessions for parents. Raddatz reported that therapists have provided over 50 training sessions at schools and

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other community functions in the last year, many of them focusing on identification of mental health issues, trauma, depression, anxiety, and suicide prevention.

Outreach to the Homeless

A new half-time contracted position funded through a state grant is providing outreach to homeless individuals who are struggling with mental health issues. The outreach program can put these individuals in touch with a variety of support services to help them stabilize their lives.

Intensive Residential Treatment Services/Crisis Facility

A new Intensive Residential Treatment Services (IRTS) and mental health crisis facility expected to open in Savage later this year will help address a severe

shortage of beds available for those in need. Scott County has partnered with the Scott County Community Development Agency (CDA) and Guild, Inc. to construct a 16,500-square-foot facility that will offer crisis stabilization services for up to 10 days, and residential treatment services for up to 90 days. IRTS programs provide access to intensive treatment so patients can integrate back into their community and home setting, and the shorter programs may help individuals avoid a significant crisis and hospitalization. Funding for the \$7.3 million facility came from a variety of partners, including \$4.16 million in state grants.

Treatment Court

In its third year, Scott County Treatment Court has been giving non-violent offenders with addictions a second chance to change their lives and avoid incarceration. After assessments, it is determined that many of these individuals have an underlying mental health issue, and offenders are provided with a multidisciplinary strategic response consisting of treatment, wraparound services, support,



Rendering of new IRTS mental health and crisis facility in Savage



and legal accountability. This is done with the expectation that recidivism will be lowered, overdose deaths prevented, collateral damage against families and communities will be reduced, costs to the criminal justice system and community will be decreased, and addicts in the criminal justice system will be able to become productive, responsible members of their community.

Inmate Re-Entry Program

A new half-time worker has been added to the Scott County Community Corrections staff to help prisoners being released from jail develop a plan to help them re-enter the community. The plan can include services for mental health, medical care, housing, employment, and more. The goal is to address issues that could result in criminal recidivism. The Scott County Mental Health Center also offers services to prisoners who need them.

Vitals App

A new phone app is being used by the Sheriff's Office that provides deputies with important information regarding vulnerable individuals they may encounter and how best to interact with them. Individuals or caregivers can create a digital profile and participants wear a beacon that sends a signal to nearby phones of first responders equipped with the app. When law enforcement comes within 80 feet of a beacon, they will receive a notification about the individual, allowing them to access the user's profile and customize their response, if needed. More can be found at www.thevitalsapp.com.



Scott County Community Engagement Deputy Amy Lueck visited with Molly Hoffard and her son, Charlie, about the new Vitals App.

Vitals Phone App Provides Vital Information to Deputies

Parents work hard to keep their children safe... and sometimes they need some extra help. Molly and Dan Hoffard of New Market Township turned to the Scott County Sheriff's Office when they were looking for ways to keep their son, Charlie, who has autism, from getting lost or misunderstood.

The Hoffards had been using a GPS tracking system, but after attending an informational meeting about Scott County's Vitals App, they decided to give it a try. Since eight-year-old Charlie is non-verbal, the profile the Hoffards have developed for him will help any Scott County deputy coming within 80 feet of him know his condition and symptoms.

"The most important thing about this app is that it can communicate to law enforcement that Charlie is very sensitive to noises or that he might flap his hands," said Molly. "Officers might not know that this is part of his disability, and as he gets older, that he is not on drugs or struggling from another medical condition."

The device emitting the signal which provides the information to deputies is tied into Charlie's shoelaces so he doesn't feel or notice it. "We are trying to work it into a bracelet or necklace, if he will accept it," said his mother, who is hoping more police departments adopt the use of the Vitals App so her son and others can benefit from it, regardless of which law enforcement agency responds to a call for help or encounters a person using it.

"We're lucky our Sheriff's Office does this to support people with disabilities and mental illness," said Molly, who also worked with the Sheriff Hennen to set up a day last summer for children with disabilities to interact with emergency responders. "For our first time, I think it was a success, and all the emergency responders who came were wonderful with the children. We hope to do it again so the kids aren't afraid when they encounter them in other settings."

Quality and affordable mental health services are available.

