JUST IN REACH (JIR)
Services for Homeless Inmates

Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, Community Transition Unit
Most difficult groups to work with are

- The Homeless
- The Mentally Ill

What are the 3 most important services reducing the rate of recidivism?

- Housing
- Employment
- Substance Abuse
The Just In Reach (JIR) pilot program created an innovative reentry model for homeless individuals who would otherwise would not have a safety net upon release from incarceration.

- launched as a demonstration project in July 2008.
- funded through the County’s Homeless Prevention
- leveraged a wealth of resources; including Corporation for Supportive Housing, the Second Chance Act, and several well-established service partners. (Goodwill Industries, VOA, Tarzana Treatment Center, Amity Foundation)

This approach was a ground-breaking effort at strategic reentry planning in Los Angeles. The goal of all stakeholders was to improve discharge planning for homeless individuals who repeatedly cycle through the Los Angeles County jail system, as a result of their homelessness.
Just In Reach
Target Population

- The JIR program assists individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and are reentering our communities upon release from the County Jail. The Education Based Incarceration Bureau’s, Community Transition Unit completes an assessment for every referral to ensure eligibility.

- Eligibility Criteria
  - Homeless and incarcerated
  - Individuals who have been in jail 3 times within 3 years
  - Individuals who have stayed in shelters 3 times within 5 years.
Just In Reach
Program Components

- **Timely Jail In-Reach**
  Assessment and case management process begins with a face-to-face interview.

- **Comprehensive Assessment**
  Each inmate receives a comprehensive needs assessment, including completing a validated written assessment tool to determine the underlying causes of homelessness and what specific, individualized needs must be met to transition the client out of homelessness.

- **Comprehensive Case Management**
  Individual written case plans are developed for each client that maps out how the underlying causes of homelessness will be addressed.

- **Community Service Linkages**
  Link inmates to community-based services which will enable the homeless person to stay in permanent housing, and be sufficiently self-sufficient to live a stable, productive life. These community-based services include short term housing, mental health services, life skills, employment support, drug rehabilitation, public benefits, healthcare, family reunification, and education.
Just In Reach
Results

- In comparison, to the general population recidivism rate of 70%, the JIR programs recidivism rate of 34% during the programs 2 year existence was a major improvement- made all the more remarkable because JIR clients are considered the hardest to serve population.

- Over a two year period JIR has assisted in the short and long-term housing placements of 293 clients; 169 into short term (transitional) housing and 124 into long term (permanent) housing. 7/01/08-07/01/10

- JIR has enrolled and case managed 618 of the referrals.

- JIR has placed a total of 122 people in employment. JIR has provided employment training and workshops to over 800 participants.

- Although funding for JIR pilot program ended in July 2010, through the assistance of the Corporation for Supportive Housing the program continues today.
Just In Reach
Current Funding

- Current funding:
  - Grant from Corporation for Supportive Housing 250,000.00
  - Los Angeles County Supervisor, Mark Ridley-Thomas 150,000.00
  - Los Angeles County Inmate Welfare Commission 350,000.00

- Total funding for one additional year of programs 750,000.00
  June 2012 – June 2013
Private Philanthropic funders, including the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation have expressed an interest in investing funds to expand the JIR Program through a “Pay through Success” type model.

Partners include: CSH and Third Sector Capitol Partner

A “Pay for Success” contract requires the establishment of performance objectives and the rigorous measurement of outcomes, and provide that government make “Success Payments” only when the defined objects are achieved.

By leveraging Philanthropic funding, the county will be in a position to strategically utilize its revenue to expand a program that has demonstrated success, as opposed to incurring the risk of up-front investment.
Studies have shown that it is more cost effective to provide an individual with preventive services, rather than have them cycle repeatedly through the criminal justice system: taking into account the cost of arrest, booking, judicial intervention, incarceration, medical support, mental health interventions, etc.

The overall goal of the collaborative is to fundamentally transform the reentry process from one where individuals focus on are dependent on education, substance abuse treatment, housing and employment becomes the preferred choice for individuals leaving our care and custody.

Our goal is to use this proven model with our General Population Inmates.
Contact Information

- Sgt. Juan D. Martinez
  213/ 473-1782
  j1martinez@lasd.org