



**Richmond City Sheriff's Office
Office of the Sheriff
Richmond City Justice Center
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NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
Friday, December 19, 2014**

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Telepsychiatry In Use at the Richmond City Justice Center - Meets the Demands of Mental Health Care for Jail Residents

On a recent day in the Medical Infirmary at the Richmond City Justice Center, a male Jail resident enters the Telemedicine Exam room to receive a mental health evaluation. Unique to this appointment is that Marsha Burgess, the Nurse Practitioner, conducting the session, is in her office in Birmingham, Alabama. The Jail resident and Nurse Practitioner Burgess are interacting using video conferencing technology which allows them visual and verbal communication capability throughout the session.

The Jail Resident can see and speak with the physician during the session and ask any follow-up questions concerning his care. Sheriff C.T. Woody, Jr., recently observed the end of a Telepsychiatry session and concluded, "This is an awesome process to observe. It just shows what technology allows us to accomplish in medicine. We are on the forefront of being able to successfully apply and sustain these types of medical evaluations and examinations."

Nurse Practitioner Burgess is Corporate Director of Clinical Services for NaphCare, Inc. and licensed to practice in Virginia. From her office, she is able to assess and observe patient behavior, provide clinical diagnoses, administer follow up care, and prescribe medication. More importantly, she is able to engage with the patient to help guide the examination process.

NaphCare's use of Telepsychiatry does not replace the onsite presence of mental health professionals; it augments their staff to ensure the optimum number of residents receive care. "We are able to conduct many more mental health sessions with the residents, which provides for better and more frequent follow-up care," noted Sheriff Woody. Nurse Practitioner Burgess added that this form of examination helps to reduce backlog for mental health exams, provides the ability for second opinions and consultations among treatment plans, as well as aid in any emergency treatment.

NaphCare, Inc. recently secured a three-year, comprehensive healthcare services contract with the Richmond City Sheriff's Office in October of this year. The company was one of several that responded to the City's competitive procurement bid process. Sheriff Woody points out that

NaphCare's selection stems from their ability to deliver quality, cost effective health care, using the full spectrum of available technology and their pro-active care model for administering healthcare services in jails throughout the U.S.

The Justice Center has a state-of-the-art Medical Infirmary with eighteen special management beds, clinics, exam rooms, dental facility, and a dialysis unit. Medical professionals at the facility provide mental health services to approximately fifty-five (55) Jail residents each day. They conduct about fifteen Telepsychiatry sessions each week.



Sheriff C.T. Woody, Jr. observes a Telepsychiatry session in the Medical Department at the Richmond City Justice Center.