

I am the parent of a mentally ill adult. I know my child's life would have been better if a CAHOOTS like program had existed in Jackson County over the past 20 years. My child has been tased, hospitalized, jailed multiple times, on probation, refused hospital ER services from 3 area hospitals when he was in crisis multiple times, spent 6-1/2 months in solitary confinement because the legal and judicial systems in Jackson County didn't know what to do (this further impacted his mental health and his trust in society). Mental health is an illness. Individuals suffering from mental illness need trained mental health workers to assist them. Leaving a mentally ill person on the street until they have a felony charge, incarcerating them because they can't find treatment and may be a danger to themselves or others is inhumane and criminal. Please provide funding for Jackson County to operate mobile crisis intervention teams. It is right and just that we assist members of our community who cannot always help themselves due to mental illness.