

New Early Intervention Support Services Programs Already Demonstrate Positive Impact

The new Early Intervention Support Services (EISS) programs show promise of being an effective solution to long waits for outpatient services and high rates of emergency room (ER) visits and hospitalizations.

"Many people visit ERs every day and after waiting for many hours, they are either not admitted into the hospital or they are admitted and leave the next day. Many of them don't need hospitalization. They just need to talk to someone quickly. For outpatient services, waits for appointments can average four to six weeks, so people have been using ERs as the default," said Stephanie Simon, LCSW, NCPsyA, CCS, DRCC, Director of Bridgeway Crisis Intervention Services, which will open in Jersey City (Hudson County) in early February 2014. Simon anticipates an average of 10 to 15 people each day, many of whom will likely be the same individuals she saw when she worked at Christ Hospital, which is also in Jersey City.

"EISS will fill the gap between ERs/hospital admission and traditional outpatient services. EISS is all about crisis intervention and stabilization," she added. Furthermore, the program will also help others by making ER and hospital beds available for people who really need them, Simon said.

Visit www.njamhaa.org for more details from Bridgeway, Ocean Mental Health Services and Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care, as well as contact information for all nine EISS programs throughout New Jersey.