

Law Enforcement and the Mentally III: Best Policy and Practice for the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office

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Most Florida Sheriff's Offices have programs to address persons with mental illness. They involve community partnerships, specific training, and policies. Some are more successful than others. The characteristics of these programs were identified using time studies, Baker Act statistics, training programs and suicide data, and compared with those of the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office. The result revealed that the community partnership based on the Mobile Crisis Team model currently in use in Charlotte County, yields the best results for agencies in counties of comparable size and demographics.