County Roles and Opportunities in Reentry Planning

National Association of Counties
February 22, 2018
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Safety and Justice Challenge

The Safety and Justice Challenge is an initiative to reduce over-incarceration by changing the way America thinks about and uses jails. The initiative—an initial five-year, $100 million investment by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation—focuses on helping jurisdictions across the country create fairer, more effective local justice systems.

Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
Today’s Speakers

Janeen Buck  
*Senior Fellow, Urban Institute*

Michael Hafemann  
*Superintendent, Milwaukee County House of Correction*

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*Founder, Sequitor Consulting  
Former Director of Civic Leadership Initiatives, Baton Rouge Area Foundation*
The Vital Role of Local Reentry: A National Overview

February 22, 2018

Janeen Buck Willison, Senior Fellow
URBAN INSTITUTE

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Presentation Roadmap
Define reentry

Review essential elements of effective reentry strategies at the local level

Highlight innovative approaches to local reentry
“Reentry is the process of leaving prison and returning to society ... Reentry is not an option. Reentry reflects the iron law of imprisonment: they all come back. “

Jeremy Travis, 2005
But they All Come Back
The United States incarcerates more people than any other country in the world

International Rates of Incarceration per 100,000

- United States: 698
- Rwanda: 492
- Russia: 446
- Brazil: 301
- Australia: 151
- Spain: 139
- China: 119
- Canada: 106
- France: 100
- Austria: 96
- Germany: 78
- Denmark: 61
- Sweden: 60
- India: 30

Local Reentry: Context

Jails “touch” huge numbers of individuals
- 12 million annual admissions, 9 million unique individuals

Numerous challenges
- Churn, uncertainty
- Varied population with multiple needs
- Limited (often) treatment capacity

Unique opportunities
- Diversion
- Proximity to community (resources, natural supports)
- Capacity for in-reach
Local Reentry: Essential Elements

- Community Collaboration
- Screening & Assessment
- Evidence-based Interventions (pre-post release)
  - Address criminogenic risks and needs
- Transition Case Planning
- Aftercare & Support
- Performance monitoring (self-evaluation)
Transition from Jail to Community Model

**System Elements**
- Leadership, vision, and organizational culture
- Collaborative structure and joint ownership
- Data-driven understanding of local reentry
- Targeted intervention strategies
- Self-evaluation and sustainability

**Intervention Elements**

**JAIL**
- Screening & Assessment
- Transition Plan
- Targeted Interventions
- Information & referrals
- Case management
- Formal services
- Informal support systems
- Supervision

**COMMUNITY**
- Improved Outcomes
What Seems to Work?

- **Programming & services** that begin in the facility and continue in the community
  - **Education**, earning a GED in custody results in high rates of employment after release
  - **Employment**, people who earned $10-$12/hour were 2x as likely to avoid rearrest as earning minimum wage
  - **Drug treatment**, during custody reduces relapse in the community
  - **Maintaining family connections**, as family is a significant source of financial & emotional support after release
  - **Gender-specific programming**
  - **Cognitive behavioral therapies**, reduce recidivism when offered in concert with other services
What Works?

- What returning individuals tell us:

  - Employment is vital to reentry success; career-oriented job training is key & connections to felon-friendly employers
  - Transportation and housing assistance is essential
  - Basic needs & assistance with obtaining identification
  - Connecting with providers including probation prior to release helps set expectations
  - More peer support & engagement – many looking for ways to give back
  - Returning to the community is scary!
    - Knowing someone who can help (a case manager) is in your corner eases participants’ anxieties & provides needed reassurance

† Studies including SVORI, Returning Home, Safer Return, & the Allegheny County (PA) Reentry Programs evaluation
Local Reentry: Innovative Approaches

**Pretrial focus**
- East Baton Rouge Parish, LA - jail diversion
- Lake County, IL – high utilizers
- City of Atlanta, GA – holistic defense

**Sentenced populations**
- New Haven, CT– step-down, peer supports
- Allegheny County, PA – community connection
- Franklin County, MA*– behavioral health focus

*small, rural jail
Resources

- Evaluation of Allegheny County Jail Collaborative Reentry Programs: Findings and Recommendations (2014)

- Transition from Jail to Community: Initiative Implementation Success and Challenges in the Franklin County, MA (2015)

- SAMHSA’s Guidelines for Successful Transition of People with Mental or Substance Use Disorders from Jail and Prison: Implementation Guide (2016)

- Second Chance Act Adult Offender Reentry Demonstration Projects Evidence-Based Practices: Case Management (2016)
Reentry in Milwaukee County

Superintendent Michael Hafemann

Milwaukee County House of Correction
National Association of Counties
“The Role of Counties in Reentry Planning”
Case Study: Baton Rouge, LA
I. High Incarceration Rates

Louisiana is #1 in the United States, incarcerating over 800 per 100,000 people

II. High Percentage of Pre-Trial Defendants

On average, 88% of approx. 1300 inmates in EBR Parish Jail are pre-trial

III. Lengthy Jail Stays

Average length of stay in EBR Parish Jail for non-violent inmates is over 30 days (46 for black males)

IV. Severe Overcrowding at Jail

500-700 prisoners housed out-of-parish due to overcrowding at local jail
East Baton Rouge Pre-Trial Release Program

Project Partners

- The MacArthur Foundation
- Urban Institute
- East Baton Rouge District Attorney’s Office
- East Baton Rouge Public Defender’s Office
- East Baton Rouge Sheriff’s Office
- Baton Rouge Mayor’s Office
- 19th Judicial District Court
- Baton Rouge City Court
- The Baton Rouge Area Foundation
- The Bridge Center for Hope
- LSU School of Social Work
EBR Pre-Trial Release Program

Project Goals

To implement a collaborative jail-based review team, staffed by a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Resource Coordinator, to divert nonviolent pre-trial defendants with mental health needs from jail into community-based services and programs.

- Reduce pre-trial length of jail stay
- Reduce pre-trial non-compliance
- Increase access and engagement in treatment
Program Process to Cut Pre-Trial LOS in Half

- **Arrest and Booking at Jail**
- **Initial Screening**
- **Judicial Call Out**
- **Clinical Assessment**
- **Supports Assessment**
- **Approval for Release**
- **Release from Jail**

**Day 1**
- Prison medical staff completes initial PREA screener
- Program staff attends call outs where bond is set and public defender *should be* appointed

**Day 2**
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker conducts clinical assessment using evidence-based tool
- Consents to release information are signed

**Day 3**
- LCSW contacts family members, others to confirm information and gauge support
- LCSW completes Treatment Plan

**Day 5**
- Program Partners meet weekly to approve new participants and discuss Treatment Plans
- Participants are released to treatment and/or home

**Days 8-14**
- Participants are released to treatment and/or home
**Post-Release Plan**

- **Inpatient Treatment Program**
- **Intensive Outpatient Program/Psychiatric Services**
- **Group Home/Halfway House**
  - Identification/Healthcare
  - Education/GED
  - Job Training

**Goals**
1. Drug Free
2. Arrest Free
3. Permanent Housing
4. Employment

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**Warm Hand Off at Jail Release**
Reentry Support Framework

Family Members

Program Participant

Resource Coordinator

Community-Based Services Staff

Judiciary
Participant Benefits

1. Access to Treatment/Housing

2. Case Management (including access to government programs, identification, job training)

3. Non-Prosecution/Dismissal of Current Charges (and in some cases, dismissal of prior charges/fines)
Program Successes & Challenges

**Successes**
1. Average of 1 offender per week released to treatment
2. First ever pre-trial program operating inside the Parish Jail
3. Moderate funding commitment from City-Parish
4. Strong and continued collaboration among key partners

**Challenges**
1. Resource Intensive Model
2. Risk of non-compliance
3. Scarcity of community-based resources
East Baton Rouge Parish: Future State

I. Improved Data Systems

II. Jail Based Review Team

III. Multiple Pre-Trial and Post-Trial Programs

IV. Specialized Behavioral Health Court

V. Empty jail beds
Question & Answer Session

- Type your question into the “Questions” box and the moderator will read the question on your behalf.
THANK YOU!

Additional questions or feedback?
Contact Kathy Rowings at krowings@naco.org