Meeting the Needs of Specialized Populations

NCJA and ICCA 2019 Forum on Criminal Justice
September 2019
OVERVIEW

In this workshop, we look at the needs of some of the most specialized segments of the justice involved population: individuals over age 50 (considered seniors by the US Dept. of Justice) and individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities. Presenters will share their approach and experience in effectively addressing these highly specialized needs.
Presenter

• Matthew LeFrancois, Interim Contract Manager for Community Resources for Justice.

• Worked for CRJ since 2009. Previous roles include:
  • Program Director, Coolidge House RRC, Boston, MA
  • Assistant Director, Hampshire House, Manchester, NH
  • Case Manager, Hampshire House
  • Supervisor, Coolidge House
  • Community Verification Specialist, Coolidge House
  • Program Monitor, Hampshire House.
History and Mission

• For over 141 years, CRJ has been committed to changing lives and strengthening communities
• CRJ’s long history and combination of direct services and policy work are part of what makes us unique
• CRJ believes that society gains when all people receive the support and tools they need to lead responsible, productive, and dignified lives
CRJ’s Three Divisions

• **Community Strategies**: Empowers people with intellectual or developmental disabilities to live as independently as possible

• **Social Justice Services**: Supports men and women leaving incarceration to make positive and sustainable life transitions

• **Crime and Justice Institute**: Provides nonpartisan policy analysis, consulting, and research services to improve public safety throughout the country
CRJ’s Three Divisions

**SOCIAL JUSTICE SERVICES**
- 782 men and women were served in our residential reentry centers last year.

**COMMUNITY STRATEGIES**
- 37 residential group homes in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

**CRIME AND JUSTICE INSTITUTE**
- $6.97M value of new or renewed research and implementation grants awarded to the Crime and Justice Institute in 2017.
- 205 men and women with developmental disabilities enjoyed better lives last year because of the work of our committed staff.
- 43 states where the Crime and Justice Institute has worked, providing research and assistance in implementing evidence-based practices that improve safety and promote fairness in justice systems while reducing costs.
Older Adults
The Problem Statement

• In 2017, Secretary of Public Safety and Parole Board Chair in MA identified older adults as needing significant reentry support
  • Complex medical needs: expensive to treat behind the wall, and drive up average costs
  • Long periods of incarceration
  • Limited resources or connection in community
  • In need of benefits activation
  • Not able to work FT
    • Need PT or volunteer opportunities
    • Need prosocial community connection
The Solution

• CRJ engaged in an educational effort with community partners and state policymakers, and achieved a line item specifically for community-based residential reentry services, naming older adults as a target population.
Advocacy and Educational Effort

Overview of importance of reentry

Line item detail, recidivism info, other state comparison

Reentry programs statistics

Client case studies of success stories
Advocacy and Educational Effort

❖ Hosted visits at Brooke House
  ➢ Legislators spoke with staff
  ➢ Tours of building
  ➢ Residents shared their stories
In 2018, legislature established a budget line item for $5 million for community-based residential reentry programs to serve individuals on pre-release/work release status, post-incarceration, and on probation and parole.
The General Model

• Utilize an evidence-based risk, needs, responsivity model to reduce recidivism and provide:
  ❖ Case Management
  ❖ Supervision and Accountability
  ❖ Connections to community partners
The Specific Model

CRJ Community-based Residential Reentry Program Logic Model

Situation: CRJ proposes to provide a residential reentry experience enabling state and county elderly inmates to be released and safely returned to the community.
Perceived Challenges

• Cognitive impairment
• Physical Health & Healthy aging
  • Mobility challenges and physical therapy needs.
• Minimal to no Community/Family Support
• Older Adults need more time w/staff. More 1:1 work.
• Developing staff competencies to work most effectively with older adults.
• Examples of previous older adult residents
Age versus Dementia

Age doesn't make you forgetful.
Having way too many stupid things to remember makes you forgetful.
Partnerships with Agencies Serving Older Adults

• Alzheimer's Association training
  • Increase staff awareness to signs of dementia
  • Connected CRJ with other older adult resources & supports
  • Guidance on effective facilitating dementia friendly groups
  • Guidance on dementia friendly phone skills

• Resource spreadsheet for Case Managers and Community Support Specialist

• Massachusetts office of Elder Affairs
Staffing Solution

• Community Support Specialist
• Smaller Case Manager ratios (1:12 for women, 1:15 for men).
• Added additional staff to lower management and administrative duties of Case Managers
Staff competencies

• All staff are trained in EPICS
• Case Management staff are trained in CBI
• Many other health, safety, and behavior change areas
Potential/ Next Steps

• Enhance the Community Support Specialist position.
• Clinical Director
• Create additional community partnerships & develop & maintain existing partnerships
• Select & implement a cognitive impairment screening tool
• In reach to assist DOC, HOC, Parole, Probation identify older adults in need of our support & services.
• Enhance Release Planning
Questions and Contact Information

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