

# Help, Hope, and Healing

# ReDiscover



## Hospital Diversion Initiative

### Reaching Those Who Otherwise Might Not Be Served

The Hospital Diversion Initiative is a collaborative effort lead by ReDiscover to divert persons with psychiatric and addiction disorders who are frequenting emergency rooms and inpatient services to alternative services. This nontraditional approach begins with hospitals identifying patients who meet these criteria and are uninsured or underinsured Jackson County or Kansas City residents. The Hospital Diversion Team provides immediate response to a hospital's request for service which can include short-term intensive response (stabilization, respite care) and longer-term support that promotes self-sufficiency (recovery, housing, transportation). A majority of the clients in this program are below the federal poverty level and many are homeless.

In February 2010 a client was referred to the program who was a chronic alcoholic, homeless and suffering from bone marrow cancer. His prognosis was grim; he had been given 30 days to live. The Hospital Diversion Team was able to move him from the hospital to residential substance abuse at ReDiscover and then on to a residential care facility. Motivated by his wish to not "die a drunk", he is currently residing in a nursing home and is clean and sober. He has also been able to reconnect with his family.

At the end of 2010, 188 clients were active in the program. As of today, there are 287 clients participating. Staff is seeing that once a person is engaged in treatment, the severity of their illness decreases and the number of hospital visits decline. On average, hospital visits fell from 5.75 in the 90 days prior to referral to only 0.8 during treatment.

The Hospital Diversion Initiative began in August 2009 with funding from the Healthcare Foundation of Greater Kansas City and matching funds from the Department of Mental Health. ReDiscover partnered with area mental health agencies, hospitals, respite and detox providers and domestic violence and homeless shelters to get this project off the ground. "It is the community collaboration and partnerships across multiple entities that make it work", says Lauren Moyer, ReDiscover Special Projects Manager.

This unique program has met the challenge of providing treatment for those who might otherwise not seek help for their illness. The outcomes are positive and other funders are extremely interested in the project. Contact Lauren Moyer at 816.347.3279 for more information.