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**Community Solutions' Report Recommends Creating Pre-Booking, Crisis Intervention Center in Cuyahoga County**

*Similar centers across the country show cost savings, better care*

CLEVELAND, OH – Cuyahoga County would better serve those battling addiction, dealing with mental illness and the community overall, if it created a pre-booking, crisis intervention center, according to a new report by The Center for Community Solutions.

Jails and prisons across the country are now the largest providers of behavioral health treatment. Reports estimate that about half of the inmates in Cuyahoga County jail have a mental illness or substance use disorder. A pre-booking, crisis intervention center would provide a place for ideally prevent those with behavioral health disorders from winding up in the criminal justice system because of un- or under-treated conditions.

“Moving towards a system that prioritizes treatment in the most appropriate setting will be broadly beneficial,” said Hope Lane, a Public Policy & External Affairs Associate at Community Solutions and an author of the report. “It is far past time to course correct.”

Such a center would have benefited Cherita Miles. Miles said she started smoking weed at age five, and first did cocaine with her stepfather at age 10. She’s been sober since 2015, and said she thinks she might have had more of a chance if there had been a crisis intervention center.

“If there was a diversion program someplace that I might have been able to go to and feel safe talking about the things that have been happening at home and some of the trauma I believe it would have given me a better shot at learning better coping skills that maybe would have changed things down the line for me,” she told Community Solutions.

Community Solutions’ research has found that crisis centers have resulted in benefits including reduced arrest rates, incarceration and inappropriate emergency department use. At the same time, they can help individuals get needed treatment, and reduce racial inequities behind bars.

To learn more about the report, speak with Miles or an author of the report about our findings and recommendations please call or text Dani Carlson at 216-282-4583 or email [dcarlson@communitysolutions.com](mailto:dcarlson@communitysolutions.com).