

Executive Summary - Kings County Integrative Re-entry Services

Overview: Integrative reentry services is a collaborative effort including the Sheriff, Probation, Public Health, Behavioral Health and Champions that prepares men and women for reentry into the community.

Challenge: Kings County's population is comprised of a disproportionate percentage of justice involved individuals with complex needs including language barriers, a lack of transportation/geographic isolation, and socioeconomic barriers; all of which require an innovative solution. Historically, Kings County has one of the highest incarceration rates in the state of California as well as a relatively high recidivism rate. Further compounding these issues are limited resources and funding. Knowing this, all County Departments, Community-Based Organizations (CBO's), community members, faith-based organizations, medical providers, and municipalities began brain-storming in order to create a system of care to address these issues.

Innovative Solution: Integrative reentry services within Kings County starts at the moment of arrest, with screening and assessment that serves as the basis for programming and service delivery within the jail. Achieving this requires a cross-disciplinary approach to treatment of the whole person inclusive of vocational needs and training, behavioral health and substance use treatment, case management, physical health, social services, transition planning, and the securing of post-release placement and services.

The service model was a melding of resources from various County Departments and CBO's in order to complete a gap analysis and the subsequent design of the reentry system of care. All parties identified contributions that they were able to make to strengthen the delivery model for justice-involved individuals. The model of care relied heavily on the strengths-risk-needs principals, as well as evidence-based models.

Individuals develop skills that assist with prosocial living, employment, and stabilization of behavioral health symptomology. Transition planning assists in the activation of healthcare coverage, prescription medication compliance and supplies, stable and healthy living environment, and increases the likelihood of adherence to treatment programming. Transportation from custody is a major component of our reentry system as it reduces barriers for treatment enrollment, builds rapport, and minimizes the odds of participant hesitancy and resistance.

Priming services delivered pre-release allow for rapport building, explanation of post-release programming, reduction in treatment duration (full-length) for certain programs, and assists the participant and professional in determining the proper post-release service fit. Lastly, this type of model bridges the relationship between participant and law enforcement, allowing the law enforcement to walk participants through the entire programming experience from pre to post-release.

Post-release services delivered are based on criminogenic elements and evidence-based programming and involve the County Departments and the CBO's continued collaboration in a shared space. The focus is on the sustained wellness and health of the individual, as well as reduction of recidivism. Services delivered address mental health, psychiatric care, case management, peer support, life skills, vocational and educational training, employment, housing, relationship health, development of prosocial coping skills and support systems, physical health and wellness, and parenting skills. Lastly, alumni connections are important to help participants continue and sustain their wellness.

Originality: The uniqueness and beauty of Kings County is that all entities, private or government, are able to work effectively with one another. Such work occurs both formally and informally with virtually no barriers. This allows streamlined decision-making, effective use of resources, and cohesion in the efforts to improve the lives of our citizens.

Cost Effectiveness: No additional costs; pre-existing services were coordinated and planned to meet clients needs.

Results: This program has brought hope to our offenders; hope for a new start in life, hope for rebuilding damaged relationships and hope for future security. Their success brings hope to county and CBO staff who work closely with them. Jail staff has noted significant positive outcomes evidenced in better behavior and apparent increases in confidence. Further, many offenders have discovered within themselves talent and potential of which they were previously unaware.

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Optional Submission: See attached CD; or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UnoGBN6syks>