

# *Meeting the Needs of Specialized Populations*

NCJA and ICCA 2019 Forum on Criminal Justice  
September 2019

# Workshop Overview and Agenda

## 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 Manger, Hampshire House
  - Supervisor, Coolidge House
  - Community Verification Specialist, Coolidge House
  - Program Monitor, Hampshire House.

# Community Resource for Justice (CRJ)

## ❖ 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

Our mission is to **change lives** and **strengthen communities** by advancing policy and delivering individualized services that promote **safety, justice, and inclusion.**

We **welcome** change.  
We **offer** choice.  
We **focus** on behavior.  
We **listen.**

Integrity  
Compassion  
Creativity  
Excellence

The graphic features a teal top section with a white circle containing the mission statement. Below this are two colored boxes: a red box on the left containing four statements about CRJ's approach, and a blue box on the right containing four core values. The background of the entire graphic has faint geometric shapes.

# 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

75%

completed the program

## COMMUNITY STRATEGIES

37

residential group homes in Massachusetts and New Hampshire

205

men and women with developmental disabilities enjoyed better lives last year because of the work of our committed staff.

## CRIME AND JUSTICE INSTITUTE

\$6.97M

value of new or renewed research and implementation grants awarded to the Crime and Justice Institute in 2017.

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

## MASSACHUSETTS REENTRY SERVICES

Community-based residential reentry programs change lives and promote public safety by supporting men and women as they transition from incarceration back into Massachusetts neighborhoods. Programs help individuals find employment, housing, substance abuse and mental health counseling, and more so they can succeed in the community.



Support \$7 million for line-item 0339-10TT, which funds community-based residential reentry programs that reduce recidivism and offer individuals the tools they need to return to the community after incarceration.

Funding for additional reentry services is badly needed in Massachusetts to address high recidivism: two-thirds of people leaving jails and more than half of those leaving prison in 2011 were re-arrested within three years of their release.<sup>1</sup>

In 2019, Massachusetts established \$5 million in funding, but still trails far behind other states like Ohio and New Jersey, which each spend more than \$45 million on reentry annually.

Line item detail, recidivism info, other state comparison

Reentry programs statistics

Community Resources for Justice has more than 120 years' experience serving reentry clients

- 75% successfully complete the program
- 72% leave with a job
- 92% leave with housing
- 92% leave the program with identification documents
- Clients secure a job in an average of 40 days

Reentry programs can reduce recidivism by up to 25 percent for high-risk individuals.<sup>2</sup>



### Carlos

At Brooke House, Carlos obtained a state ID, a birth certificate and MassHealth coverage. He had little work history, but he landed a steady job at a restaurant, where he worked hard and advanced quickly. He also opened his first-ever bank account. "I don't know where I'd be if I didn't have Brooke House," he said. "The staff actually cares about clients and work hard to make sure they do great."

### Rosa

Before becoming incarcerated, Rosa fled an abusive marriage, losing touch with her three children in the process. During her time at McGrath House, she accessed counseling services and was able to reconnect with her children and spend Christmas with them. She also enrolled in Quincy College, addressed some serious health issues, and obtained safe and secure housing in Brockton.

Client case studies of success stories



<sup>1</sup> Council of State Government's Justice Center  
<sup>2</sup> Gosselin, W. (2019). An analysis of New Jersey's Day Reporting Center and Halfway Back programs: Embracing the rehabilitative ideal through evidence-based practices. University of Cincinnati, 10110. Follow-up Disposition of Ohio's Community-based Correctional Facility and Halfway House Programs - Income Study 2019.

# Advocacy and Educational Effort

- ❖ Hosted visits at Brooke House
  - Legislators spoke with staff
  - Tours of building
  - Residents shared their stories



# 2018-2019 Changes in Reentry in MA

- ❖ 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.

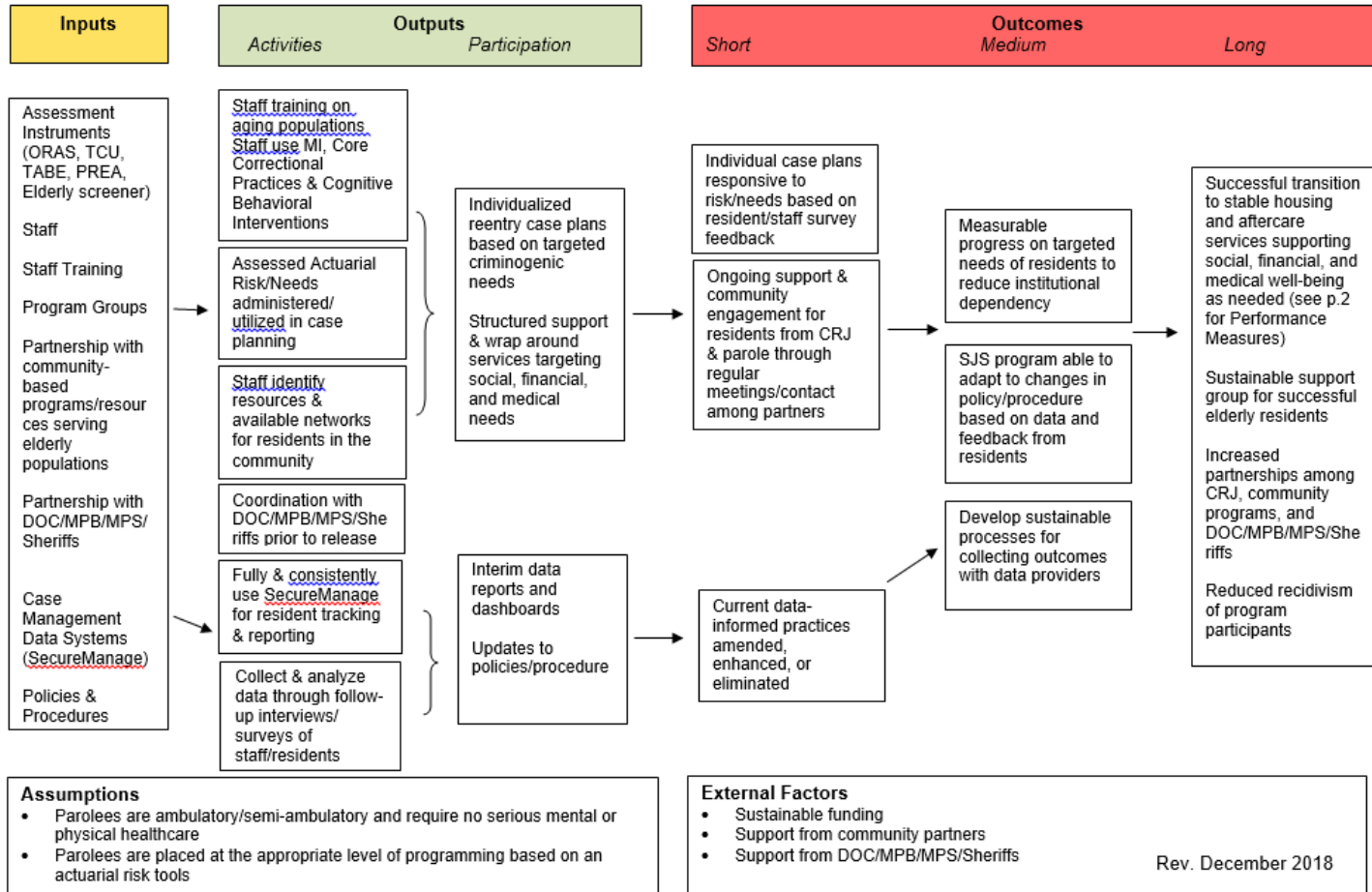
# The General Model

- 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



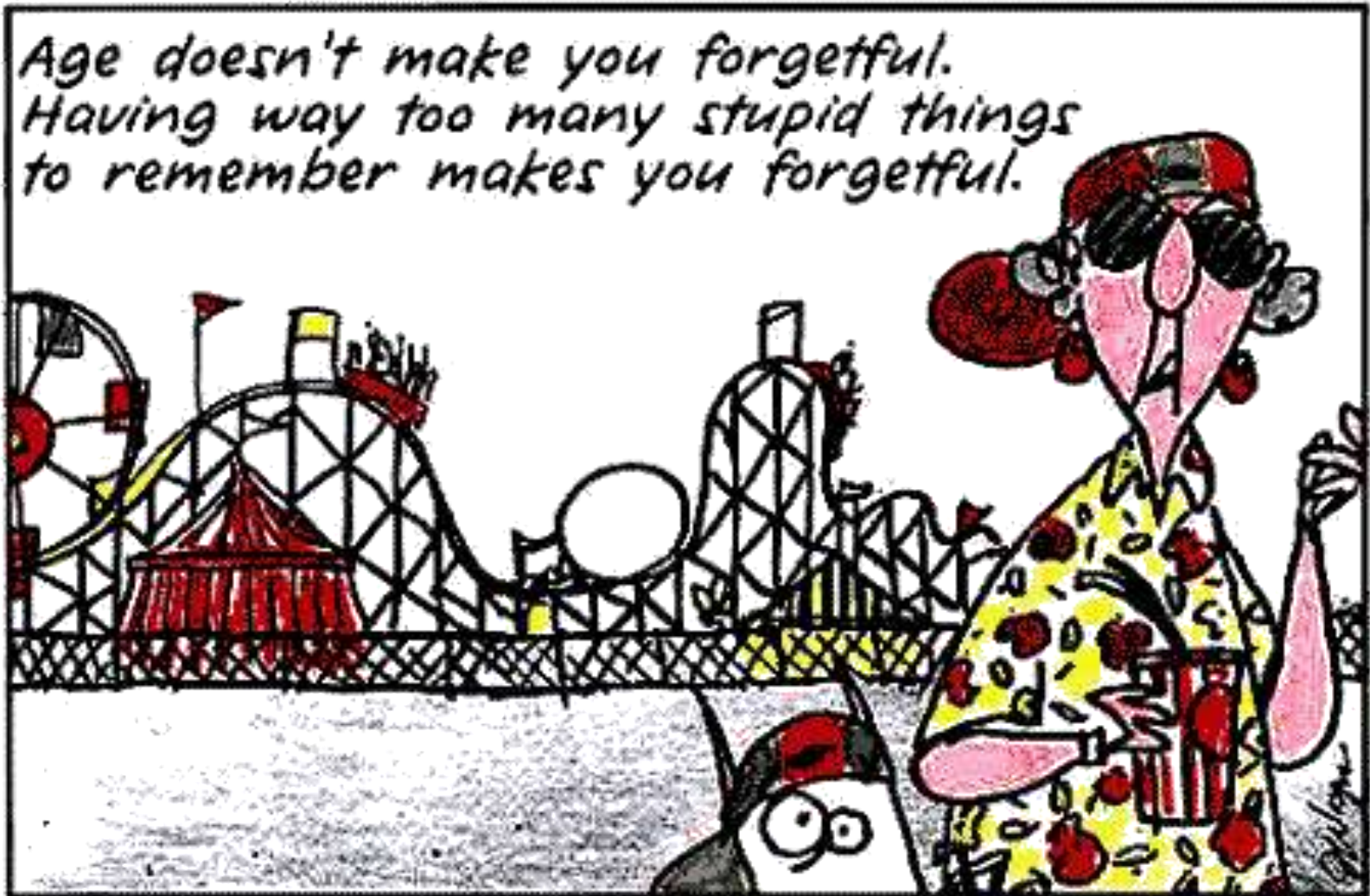
**CRJ Community-based Residential Reentry Program Logic Model**  
**Situation: CRJ proposes to provide a residential reentry experience enabling state and county elderly inmates to be released and safely returned to the community.**

# 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





# 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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