

Community Service Corps and the **LOS AMIGOS PROJECT**

Mental health is a community problem and
it deserves a community response.

**“The Future Isn’t What It Used
To Be”**

Community Service Corps and the Los Amigos Project

- Community Service Corps (CSC) is a 501(c)(3) advocating for ways to help people get mental health services.
- Our Board of Directors is made up of local professionals: Paul Dulin, Rose Garcia, Robert Crecelius, Al Galves and Mary Martinez White
- Our skills include health services, housing, incarceration, mental health services and judicial administration and services
- We have adopted the 'problem solving' philosophy of drug courts

Game Changer Status

Game Changer Status from the local LC3 Behavioral Health Collaborative

- **Los Amigos by Community Service Corps –**
Transitional housing (32 one person units on Los Amigos Court, South Telshor Boulevard for overnight up to approximately 15 months)
- Alcohol/drug free, intensive onsite support 24/7

Los Amigos Project

Located at 2939 and 2941,
Los Amigos Court in Las
Cruces

- Intensely focused on the needs of justice partners
- Cohort has a poorer prognosis for success in traditional programs and require more intensive and sustained interventions
- Motivation for government to fund: Public safety and the safety of the client. With support the client is less likely to recidivate, go into crisis, or commit another crime if their life is stable.
- Los Amigos optimizes the chances for individuals to stabilize from addiction and Serious Mental Illness by treating any behavioral and/or mental health issues
- The goal is to reunite with their families and the community as a whole, and become thriving and productive members of society.
- Will charge rent with the intent of refunding it if the client follows program guidelines and uses the refund as a deposit on the next level of housing.

Los Amigos

Models and Services

- Determine if co-morbidity exists (physical, addiction and/or mental health issues), facilitate behavioral health services (including psychiatric and addiction medications such as buprenorphine, methadone and naltrexone), monitor behavior, provide guidance and supervision, and ensure compliance with all medical directives to see that clients meet their responsibilities; all clients must remain drug and alcohol free.
- Engage the client in identifying and changing patterns of behavior that have not served them well and assist them in developing new and effective behaviors.
- Provide on-site assistance re-establishing their place in the community. Such assistance could include, but is not limited to life skills training, relationship building, restoring driver's licenses or ID cards, enrolling in a health insurance plan, and potentially, finding gainful employment.
- Assist the client in determining and obtaining appropriate long-term housing placement following their stay at Los Amigos as well as helping them identify and understand the need for a long-term, personal community of support.

Los Amigos

- The project is a 32-bed facility with separate structures for male and female and each structure has a private outdoor courtyard.
- This program will partner with intersectional agencies such as county, city, and state agencies, the judiciary, health and behavioral health providers, etc.

Cost Summary in Brief

- The cost per person, per day at Los Amigos is \$115.21 and of that \$14.23 is covered by Medicaid.

Contrast Los Amigos with \$115.21 per person, per day with the low-cost estimate for a single Emergency Medical Technician in our area for **one hour of \$225**

- Total project cost per year for 50 clients is \$2.1 million of which \$259,751 is covered by Medicaid

CONCLUSION

*Mental health is a
community problem
that deserves a
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