



Community Mental Health Liaisons and Civil Commitment Information



- Senate Bill 426 adds Community Mental Health Liaisons to the list of individuals who can receive information from facilities and the courts about individuals who have been civilly committed. The information is disclosed for the purpose of coordination of care and services.
- Community Mental Health Liaisons are qualified mental health professionals with a Master's degree who are employed by a local Community Mental Health Center and designated by the Department of Mental Health as Community Mental Health Liaisons.
- Community Mental Health Liaisons assist law enforcement and the courts with individuals who are experiencing behavioral health issues. The role of Community Mental Health Liaisons is to improve outcomes for individuals who come into contact with the criminal justice system and to avoid unnecessary emergency room visits, hospital admissions and incarceration.
- Community Mental Health Liaisons assist in aftercare planning and care coordination for individuals who have been civilly committed in an effort to ensure such individuals are connected to services and to improve outcomes.
- Requests for information from facilities for coordination of care and services as allowed by SB 426 will occur as permitted by HIPAA and section 630.140.3(2), RSMo. Community Mental Health Centers are HIPAA compliant agencies.
- Many facilities are already working with Community Mental Health Liaisons to coordinate care and services and arrange for aftercare. Often, Community Mental Health Liaisons only require verbal information for the referral process.
- Community Mental Health Liaisons can be identified by their employee badge issued by the Community Mental Health Center. Their status as a Community Mental Health Liaison designated by the Department of Mental Health can be confirmed by checking the current Community Mental Health Liaison list on the website of the Missouri Coalition for Community Behavioral Healthcare <http://www.mocoalition.org/#!/community-mental-health-liasion/cvzg>.
 - This list will remain current and up-to-date at all times.
- If you have any questions about the Community Mental Health Liaison Initiative, please contact Kimberly Hicks at 573.634.4626 ext. 105 or via email at khicks@mocoalition.org.