

# County Roles and Opportunities in Reentry Planning

National Association of Counties  
February 22, 2018

**Stronger Counties. Stronger America.**



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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



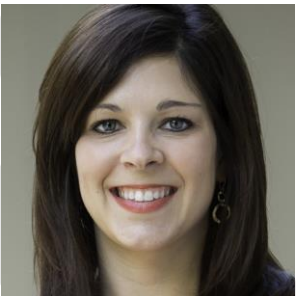
**Janeen Buck**

*Senior Fellow, Urban Institute*



**Michael Hafemann**

*Superintendent, Milwaukee County House of Correction*



**Bev Haydel**

*Founder, Sequitor Consulting  
Former Director of Civic Leadership Initiatives,  
Baton Rouge Area Foundation*



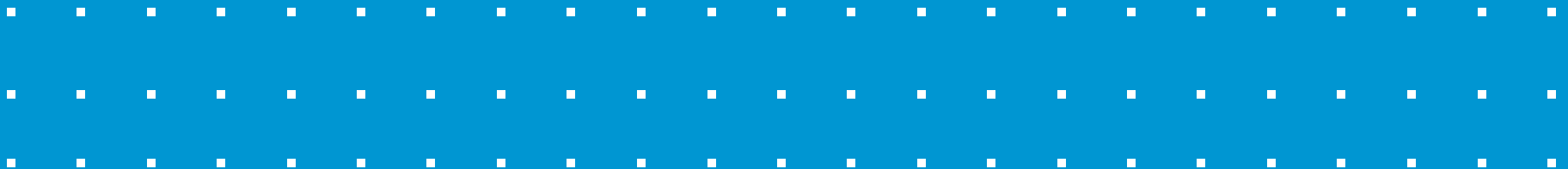
# ***The Vital Role of Local Reentry: A National Overview***

***February 22, 2018***

*Janeen Buck Willison, Senior Fellow*  
*URBAN INSTITUTE*

The views expressed are those of the authors and should not be attributed to The Urban Institute, its trustees, or its funders.

# Presentation Roadmap





- **Define reentry**
- **Review essential elements of effective reentry strategies at the local level**
- **Highlight innovative approaches to local reentry**

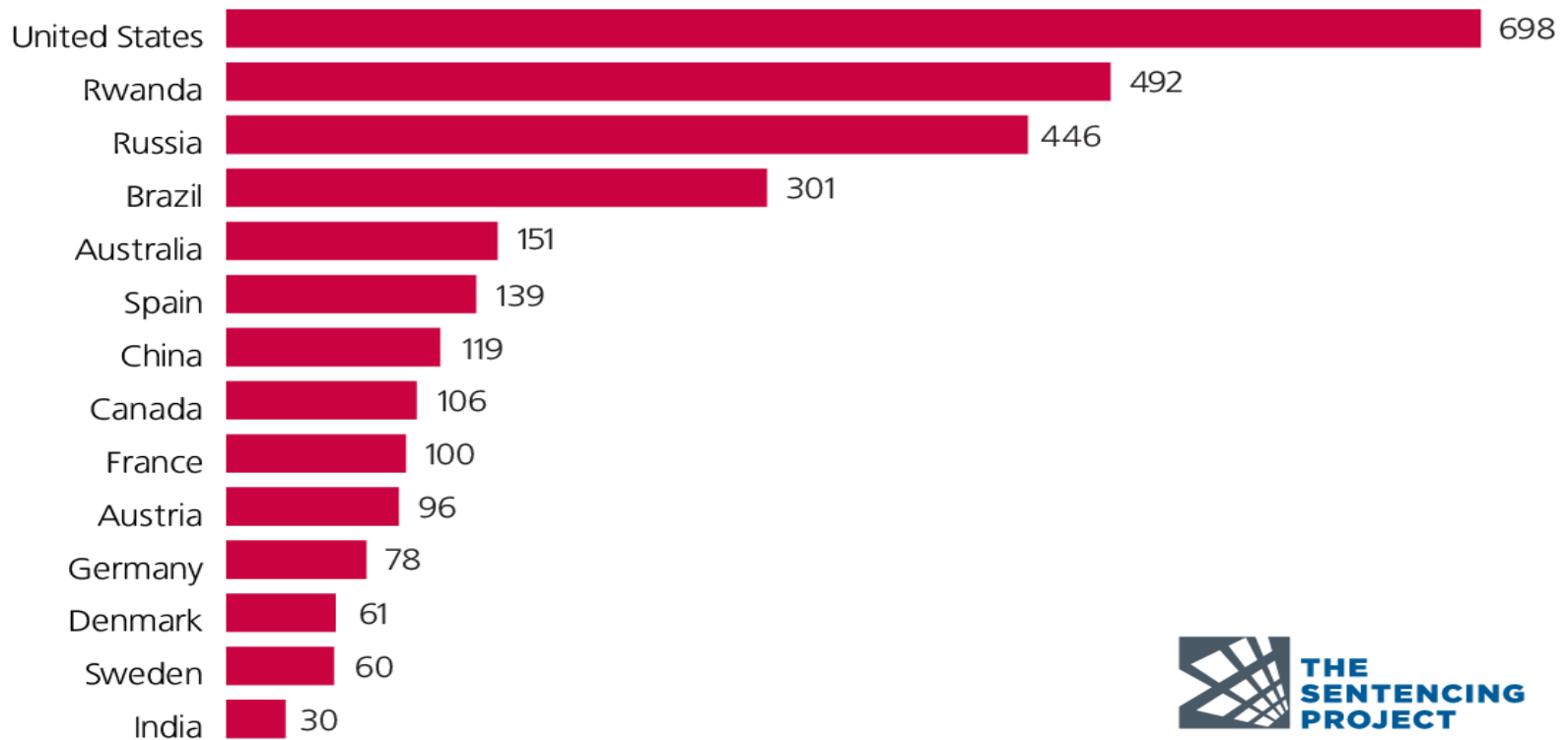
***"Reentry is the process of leaving prison and returning to society ... Reentry is not an option. Reentry reflects the iron law of imprisonment: they all come back. "***

*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



Source: Walmsley, R. (2015). *World Prison Brief*. London: Institute for Criminal Policy Research. Available online: <http://www.prison-studies.org/world-prison-brief>

# 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

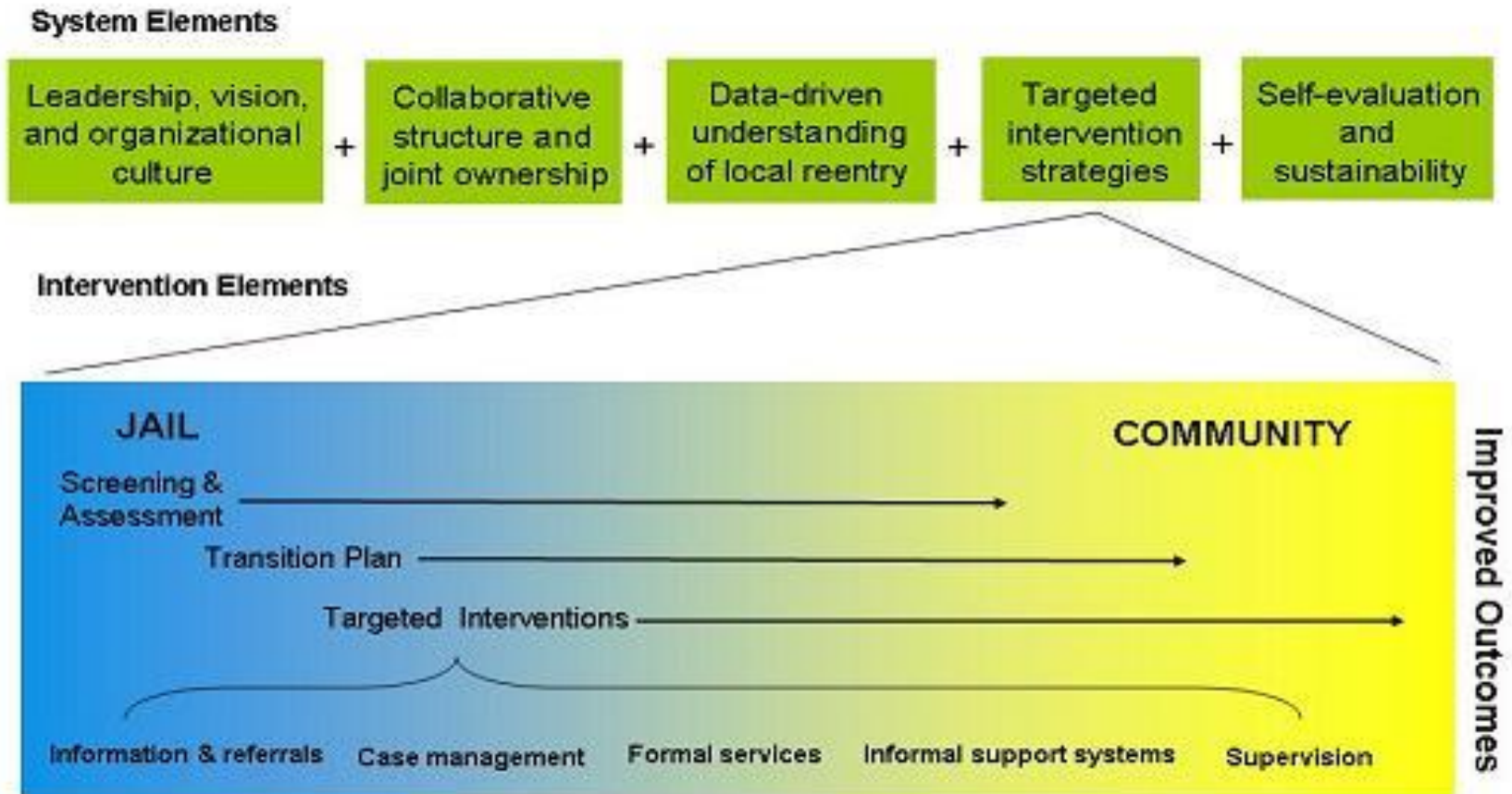
## Unique opportunities

- 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



# 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:<sup>†</sup>**
  - 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

<sup>†</sup> 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**



# East Baton Rouge Parish: Current Context



## **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
- 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court
- Baton Rouge City Court
- The Baton Rouge Area Foundation
- The Bridge Center for Hope
- LSU School of Social Work



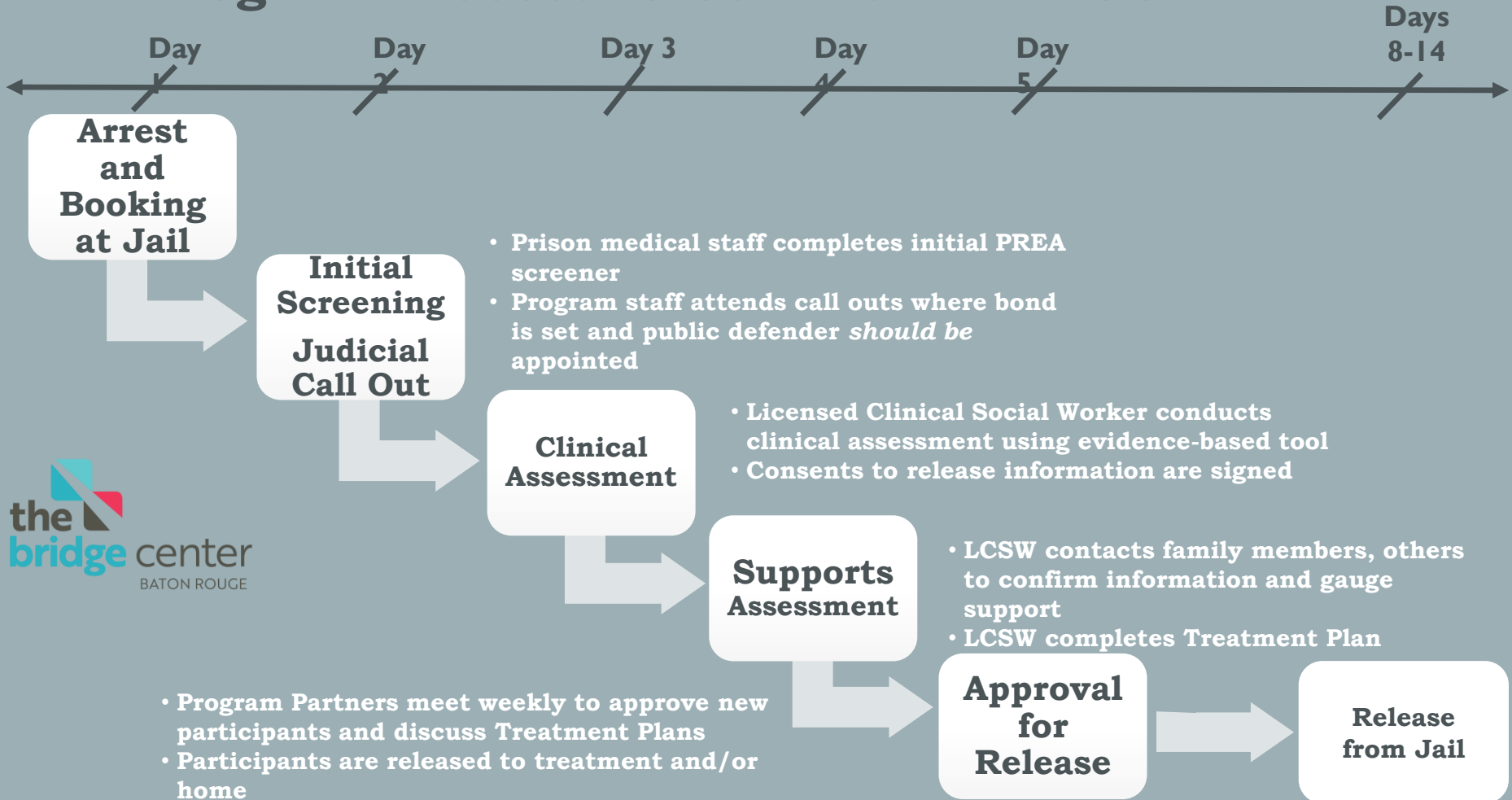
# EBR Pre-Trial Release Program

## 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





# Post-Release Plan

Warm  
Hand  
Off at Jail  
Release

Inpatient  
Treatment  
Program

Intensive Outpatient  
Program/Psychiatric  
Services

Group  
Home/Halfway  
House

Identification/Healthcare

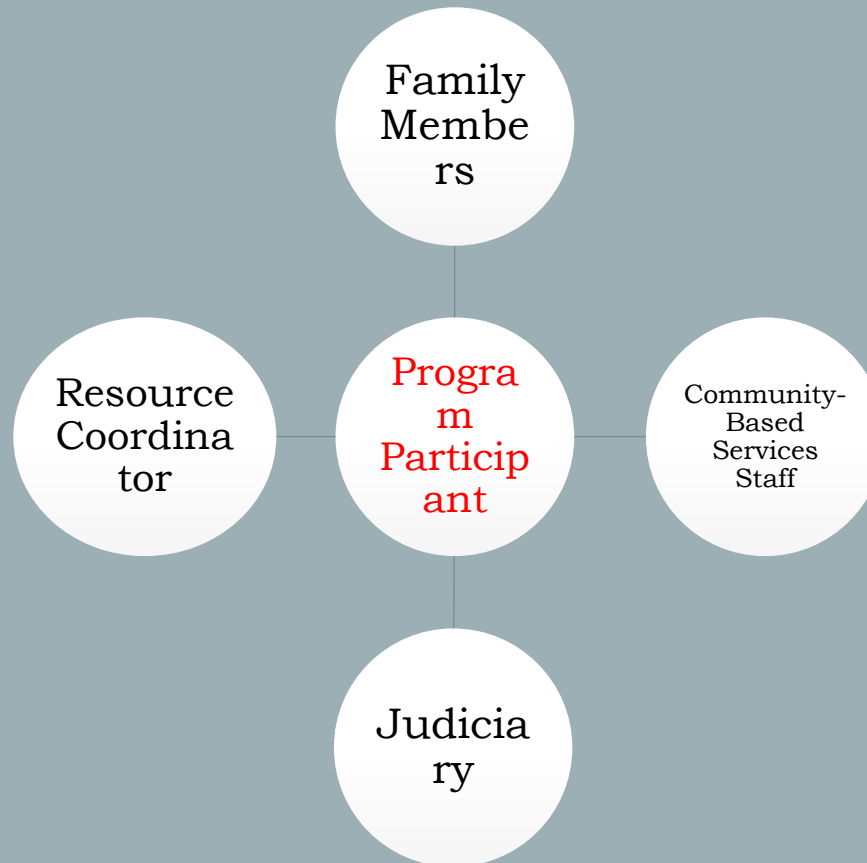
Education/GED

Job Training

## Goals

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

# Reentry Support Framework



# 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](mailto:krowings@naco.org)