



Allegheny County Jail Collaborative

Three-Year Plan Summary, 2010-2013

Mission of the Allegheny County Jail Collaborative

The Allegheny County Jail Collaborative was formed to reduce recidivism and thereby improve public safety, restrain the growth in Jail costs, and prevent the disintegration of communities and families impacted by crime and incarceration.

The Jail Collaborative works with government and non-profit organizations, volunteers and other members of the community to meet this aim by:

- Coordinating reentry so that inmates and ex-offenders are able to follow a clear path to successful reintegration into society
- Expanding and coordinating programs that have been shown to reduce recidivism by offenders and ex-offenders; and monitoring the outcomes of these programs
- Making the changes in the system that are key to improving reintegration
- Sharing resources to advance common goals

Goal

The Jail Collaborative's goal for the next three years is to reduce recidivism in the target population by 10 percent per year. (The current rate is 47 percent.)

Strategies

1. The Reentry Program

The Jail Collaborative is building a Reentry Program with these elements:

- *Treatment Pods*—housing units that are focused on reentry and treatment. Sentenced inmates who are part of the Reentry Program will live on a reentry housing unit with rules and rewards, specially-trained staff, and smoother access to work and services.
- *Work* opportunities in the Jail.
- *Services* that are matched to risk and need. After receiving a validated assessment of risks, needs and strengths, staff will match men and women with programs in the Jail and community. Because of the generous support of foundations and government grants, the Reentry Program has been able to contract with experienced community organizations to provide these evidence-based services:
 - *Second Chance*. A team of 5 specialists in reentry, family support, and probation work with sentenced inmates, ex-offenders, and family members for six months prior to release and 12 months after release. They are connecting 200 men and women per year with services and support, helping them plan for release and supporting them and their families during and after release. An integral part of Second Chance is graduated sanctions and rewards that reinforce positive behaviors.
 - *Education*. Inmates can work on/obtain their GED, participate in adult basic education, and have the chance to become a tutor to other inmates.

- Family Support. Participants can build family relationships through visits by family, parenting coaching, peer groups for children and families, and other support by and for family.
- Employment and Training. Men and women can learn skills that help them perform productively on the job, find and retain a job; and get assistance with employment and job training after release.
- Drug and Alcohol treatment. People can participate in individual and group treatment that, while intensive, still allows time for work and other reentry services. After release, they will be connected with Aftercare treatment and community-based treatment services.
- Cognitive Behavioral treatment. This approach to treatment helps people learn a new way of thinking--exchanging "criminal thinking" for a more positive way of solving problems and handling stress.
- Housing assistance. Men and women can learn more about how to be a good renter, the rules of renting, and where to turn for housing assistance. A new program will provide housing for men and women at risk of homelessness.
- Mentoring. The Reentry Program will link men and women with peers and other mentors with the training and perspective to provide guidance and support during reentry, particularly to those people without family support.

2. Changing Systems

The Jail Collaborative also is working to increase accountability and overcome the obstacles to successful reintegration that are found in discharge, booking, and visit processes:

- *Increasing accountability* – The Jail Collaborative is contracting for surveys of ex-offenders, family members, and other stakeholders; conducting case reviews; and contracting for an information and referral service for in and outside of the Jail.
- *Discharge from the Jail* – The Collaborative is building and staffing a new Discharge Center that will ensure that release times are predictable and no one leaves without medications, seasonal clothing, and information they need for successful reentry
- *Booking into the Jail* – The Jail Collaborative will be addressing the problems with booking to ensure that people are able to notify their families and that, where feasible, people arrested for non-violent crimes are diverted from the Jail.
- *Visits* – The Collaborative is improving the process and conditions of visits to men and women who are incarcerated – to make this process orderly, respectful to visitors, inmates, and staff alike, and to support the positive connections among families.

3. Developing Alternatives

The Jail Collaborative also is working to expand alternatives to incarceration for non-violent offenders. (These alternatives currently include diversion of individuals with serious mental illness and/or substance use disorders through the CIT, Mental Health Court, and Drug Court programs; and the Day Reporting Centers operated by Adult Probation.) The Collaborative is designing additional options for facilities that will include housing, work release and treatment.

About the Allegheny County Jail

Profile of Jail Population

Characteristic	Total	
Number in Alternative housing	652	
Total number admitted to ACJ	18,141	
Men	14,616	
Women	3,525	
Share of total in Jail on Misdemeanors (Daily Report)	914	
Men	88%	
Women	12%	
Race	Jail	Allegheny County
White	8,379 (46%)	83%
African American	9,204 (51%)	13%
Other Race	558 (3%)	4%
Number sentenced	2,009	
Number not sentenced	16,132	
Average length of sentence served	8 months	
Median age (Average age range)	20-29	
Share who did not finish high school	42 %	
Share of adults with a special education diagnosis	82 % of the students currently being educated in the Allegheny County Jail have had a special education diagnoses.	
Share unemployed prior to Jail/arrest	53%	
Share homeless or staying with friends prior to arrest	57%	
Percentage who have children		
Men	52%	
Women	58%	
Percentage of individuals in the Jail who lived with their children prior to arrest		
Men	17%	
Women	32%	

Jail Structure

The main Jail on Second Avenue has 8 Levels that contain the housing units, programming, reception area and offices:

Level 8M	Inmate Visiting
Level 8	Max Security and Disciplinary Male Housing Units 8D and 8E
Level 7M	Inmate Visiting
Level 7	Max Security Housing Units 7D and 7E
Level 6M	Inmate Visiting, Staff and Caseworkers' Offices
Level 6	Max Security Male Housing Units 6D, 6E and 6F Protective Custody
Level 5M	Medical Office and Records, Inmate Visiting, Pod 5MD Female Mental Health and Pod 5MC Male Drug Program Unit
Level 5	Medical Department, Pod 5B Infirmary Pod, 5C and Pod 5D Male Mental Health, Pod 5E Drug Program, Pod 5F Male Step down Mental Health
Level 4M	Inmate Visiting, Staff and Caseworks Offices
Level 4	Male Classification Housing Units 4A, 4B, 4C Female Housing Units 4D, 4E Female HOPE Pod, 4F Female Max Security Unit
Level 3M	Staff and Caseworkers' Offices, Inmate Visiting
Level 3	Medium and Max Security Male Inmate Housing Units 3A,3B,3C, 3D, 3E, 3F
Level 2M	HOPE Offices, Staff Offices,
Level 2	General Housing Units 2A, 2B, 2C Male HOPE Pod, 2D, 2E, 2F Male
Level 1M	Administration, Main lobby, Shift Commanders Offices, Internal Affairs, training Employees lounge, Locker rooms, Central Control.
Level 1	Sentenced and minimum security male inmates 1A, 1B, 1C, Reentry Center and Inmate education, Video arraignment, Chaplain services, contact visiting
Ground	Intake Department: Receiving and booking of all inmates. Food Service, Supply, Laundry, Maintenance

Collaborative Structure

