

Project Abstract

Applicant: Montgomery County (Maryland) Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Corrections and Rehabilitation (DOCR), local entities, population 1 million.

Title: Rapid Reentry Program (RRP) for Offenders Diagnosed with Co-Occurring Behavioral Health Disorders

Funding request: \$600,000

Target population: High-risk-to-recidivate offenders with serious and persistent co-occurring disorders, who have no outstanding warrants/detainers and have convictions or are facing charges that do not present public safety concerns.

Baseline Recidivism Rate for all individuals released is 29% over three years, underreporting recidivism of individuals with co-occurring disorders; their rate is nearly 100%. DOCR measures recidivism rates monthly and will use existing databases to recalculate recidivism rates for this subset.

Program Design is to implement early identification and create a continuum of care for difficult-to-serve clients currently in a fragmented system. Intensive wrap around case management will begin within the jail, meet clients at the gate upon release and continue assisting them while in the community. Housing location services will match clients to existing housing and locate new housing resources including re-purposing existing community-correctional beds at the Montgomery County Pre-Release Center.

Collaborative partnerships with community-based behavioral health treatment programs include existing providers of various levels of substance abuse treatment, including intensive outpatient, residential and extended residential levels, all co-occurring enhanced. PEP is the provider of the existing ACT team, which will become the FACT team.

Assessment Instruments One possible screening instrument to employ upon booking may be the LSI-R:SV, which screens for recidivism while under community supervision, and institutional misconduct among incarcerated offenders. Additionally the Risk-Need-Responsivity model will guide prescriptive individualized planning.

Priority Considerations addressed:

- Focus on post-release community programs
- Specialized probation services for target population
- Partner with researcher on a rigorous evaluation – CRA will implement an experimental or strong quasi-experimental evaluation design
- Affordable Care Act (ACA)- HHS will seek to use the ACA to fund services for individuals with co-occurring disorders
- Targets offenders at risk of chronic homelessness
- Targets women

- Link grant activities to affordable and supportive housing - employ housing location services to identify housing options

The total pool of potential clients is 1,571. 120 were identified as seriously and persistently mentally ill with substance abuse disorders, often homeless, and cycling through the system with multiple misdemeanor offenses. It is expected that most would be defined as high risk to reoffend based on LSI-R.

Permission to Share Project Abstract is granted, contact Athena Morrow (Athena.morrow@montgomerycountymd.gov) for more information.