

DAUPHIN COUNTY REENTRY COALITION - Theory of Change

Strategies

For Reentrants & Families

- Pre-release: info & referrals to resources, help navigating systems/accessing services
- Ensure access to MH & SA treatment & adequate supply of MH meds upon release
- Connect w/ safe, affordable housing, living wage jobs, transportation, childcare
- Provide education/skill-building programs, job skills/soft-skills
- Support family reunification / offer family supports
- Connect with mentors, peer supports, support groups, pro-social networks & activities
- Address underlying trauma, ensure access to counseling, therapy, CBT
- Strengths-based, trauma-informed approach; foster hopeful mindset
- Offer funding/financial supports

For Reentry Coalition

- Communication/coordination between CJ entities & service providers
- Policy changes to foster supportive probation officers, judges & CJ system entities

For Community Buy-In & Capacity Building

- Identify/recruit employers, landlords, churches willing to give them a chance/offer support
- Share success stories; educate community about reentry

Assumptions

- Reentrants can be successful contributors to society and deserve the chance to be connected to the assistance, services and supports they need to succeed
- All coalition partners will serve the best interests of reentrants, families & the community
- All coalition partners are committed to working collaboratively, breaking down silos, coordinating services, eliminating duplication & making decisions together about how to improve reentry in Dauphin Co
- State/county elected officials & CJ leaders are committed to supporting & investing in reentry
- The broader community will support the coalition's efforts to improve success of reentrants
- We will use evidence/data to inform policy, programming & funding to ensure high quality reentry services and achieve better outcomes
- Focusing on treatment, rehabilitation, alternatives to incarceration and restorative justice will lead to better outcomes for reentrants and a safer community for all
- Some policies and current practices will need to change to get the results we want

Influential Factors

For Reentrants

- Trauma history & impacts (MH, SA, health, social, etc)
- Family dynamics, mentors, social support networks
- Info/access/how to navigate getting resources/supports
- Availability of jobs, housing, MH/SA treatment, family resources, ID, transportation, mentors, childcare, etc)
- Attitude, motivation, sense of hope/purpose
- Education, soft skills, job skills

For the Community

- Stigma, community resistance, lack of understanding; politically "unpopular" to focus on this population
- Availability of MH providers/treatment/resources
- Cultural sensitivity

Policies/Procedures

- Length of CJ supervision & associated fines/fees/costs
- Eligibility criteria & acceptance into programs/services
- Length of time to activate SSI, SSD, MA, etc
- Vital documents/ID - processes, reqmts, "catch-22"
- Selective Service requirements
- Info sharing/confidentiality restrictions betw agencies
- Employers' & landlords' policies re. criminal records of applicants
- Collateral consequences/impacts of criminal records

Problems/Issues/Needs to be Addressed

- * Challenges in accessing/obtaining ID, housing, living wage employment, transportation, MH and D&A treatment
- * Lack of education, job skills, soft skills
- * Family challenges (child support, parenting skills, reunification)
- * Poor support networks, lack of social capital
- * History of trauma, abuse, violence, neglect
- * Lack of self-worth, stigma, letting the past define prospects for the future, negative/problematic thinking patterns
- * Lack of public support for reentry
- * Systemic issues: racism/bias, "punishment focus", excessive terms of CJ supervision & impacts
- * Need to consider rights/needs of victims in reentry efforts

Community Strengths/Assets

- abundance of reentry service providers
- specialized positions to help find/navigate resources
- open-minded CJ & human services professionals willing to reflect/measure/change approach
- indivs/faith community willing to help RCs & families
- proximity to lawmakers
- Dauphin County Trauma Informed Collaborative
- existing collaboration/communication between orgs
- advocacy organizations

Desired Results

- Published reentry strategic plan
- Strong reentry coalition
- Accessible info on reentry resources
- % decrease in recidivism
- Inmates will have info/referrals to resources & written reentry plan before release, with focus on MH/SA treatment & healthcare
- Reentrants will be able to get & maintain living wage jobs & safe/affordable housing
- Reentrants will be connected w/ mentors & positive social supports
- Reentrants' families will be provided with supports, be connected w/ resources
- Coalition partners will coordinate/collaborate with trauma-informed, holistic "continuum of care" approach
- Policy changes: shorten terms of CJ system oversight, focus on reducing barriers, providing treatment, rehabilitation & alternatives
- Community stakeholders will be educated about reentry to reduce stigma/increase acceptance

(note: need baseline data, definitions of "success", "recidivism" & other terms, measurement criteria & defined data collection methods)