

# LARIMER COUNTY CITIZENS FOR MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

## the COSTS of MENTAL ILLNESS

Every day, someone you know is impacted by mental illness. And, every day the cost of mental illness impacts our local pocketbooks.

“Mental illness is more common than cancer, diabetes or heart disease”

- U.S. Surgeon General

### Poor mental health Costs ALL of Us:

- Reduced and lost earnings.
- Absenteeism.
- Reduced productivity.

14% of Larimer County residents report 8 or more days of poor mental health in the previous 30 days.

- Colorado Health Access Survey, 2017



### Smart Spending

Every dollar spent on addiction treatment programs yields a return of between \$4-\$7 in reduced health, crime, criminal justice costs, and impaired work.

- National Institute of Health

- In South Dakota, the average cost of drug or alcohol treatment at \$1,382 produces a benefit of \$11,653 in reduced crime and increased work productivity.
- In Oregon, every tax dollar spent on drug or alcohol treatment produces \$5.60 in avoided costs to taxpayers.

### Hospitals & Jails

Hospitals and jails are the most costly and least effective ways to treat mental illness.



One trip to an emergency room = \$2,500 approx. per visit

The cost of an ambulance = \$1,200 approx. per trip



In a 2015 study of 155 Larimer County jail frequent utilizers—those booked 4 or more times in a year:

- 9 of every 10 have substance use problems
- Nearly half have mental illness

#### Larimer County's Alternatives to Incarceration for Individuals with Mental Health Needs (AIIM):

- Before AIIM, 27 clients used 1,620 jail bed days.
- In 1 year of AIIM, the same 27 clients used 652 jail bed days--a 60% reduction!
- Is successful!

46% of Americans have a family member or close friend who's been addicted to drugs.

- Pew Research Center

A local solution will require funding but it costs much more to not address the gaps in current mental health services & treatment. Let's rethink mental illness, together!

Larimer County Citizens for Mental Health Matters

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