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SHW receives Juvenile Justice Diversion Grant

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Michigan Department of Health and Human Services awards Shiawassee Health and Wellness (SHW) with the Mental Health Juvenile Justice Screening Initiative Grant Expansion Project. The five-year grant will assist Shiawassee County with decreasing the rate of children/youth involved in the juvenile justice system and increase the number of those receiving necessary mental health and/or substance use disorder, or co-occurring services. The project includes all children/youth regardless of family income and insurance type that are at-risk for becoming involved in the juvenile justice system.

SHW will be forming a time-limited workgroup with community partners to develop a referral form and outline a specific referral process. Once the referral process is fully developed, the project leads will meet with community agencies serving children/youth, families and community-wide collaborative groups to provide information about the program and the referral process information.

Anyone in the community with concerns regarding a child/youth being at risk for involvement with the juvenile justice system will be able to make a referral.

Upon receipt of a referral, the Youth Intervention Specialist will contact the family and schedule a time to meet with the child/youth and family to complete the screening tools and determine the child/youth's appropriateness for mental health, substance use disorder, or co-occurring services based on scoring of the screenings. The results will be reviewed with the child/youth and family. If a need for services is determined, the Youth Intervention Specialist will work collaboratively with the child/youth and family to access services in and around Shiawassee County that will meet the child/youth's treatment needs.

"We are honored and excited to be the recipients of the Mental Health Juvenile Justice Screening Initiative grant," said Crystal Eddy, SHW Clinical Director. "We look forward to the opportunities ahead to help children/youth and families access mental health, substance use, or co-occurring services while reducing the number of children/youth that are involved in the juvenile justice system. We are appreciative and grateful to Judge Dignan, Sara Edwards, Trent Toney, Alison Morrison, Karen VanEpps, and Chief Kevin Lenkart for writing letters of support for this work."