



Engaging Partners to End Homelessness Track

Working with the Justice System to End Homelessness

A special thanks to our presenting sponsor:





Robert J. Devlin, Jr.
Superior Court Judge
Judicial District of Fairfield

Court Diversion

Hon. Robert J. Devlin, Jr.

Superior Court Judge

*Chair, Connecticut Sentencing
Commission*

Court Diversion: Homeless Persons

1. Early Intervention: Public Act 17-205
2. Treatment Pathway Program : TPP
3. Bail Reform: Public Act 17-145
4. Jail Re-interview
5. Violation of Probation (VOP)
6. Connecticut Sentencing Commission: New Ideas

Early Intervention: PA 17-205

Most States

Arrest does not automatically result in charge in court

Prosecutor decides

CT Pilot Program

Prosecutor examines each new arrest

Is it necessary to prosecute this case?

Should the arrested person be diverted to services?

Early results: good

Treatment Pathways Program

Drug treatment available the day of arrest

- voluntary program

- no promises re: court case

- Judges and prosecutors – support program

Satellite Medicaid Clinic

- Department of Health approval required

- Financial benefit

Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT)

Bridgeport GA #2: 177 successful completions (out of about 300 total)

Bail

DOC pretrial jail population: 3300 (approximate)

Misdemeanor charges only: 500 (approximate)

Public Act 17-145: Directed at persons held on low bonds

No "cash-only" bonds

Misdemeanor charge only

no financial bond unless court makes a finding that the D is dangerous or a flight risk

If financial bond is set, continuance no longer than 14 days

Another bail review at 14 day mark

Jail Re-interview Program

Bail Commissioners identify persons held pretrial who are in need of inpatient drug treatment

Bail makes a recommendation to the court

PTA release to the program

often a component of an overall disposition of the case

Waiting Lists: several months

Violation of Probation (VOP)

More people held in DOC for VOP than for any other charge

CSSD: Technical Violations Unit

works to avoid returning cases to court

Court: Order Probation to resume supervision while VOP pending

Usually with treatment component

Report submitted each court date

“Cap” type dispositions

Give D an opportunity to get into compliance

Not suitable for all VOP cases

arrest for a serious charge, revocation likely

Conn. Sentencing Commission

New Ideas:

Sex Offender Registry: 5400 persons, Offense – based

Proposal: Risk-based registry

Two-tiered

Pathway off for appropriate persons

Bail reform: Elimination of money bail

Persons who are proven dangerous / flight risk:

detain pretrial

Everyone else: release while case pends



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WORKING WITH THE JUSTICE SYSTEM TO END HOMELESSNESS



**JUDICIAL BRANCH
COURT SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION
MAY 17, 2018**

THOMAS J. CANNY

INTRODUCTION



- RESEARCH INDICATES THAT STABLE HOUSING IS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN REDUCING RECIDIVISM AMONG JUSTICE-INVOLVED PERSONS; AND
- THERE IS NO MORE CRITICAL TIME THAN JUST AFTER AN INDIVIDUAL'S RELEASE FROM INCARCERATION.

INTRODUCTION CONT'D



- IN AN EFFORT TO MEET THE NEED FOR STABLE HOUSING AND OTHER IMPORTANT NEED AREAS, THE JUDICIAL BRANCH, COURT SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION (CSSD), PLANS WELL IN ADVANCE FOR THE REENTRY INTO THE COMMUNITY OF A PERSON SENTENCED TO A TERM OF PROBATION.

90 TO 120 DAYS BEFORE RELEASE



- BETWEEN 90 AND 120 DAYS BEFORE A PERSON'S RELEASE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION (DOC), THE PROBATION OFFICER:
 - CONSULTS WITH DOC ABOUT ISSUES RELEVANT TO PREPARING FOR THE INDIVIDUAL'S RELEASE.
 - IF THE PERSON IS IDENTIFIED WITH MEDICAL AND/OR MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS, THE OBJECTIVE IS TO HAVE REQUISITE MEDICATION AND TREATMENT READY FOR THE INDIVIDUAL UPON DISCHARGE.

60 TO 90 DAYS BEFORE RELEASE



- BETWEEN 60 AND 90 DAYS BEFORE RELEASE, THE PROBATION OFFICER CONDUCTS A VIDEO CONFERENCE INTERVIEW WITH THE PERSON [IF CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANT, AN IN-PERSON INTERVIEW MAY BE CONDUCTED].
- DURING THE INTERVIEW, THE PROBATION OFFICER WILL OBTAIN THE INDIVIDUAL'S PROPOSED ADDRESS AND REVIEW WITH THE PERSON THE SUITABILITY OF THE RESIDENCE.

60 TO 90 DAYS BEFORE RELEASE CONT'D



- ❑ IF THE PERSON IS HOMELESS, THE PROBATION OFFICER WILL EXPLORE WITH THE INDIVIDUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS.
- ❑ THE CONNECTICUT COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS (CCEH) HAS RECENTLY TRAINED CSSD STAFF TO USE THE "SHELTER DIVERSION" CONCEPT, WHICH BETTER INFORMS THE HOUSING-RELATED QUESTIONS THAT CSSD ASKS DURING THIS INTERVIEW.

60 TO 90 DAYS BEFORE RELEASE CONT'D



- **SUBSEQUENT TO THE INTERVIEW, THE PROBATION OFFICER WILL:**
 - VERIFY THE PERSON'S PROPOSED RESIDENCE AND ITS SUITABILITY BY TELEPHONE.
 - IF UNABLE TO VERIFY THE SUITABILITY OF THE RESIDENCE BY TELEPHONE, CONDUCT A HOME VISIT TO THE RESIDENCE.

60 TO 90 DAYS BEFORE RELEASE CONT'D



- ❑ IF IT IS DETERMINED THAT THE RESIDENCE IS NOT SUITABLE, THE PROBATION OFFICER WILL CONTACT DOC TO ASCERTAIN IF THE PERSON HAS ANOTHER VIABLE ADDRESS.
- ❑ IF THERE IS NOT ANOTHER VIABLE ADDRESS, THE PROBATION OFFICER WILL INVESTIGATE OTHER HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS AS INDICATED, INCLUDING TRANSITIONAL HOUSING.
- ❑ REFERRAL TO A SHELTER IS ONLY MADE AFTER ALL OTHER OPTIONS HAVE BEEN EXPLORED.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING



- **CSSD FUNDS FOUR MALE, 126 SLOTS, AND ONE FEMALE, 22 SLOTS, TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAMS.**
- **THESE PROGRAMS PROVIDE CASE MANAGEMENT AND OTHER SERVICES FOR 30 TO 90 DAYS THROUGH CSSD-FUNDED ALTERNATIVE IN THE COMMUNITY PROGRAMS.**

MENTAL DISORDERS



- IF A PERSON WITH SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS OR OTHER MENTAL DISORDER IS DISCHARGING FROM DOC AND IS IN NEED OF HOUSING, THE PROBATION OFFICER COLLABORATES WITH DOC AND THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES (DMHAS) TO EXPLORE HOUSING AND TREATMENT OPTIONS.

MENTAL DISORDERS CONT'D



- **OPTIONS FOR PERSONS DISCHARGING FROM DOC IN NEED OF HOUSING WITH A MENTAL DISORDER INCLUDE:**
 - **DMHAS PROGRAMMING.**
 - **THE SIERRA CENTER, WHICH:**
 - **PROVIDES LONG TERM BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COUNSELING AND EMPLOYMENT READINESS SERVICES FOR THREE TO SIX MONTHS, ALONG WITH A COMMUNITY SERVICE COMPONENT.**
 - **THE CSSD, DMHAS, AND DOC-FUNDED ADVANCED SUPERVISION AND INTERVENTION SUPPORT TEAM PROGRAM, WHICH PROVIDES SHORT-TERM FUNDING FOR PRIVATE HOUSING.**

SEX OFFENDERS



- OPTIONS FOR SEX OFFENDERS DISCHARGING FROM DOC IN NEED OF HOUSING ARE BASED ON THE PERSON'S RISK FACTORS AND INCLUDE:
 - THE JANUARY CENTER.
 - A 12 SLOT, FOUR TO SIX MONTH, RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM THAT PROVIDES:
 - INTENSIVE SEX OFFENDER TREATMENT, LIFE SKILLS, HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT SEARCH TO HELP FACILITATE A SAFE TRANSITION BACK TO THE INDIVIDUAL'S COMMUNITY.

SEX OFFENDERS CONT'D



- REENTRY ASSISTED COMMUNITY HOUSING PROGRAM.
 - A 16 SLOT, FOUR TO SIX MONTH, SCATTER SITE, SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM, WHICH PROVIDES INTENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT.
 - THIS PROGRAM IS USUALLY A STEP-DOWN FOR PERSONS WHO HAVE COMPLETED THE JANUARY CENTER AND DO NOT HAVE APPROPRIATE HOUSING.
- CSSD TRANSITIONAL HOUSING.
 - THERE ARE LIMITED NUMBER OF SLOTS AVAILABLE FOR SEX OFFENDERS.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE



- **CSSD IS A MEMBER OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE CHAIRED BY CCEH AND THE PARTNERSHIP FOR STRONG COMMUNITIES.**
- THIS TASK FORCE IS A MULTI-AGENCY EFFORT TO REDUCE HOMELESSNESS FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED PERSONS.

OVERVIEW OF PROBATION SUPERVISION



■ **MEDICAID:**

- PERSONS ARE SCREENED FOR MEDICAID BY DOC IF THE INDIVIDUAL 'S SENTENCE INCLUDES A TERM OF INCARCERATION OR BY CSSD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PROBATION TERM.
- IF ELIGIBLE, AN EXPEDITED APPLICATION IS SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (DSS).
- IF THE PERSON'S MEDICAID BENEFIT HAS BEEN SUSPENDED, IT IS REINSTATED IN MOST CIRCUMSTANCES WITHOUT A NEW APPLICATION.
- DSS SUSPENDS AN INDIVIDUAL 'S MEDICAID BENEFITS WHEN A PERSON IS INCARCERATED FOR MORE THAN 60 DAYS, BUT FOR LESS THAN THREE YEARS.

OVERVIEW OF PROBATION SUPERVISION CONT'D



■ ASSESSMENT:

- AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PROBATION TERM OR WHILE THE PERSON IS STILL INCARCERATED, THE INDIVIDUAL IS ASSESSED FOR RISK AND NEED AREAS VIA A VALIDATED RISK INSTRUMENT, THE LEVEL OF SERVICES INVENTORY-REVISED (LSI-R).

■ CASE PLAN:

- SUBSEQUENT TO THE ASSESSMENT, A CASE PLAN IS DEVELOPED IN CONCERT WITH THE PERSON TO ADDRESS THE CRIMINOGENIC RISK/NEED AREAS IDENTIFIED BY THE LSI-R [AREAS THAT RESEARCH SHOWS ARE LINKED TO CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR], WHICH INCLUDES SERVICE REFERRALS.

OVERVIEW OF PROBATION SUPERVISION CONT'D



■ SUPERVISION CONTACTS:

- DURING THE COURSE OF SUPERVISION, THE PROBATION OFFICER HAS FACE-TO-FACE CONTACTS WITH THE PERSON IN THE OFFICE AND VISITS THE INDIVIDUAL'S RESIDENCE AS INDICATED BY THE PERSON'S RISK /NEED AREAS.
- THE PROBATION OFFICER ALSO HAS CONTACT WITH SERVICE PROVIDERS, FAMILY MEMBERS, AND OTHERS AS APPROPRIATE.

OVERVIEW OF PROBATION SUPERVISION CONT'D



- **RESPONSE TO NON-COMPLIANCE:**
 - THE PROBATION OFFICER'S RESPONSE TO NON-COMPLIANCE IS MEASURED RELATIVE TO THE NATURE OF THE PERSON'S BEHAVIOR AND THE RISK THAT THE INDIVIDUAL PRESENTS.
 - RESPONSES RANGE FROM A GRADUATED SANCTION, FOR EXAMPLE, INCREASED REPORTING TO THE PROBATION OFFICER, TO A VIOLATION OF PROBATION.

OVERVIEW OF PROBATION SUPERVISION CONT'D



■ DISCHARGE PLANNING:

- THE PROBATION OFFICER, IN CONCERT WITH THE PERSON, IDENTIFIES POST-SUPERVISION NEEDS AND APPROPRIATE SERVICES, WHICH ARE PRESENTED TO THE INDIVIDUAL PRIOR TO THE COMPLETION OF SUPERVISION.

Questions?

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