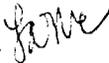


MEMORANDUM

October 7, 2016

TO: Public Safety Committee
Health and Human Services Committee

FROM: Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst 

SUBJECT: **Update – CORP (Comprehensive Reentry Project)**

Expected for this session:

Robert Green, Director, Department of Correction and Rehabilitation
Athena Morrow, Supervisor, DHHS Clinical Assessment and Triage Service (CATS)
Susie Sinclair-Smith, Director, Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless

CORP UPDATE

In March 2015, the Council appropriated a \$600,000 Federal grant from the Bureau of Justice Administration's Second Chance Reentry Program for Adults with Co-Occurring Substance Abuse and Mental Health Disorders. The grant award funds an effort to use the Pre-Release Center to provide transitional housing for non-violent offenders with co-occurring disorders. This program is now called CORP (Comprehensive Reentry Program).

The goal is to divert people with moderate to severe mental health or co-occurring disorders from jail beds and link them to stable community services. The effort is specifically targeted to those people referred to as "frequent flyers." The program includes:

- Intensive case management through the establishment of a Forensic Assertive Community Treatment Team (FACT).
- Housing assistance through the services of a Housing Locator (Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless is a partner) that will also help advocate with landlords and assist people to overcome barriers.
- Assistance in enrolling in the most appropriate health insurance/healthcare plan.
- Training on the impact of incarceration on clinical needs.

The grant application said that during the course of the program, 120 offenders will be served with at least 20% being women. The stabilization period at the PRC was expected to be about 60 days. Case management and other support services would be provided for a minimum of 10-12 months. In addition to funding housing assistance through a partnership with the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless, a Forensic Assertive Community Action Team (FACT Team) would be established. It was expected that once established, the FACT Team will bill Medicaid and other insurance for reimbursement for those being served.

A summary sheet is attached at ©1. It notes that the grant period is until July 30, 2017 (with a possible extension of 6 months). It also notes that:

- There have been 91 eligible CORP candidates, of which 71 were assigned to CORP Case Coordinators.
- Of the 71, 18 transitioned to the community with full services; 21 are currently in custody pending release; and 32 were not successfully engaged.

Council staff comment – Evaluation and Sustainability

Both the STEER and CORP initiatives have the potential to improve people’s lives through appropriate treatment and services, reduce costs to the criminal justice system, and, in the case of CORP, reduce costs overall for the multitude of services to “frequent fliers” once they are stabilized in long-term treatment and housing. Both programs are operating with grant funding and a decision will have to be made as to whether local funds should continue to keep these efforts going. (Both programs should also be leveraging other funding such as Medicaid reimbursements and insurance.)

The joint Committee may want to discuss how the Departments expect to present evaluations to the Executive and how the evaluations (or preliminary evaluation data) will be considered as a part of the FY18 budget. It may be necessary to continue some local funding after the grant period until evaluations are completed, but these are excellent examples of how to take a “Results First” approach to programming.

Comprehensive Reentry Project (CORP)

What is CORP

- \$600,000 project, funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance Second Chance Act
- Target population - 120 Recidivating Offenders with Mental Health and/or Co-occurring Substance Use Disorders
- Two (2) year project, implemented 4/1/2016 and approved until 7/30/2017 (may be extended for another 6 months)
- Administered by HHS, in collaboration with DOCR, MCCH and PEP

Who is eligible

- Offenders in custody
- 18 years old or older
- Resident of Montgomery County
- Documented mental illness and/or co-occurring substance use disorder;
- At least one prior incarceration
- No barriers to release (i.e. no detainees or other pending legal matters).

What are the CORP Components?

- Evaluation of outcome measures
- Screening for CORP eligibility of all booked inmates presenting with behavioral health concerns
- Comprehensive needs assessment and reentry planning by the CORP multidisciplinary team
- Forensic liaison and advocacy with SAO, Public Defender and the Courts
- Post-release care coordination of services for 9-12 months
- Collaborative and individualized case planning to include:
 - Benefits
 - Treatment referrals
 - Housing arrangements
 - Addressing of criminogenic needs
 - Vocational supports
 - Building on existing family/social supports

Who is on the CORP team

- CATS (Clinical Assessment and Transition Services) - HHS
- Pre-Trial Services - DOCR
- Parole and Probation
- ACT staff - People Encouraging People (PEP)
- Housing Locator Specialist - Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless (MCCH)
- Targeted Case Management – HHS
- Others as needed (Core Service Agency, CIT, SAO, PD, treatment providers, family members, landlords, etc)

Data: 4/1/16 to 9/30/16

994 - number of CORP eligibility screenings at MDCDC by CATS staff

91 - number of eligible CORP candidates

71 - number of CORP candidates assigned to case coordinators for engagement and care planning
(the remaining 20 inmates were released, went to DOC or were too impaired to engage)

- 18 – transitioned to the community with full services
- 21 – currently in custody-pending release (an additional 8 candidates still pending assignment)
- 32 – not successfully engaged (declining, not agreeable to CORP's terms, posting bond prior to care plan's development)

13 – Active CORP participants in the community

- 8 – permanently housed
- 4 – in residential treatment
- 9 - in outpatient treatment