

Multnomah County Re-entry Council



2017
RE-ENTRY STRATEGIC PLAN

OUR MISSION

Connecting justice-involved individuals with resources and services to ensure their successful reintegration into the community



1. Education, employment, stable housing, and treatment for substance use and mental health disorders increases an individual's chance to succeed.
2. The continuum of care should begin pre-release, and end when the individual has successfully integrated into their community.
3. Multi-disciplinary approaches with wraparound case management increases the likelihood of success and builds trust between system and community partners.

The Reentry Council was formed in 2008 via Multnomah County Board resolution



Co-chaired by the Sheriff and the Director of the Department of Community Justice.



18,000 people are released from jail or prison into Multnomah County per year.



Multnomah County is the largest county by population in the state, and contains the state's largest urban area.

OUR WORK



The council serves as a conduit for collaborative reentry efforts within the county, and is committed to fostering strong partnerships, effective service delivery, and solutions to root causes of criminal behavior. The Council is dedicated to evidence-based principles and strategies, instituting continuums of care, and closing transition service gaps. The Council believes that successful reintegration into society enhances public safety and reduces criminal activity.

THE PROBLEM



Nationally, approximately 80% of jail inmates meet criteria for having a mental health disorder or substance use disorder. Approximately 46% have both.

Many jail and prison inmates have a history of trauma and/or adverse childhood experiences (ACE). History of abuse and/or violence is linked to an increased likelihood of behavioral problems.



Low education and skill levels, limited work history, and prohibitions against hiring someone with a criminal record create barriers to sustainable employment. Employment and education levels are correlated with risk of recidivism.

Nationally, 54% of homeless individuals report having been incarcerated. Individuals experiencing homelessness are more likely to be detained, arrested, or re-arrested than individuals with stable housing.



THE PROBLEM



Loss of treatment, access to medication, or access to services increases the likelihood that an individual will relapse.

A recent report published by Multnomah County and the MacArthur Foundation found that racial disparity exists at every decision point within the local criminal justice system.



Restitution and recidivism are correlated. Decreased recidivism and increased restitution payments are linked.

Poverty, unemployment, housing instability, mental illness, and chemical dependency are compounded with having a criminal record and periods of separation from society. Involvement in the criminal justice system may continue or increase if these issues remain unaddressed.

OUR PLANS

The Reentry Council has developed a plan that will guide comprehensive and coordinated policies and services for individuals returning from jail or prison to Multnomah County. The general goals of the plan include reducing recidivism, improving public safety, and increasing successful reintegration with the community and natural supports. Stakeholders within Multnomah County will use the plan as a guide when seeking opportunities and funding for implementation of programs and services. Items within the plan will be tracked, measured and reported on annually.



Widening Our Reach & Impact

The council aims to ensure every individual coming out of jail or prison to Multnomah County is assessed with an empirically validated tool, and connected with appropriate services and supports to minimize the risk of re-offense. We will:

Identify and address gaps in reentry services within Multnomah County.

Improve technology and information sharing for more effective case management.

Develop continuums of care that are culturally responsive and appropriate.

Increase restitution efforts.



Increasing Trust in the System

Multnomah County has many dynamic and progressive transition services and programs. However, the Reentry Council acknowledges the existence of systemic barriers to success and pledges to improve policy, practice, and procedure to achieve better outcomes. We will:

Increase access to resources for individuals and organizations.

Develop a comprehensive strategy for both eliminating disparity and ensuring procedural fairness in the reentry stages of the criminal justice system.

Institute trauma-informed care.



Improving Service Delivery

Multnomah County has a long history of implementing collaborative solutions. The Reentry Council will continue this tradition as it develops ways for system and community partners to leverage resources, try innovative programs, and continue implementing evidence-based practices.

We will:

Improve housing status of individuals being released from jail or prison.

Improve rates of sustainable employment for individuals being released from jail or prison.

Provide access to mental health, substance abuse, and health treatment services for individuals leaving jail or prison.

Increase engagement with pro-social natural and community supports.

Develop and implement comprehensive data collection and evaluation.

OUR FOCUS

The Reentry Council formed a workgroup to identify priority areas of focus for the next three years. These areas of focus will guide policy and program development, and will be tracked, measured and reported on annually. Planning for new reentry programs shall include collaborative decision-making between stakeholders, and a goal of a 50% reduction in recidivism for target populations.



Services

Increased access to no barrier, low barrier, and supportive housing.

Increased education and employment training.

Increased training in financial literacy for justice-involved individuals.

Increased childcare options for justice-involved individuals with minor children.

Increased pro-social recreation options for justice-involved adults.

Develop community-based services and support models.



Treatment

Expand wraparound service delivery, and multi-disciplinary team models.

Develop continuums of care for individuals being released from jail or prison that begin before the individual is released.

Increase accessibility to treatment for sex offenders.

Implement a public health approach to reentry.

Increase the availability of evidence-based, culturally appropriate cognitive skill development programs.

Increase the availability of culturally appropriate treatment services.

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