



Transition from Jail to
Community (TJC)

Fresno County Sheriff's
Department
Fresno County Probation
Department

Presentation to the Fresno
Community Corrections
Partnership (CCP)

Purpose of the Transition Unit

- Facilitate intensive risk-reduction programming for moderate and high-risk offenders
- Develop an effective model for handing individuals off from jail to probation supervision
- Enhance capacity to deliver jail-based risk-reduction interventions
- Increase the probability of offender compliance with Probation and Court Orders
- Develop pro-social attitudes and behaviors
- Increase Public Safety by decreasing recidivism

Milestones of the TJC

- January 2013 request to the CCP for funding
- April 2013 TJC Budget approved and entered
- May 2013 interviews and selection of TJC staff (1-Correctional Sergeant, 2- Correctional Officers, 2-Probation Officers)
- August 5, 2013 TJC Unit opens with 29 inmates
- December 2013, interviews and selection of Social Worker for TJC

Transition Unit Program Components

- Dedicated jail staff and probation officers
 - Transition Unit probation officers supervise these offenders post release
- Thinking for a Change cognitive-behavioral curriculum
- General Education Development
- Sierra Educational Research Institute (SERI)
 - Assessment, counseling, group
- Programming through Turning Point:
 - Substance Abuse Treatment
 - Anger Management
 - Parenting and Family Systems
 - Release and Re-integration
 - Mental Health Assessment and Counseling
- Incentives and sanctions structure

Population Served

- AB 109 Mandatory Supervision Offenders
 - Above risk cut-off (Proxy then STR)
 - Agree to transition unit rules
 - Within the last 4-6 months of sentence
- 69 enrolled in unit since August 2013 (37 inmates in the TJC as of February 5, 2014)
 - 66 high-risk
 - 3 moderate-risk
 - Average number of prior jail admissions: 22
 - Low – 1 prior (35 year old)
 - High – 51 priors (47 year old)
 - Criminogenic needs (Top 5 domains identified)
 - 77% Aggression
 - 59% Friends
 - 57% Alcohol/Drug Use
 - 54% Community Employment
 - 14% Education

In-Jail Program Participation and Completion

- 100% of participants released were in compliance with TJC rules
- 9% of participants removed from program
- 54% of participants completed T4C
- 100% of participants assessed by Turning Point
 - 100% need some type of post-release treatment

Hand-Off to Probation

- First client was released from the TJC on October 1, 2013
- 26 clients have been released from the TJC, as of February 5, 2014
- TJC clients are continuing to receive services through Turning Point on Post Release Supervision

Challenges

- Limited program space in the Fresno County Jail
- Populating unit based on risk, mixing classification levels
- Expanding available programs
- Selecting and training dedicated staff
- Various data systems that don't share information
- Educating staff on Evidence Based Practices
- Maintaining a Therapeutic Environment
- Accurate records of who the AB109 MSR population is, and the balance of sentencing under AB109.
- Need to develop an early release criteria for TU Offenders
- Continued FCR releases of potential TJC candidates

Future Directions

- Expand TJC concept to other priority populations
 - Female offenders
 - Additional AB109 male offender unit
 - Non-AB 109 population
- Develop a Job Readiness Curriculum
- Find community hand-off partner for high-risk inmates without a probation tail

Positive Notes

- No altercations or major conflicts in the housing unit since it opened
- Inmates are leaving their “politics” at the door and supporting each other regardless of race, age, gang affiliation, etc.
- Inmates are verbalizing a change in their perception of Law Enforcement and Probation
- Inmates have developed better coping skills that will assist them in the community
- Inmates are mending family relationships and regaining trust
- Through the “blanket” project the inmates are giving back to their communities

Lessons Learned

- Dire need for some type of re-entry council or coordination of CBO's in the Fresno Community
- Too large of a housing unit results in a degradation of the therapeutic community
- Labor intensive unit (movement, programming, scheduling, inmate needs)
- Difficult to keep the population engaged for longer than 4 months
- True collaboration is a difficult thing to accomplish