The Transition from Jail to Community Initiative

Prepared for the American Jail Reentry training

Kevin Warwick  Jesse Jannetta  Louisville, KY
Alternative Solutions Associates  The Urban Institute  April 27, 2009
Overview of Session

- Jim Barbee: Introduction of NIC role and project overview
- Kevin Warwick: Presentation of the TJC model
- Jesse Jannetta: Why TJC? Challenges and opportunities of a system approach to jail/community transition
- Gary Christensen: Jail transition and evidence-based practice
- Questions and Answers
TJC Overview

- An initiative of the National Institute of Corrections
- NIC and the Urban Institute worked with practitioners to develop a transition model to guide local reentry collaboratives in implementing effective transition strategies
- Douglas County, KS and Denver, CO announced as first two pilot jurisdictions in September, 2008
  - Four additional jurisdictions will be announced in the summer of 2009
- Technical assistance tools for the field
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... to improve public safety and reintegration outcomes
TJC Goals

To improve public safety and reintegration outcomes

- Reduced reoffending
- Reduced substance abuse
- Reduced homelessness
- Improved health
- Increased employment
- Increased family connectedness
TJC Principles

• Systems change model
• Not a jails project
• Applicable to pre-trial and sentenced populations
• Universal risk screening of the jail population
• Match intervention types and intensity with assessed risks/needs
• Some interventions for everyone
• EBP-informed
**TJC 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

**Individual Intervention Elements**

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

**COMMUNITY**

**Improved Outcomes**
System Elements

Leadership, vision, and organizational culture

- Local champions
- Set sights high
- Empower stakeholders
- Organizational culture that supports change

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System Elements

- Leadership, vision, and organizational culture
- Collaborative structure and joint ownership

Diverse and multiple partners involved
- Shared goals and principles
- Joint outcomes of interest
- Common performance measures that hold initiative accountable
System Elements

- Leadership, vision, and organizational culture
- Collaborative structure and joint ownership
- Data-driven understanding of local reentry

- Assessment of local barriers and assets, characteristics of the inmate population, determination of chronic offenders, knowledge of existing laws and policies that govern various aspects of reentry
- Identification of resources that can be leveraged
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System Elements

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JAIL
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COMMUNITY
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**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

- Assessment to guide and improve operations
- Formalized roles and responsibilities with MOUs to determine who is responsible for what
- Management information systems and information-sharing protocols
- Public education that changes the way the transition process is viewed
Interventions begin upon admission to jail and continues in the community after release.
Individual Intervention Elements

- Screening at admission to quickly flag high risks and needs
- Further assessment for those with high risks/needs
Individual intervention elements

- Individual transition plans developed after assessment to layout case plan pre- and post-release
- Case management is critical
Targeted interventions begin in jail and continue in the community.

- Targeted interventions rely on multiple service sectors.
- “In reach” is key to building relationships that can continue post-release.
Individual Intervention Elements

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INFOGRAPHIC

JAIL

Screening & Assessment
Transition Plan
Targeted Interventions

COMMUNITY

Information & referrals
Case management
Formal services
Informal support systems
Supervision

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Information and Referrals - Handbooks, resource sheets, short courses

Case Management - Support and accountability

Formal Services – Substance abuse, mental health, employment, life skills, public health

Informal Support Systems – Families, peers, employers, victims, and faith/community groups

Supervision - Service brokerage and accountability
Why TJC? Population Management Challenges

#1 - A lot of people are released each year
- An estimated 12 million releases, 9 million unique individuals

#2 - Lengths of stay are brief
- About 19% stay more than 1 month; 13% > two months, 7% > four months, just 4% > six months

#3 - Population is varied
- Pre-trial and sentenced; probation and parole violators; state and fed. Prisoners; felons and misdemeanants

Data source: BJS/Beck 2006
Why TJC? Inmate Needs

#4 - Individual challenges are high

- 68% meet the criteria for substance abuse or dependence
- 60% do not have a high school diploma or GED
- 30% of inmates are unemployed the month before arrest
- 16% are estimated to have serious mental health problems
- 14% were homeless at some point during the year before they were incarcerated

Data source: BJS/Beck 2006
Why TJC? System Challenges

#5 - Treatment/service capacity is limited

#6 – No designated organization in place to facilitate the transition process

#7 – Mandated supervision the exception

#8 – 3,365 independently operated jails
Jails Present Unique Intervention Opportunities

- Short length of stay = less time away
- Jails sited in communities where inmates will return… “in-reach” possible
- Jails can be part of community network of providers
  - Many Community Based organizations are already working with population
A Solid Base of Jail Reentry Innovation

Urban Institute’s scan of jail reentry practice identified:

- 42 jail reentry efforts
  - jail-based reentry programs and community follow-up
- Large and small jurisdictions
- Some special populations; others all releases
- Community “in reach” common
- A few involved probation
- Almost all developed innovative ways to keep individuals engaged after release
Role of the Triage Matrix

- The TJC model can be applied to both pre-trial and sentenced populations, including those with short lengths of stay.
- Not possible – or desirable -- to apply every intervention to every person who passes through jails.
- Developed “triage matrix” to help determine “who gets what”
Role of the Triage Matrix

A Triage Matrix:

- Can help prioritize goals, target populations, and resource use
- Presumes to apply to both pre-sentenced and sentenced populations, including those with very short LOS
- Builds on screening and assessment
- Would be adapted to meet local definitions, needs, resources, timelines
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk/Needs</th>
<th>LOS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Short (72 hours or less)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>-- Info. resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>-- Info. resources -- Short course on accessing services -- Referrals to specific providers based on screening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>-- Info. resources -- Short course on accessing services -- Referrals to specific providers for assessment and programming based on screening -- Post-release service provision -- Post-release case management -- Possibly supervision</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Take The R.I.D.E.

HERE'S WHERE WE GO!

ALCOHOL/DRUG TREATMENT
EMPLOYMENT
HOUSING

SERVICE PROVIDERS
CENTER FOR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY (CEO)
OSBORNE ASSOCIATION
SAMARITAN VILLAGE

Rikers Island Discharge Enhancement Program
For Sentenced Inmates At EMTC
For Further Information Call the RIDE Hotline
1-718 777-9873
Initial TJC Sites Differ in Important Ways

Douglas County, KS
- County
- Single facility
- ADP: 185
- No previous history of CJ collaboration
- Direct supervision jail
  - Recently built

Denver, CO
- City/county
- County jail and PADF facilities
- ADP: 2,229
- Extensive pre-TJC CJ collaboration
- Linear jail
  - New jail facility coming
Initial TJC Sites Also Similar

- Proactive on topic; buy-in at highest levels
- Large homeless and mentally ill populations
- Large pre-trial population in the jail
- No universal risk screening applied to jail population
- Programs currently serve sentenced inmates who volunteer
  - Probably most motivated and lowest risk
- Data and information-sharing challenges
Resources

TJC Website:
www.jailtransition.com

NIC Website:
http://www.nicic.org/JailTransition

National Reentry Resource Center:
http://www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org
Contacts

Kevin Warwick MSW
Alternative Solutions Associates
413-626-7597
Warwickkevin@msn.com
www.alternativesolutionsassociates.com

Jesse Jannetta
The Urban Institute
202-261-5593
jjannetta@urban.org