The Choice is Yours

Innovative Diversion Program for First-Time Nonviolent Felony Offenders
I thought the streets were always what I was meant to do. Being here, coming here changed my whole mindset. I don’t want to be anywhere else. I want to be here, I want to be learning.

— Miguel, TCY client
What is TCY?

- In 2011, Philadelphia was facing the fourth-highest per capita inmate population in the country and three year recidivism rates were approaching 50%.
- TCY was created as an alternative to incarceration for first-time nonviolent offenders arrested and charged with Possession with the Intent to Distribute. (PW ID)
Who is TCY?

TCY

DA’s Office

Defender Assoc.

JEVS

Municipal Court
200
Individuals per year

18-24
Typical age range

89%
Overall Graduation rate since inception
Why TCY?

◉ Second chance: education, employment & empowerment
◉ Strong outcomes
◉ Savings to government and community
◉ Replication potential
What happening at **TCY**?

- Job Readiness
- Life Skills and Cognitive Behavior Training
- Paid Work Experience and/or College Access (SNHU)
- Job Development and Placement
- Academic Improvement & Credentialing
- Case Management
- Community Service / Restorative Justice
Current TCY Outcomes

- Completion Rate 85%
- Secondary or post-secondary credential 80%
- Recidivism Rate 7.4%
- Job Placement / Retention Rate 74%
- Record expungement one-year post-completion, assuming no re-offense 57%
### Felony Conviction Rate: TCY Graduates vs. Eligible Non-Enrollees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years post-graduation</th>
<th>TCY Graduates</th>
<th>Eligible non-enrollees</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>69.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>14.8</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Days Served in Local Custody</td>
<td>Cost to Taxpayers</td>
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<tr>
<td>96 TCY Graduates</td>
<td>$28,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 Defendants who chose not to participate in TCY</td>
<td>$753,400</td>
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There’s a cost benefit [to TCY]...It’s one of those programs that gives people the opportunity to address a wrong in a really productive manner, where they’re learning and taking away skills that are useful throughout life. It’s really rewarding to see [TCY graduates]...working legitimate 9-to-5 jobs, making really decent money...They’re paying taxes. They’re contributing to the community.

— Derek Riker, former chief of the Diversion Courts Unit at the Philadelphia District Attorney’s office
Closing Remarks / Q&A

Thanks for attending the Workshop!!
Nigel D. Bowe

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