

Knoxville/Knox County Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center

FACT SHEET

Purpose: To offer a safe alternative to incarceration or an emergency room visit at a hospital for citizens that have behavioral health issues. With this community solution we will expedite interventions and treatment by professionals specifically trained in behavioral health.

Who is served?

Non-violent adults who have come to the attention of law enforcement and are deemed in need of mental health or substance abuse intervention.

Who is not served?

Adults charged with violent crimes, known sex offenders.

What is the best location for the Center?

The proposed site needs to be within the city limits to expedite access by law enforcement.

What security precautions are taken?

The facility will have a community policing station on site. The facility will be staffed 24/7 by therapeutic personnel. Additionally the facility will have video cameras to monitor activity within the facility and the grounds.

How do people access care?

Citizens that are picked up by law enforcement for non-violent offenses who appear to have mental health issues or substance use influence will be brought the Center for evaluation. Admission for care occurs if the individual is deemed appropriate for this setting.

What will occur within the building?

The Center will perform health assessments, initial diagnostic evaluations, crisis intervention, treatment planning, mental health respite, substance abuse pre-treatment, detoxification (if adequately funded), discharge planning, and case management. The goal is to begin treatment and to help the individual transition into ongoing care when discharged.

What does the total project cost?

The project, if fully funded, will cost approximately \$3.5 million annually. The local government and the Helen Ross McNabb Center will leverage existing funds to draw down state funds and community partners.

What should the community expect from its investment in the Urgent Care Center?

The goals are to reduce the recidivism of citizens being incarcerated. Furthermore the goal is for citizens to have ready access to behavioral health treatment to begin a life of recovery. Active participation in treatment correlates with being a better citizen, neighbor, and employee.