

COORDINATED REENTRY PLANNING SERVICES

REACH OUT: The Yavapai Model to Reducing the Number of People with Mental Health & Substance Use Disorders Within the Criminal Justice System



YAVAPAI COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE In collaboration with the **Yavapai Justice & Mental Health Coalition**

Because the jail is the hub of the criminal justice system and access to all inmates is available at all times, coordination from the jail of release is effective, innovative, and collaborative.

Access to jails is often a barrier to coordination.

In this program however,
the jail administration is the centerpiece of collaboration.

The goal of the Yavapai County Reach Out Program is to identify people with Mental Health and Co-Occurring Disorders at the earliest possible criminal justice intercept and link them to care to help prevent them from re-offending.



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**REACH OUT STAGE 1:
CONDUCT A SCREENING ON EVERY INMATE ENTERING THE
DETENTION FACILITY AS PART OF THE BOOKING PROCESS.**



Provide the opportunity for all individuals booked into Detention to be screened by a Release Coordinator. The screening is a series of 10 questions related to mental health, 10 questions related

to substance use, and the 10 questions from the Adverse Childhood Experiences questionnaire. Additional questions are asked related to other socioeconomic needs such as homelessness, transportation, veteran services, unemployment, children at home that may be affected, and lack of insurance.

Screenings will indicate what services the participant is willing to engage in if released.

A suspect charged with a crime must be taken before a judge or magistrate without unnecessary delay. At the initial appearance, the judge or magistrate informs the accused of the charges and decides whether there is probable cause to detain the accused person. The court often bases its pretrial decision on information about the defendant's mental illness, drug use, as well as residence, employment, and family ties.

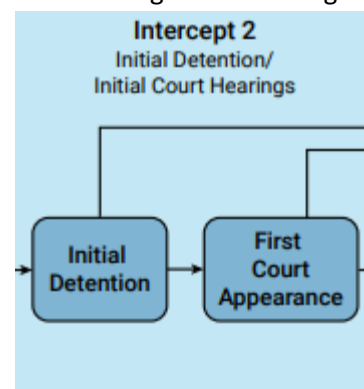
Dubber & Hornle 2014

A Post-Screening Report is then generated that demonstrates screening results of a low, moderate, or high potential need for mental health, substance use, or other services. Additional information based on the screening outcomes indicate which services the defendant is willing to engage in if released from custody, prior behavioral health provider enrollment if applicable, potential funding sources for agreed upon services, location that the defendant intends on reside at post-release, and any notes or pertinent information. This is provided in court packets prior to Initial Appearance.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Addiction is defined as a chronic, relapsing disorder characterized by compulsive drug seeking, continued use despite harmful consequences, and long-lasting changes in the brain. It is considered both a complex brain disorder and a mental illness. Addiction is the most severe form of a full spectrum of substance use disorders, and is a medical illness caused by repeated misuse of a substance or substances.

DrugAbuse.org



**REACH OUT STAGE 2:
COORDINATE TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL NEEDS**

The most effective form of care coordination for inmates with high risks due to mental health and co-occurring disorders needs to occur from within the jail at the earliest point of contact.



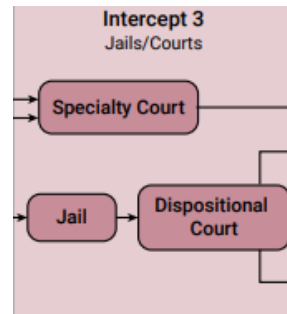
MENTAL ILLNESS

A mental illness is a condition that affects a person's thinking, feeling or mood. Such conditions may affect someone's ability to relate to others and function each day. Each person will have different experiences, even people with the same diagnosis.

A mental health condition isn't the result of one event. Research suggests multiple overlapping causes. Genetics, environment, and lifestyle influence whether someone develops a mental health condition. A stressful job or home life makes some people more susceptible, as do traumatic life events like being the victim of a crime. Biochemical processes and circuits and basic brain structure may play a role, too.

NAMI.

Whether part of a release condition or not, all individuals who indicated risks should have the opportunity to be connected to services through the active outreach of the Release Coordinator prior to and upon release from detention. Release Coordinators will work closely with behavioral health providers in establishing appointments, transportation, pre-release assessments, etc.



**REACH OUT STAGE 3:
FACILITATE SERVICE LINKAGE FOR EACH INMATE NEEDING TREATMENT**

Once screened and identified, Release Coordinators work to make meaningful connections to services and attempt to provide a "warm handoff" to those services.

Barriers to effectively serving this population is the fluid nature of jail populations. Often people are released from jail prior to the chance of having a service connection. This program identifies needs and offer connections to services to address those needs as soon into the booking process as possible.



Release Coordinators will track all daily releases to ensure that individuals with medium and high-risk scores are re-approached prior to release if a connection has not already been established.

Internal barriers that effect the project's success is the lack of some participants in accepting referrals. This is relevant, as referrals are the first step towards connections. Trauma Informed Care and Motivational Interviewing skills will be utilized by Release Coordinators.

Most people with mental illnesses are not violent, and most violent crimes are not committed by people with mental illnesses. People with psychiatric disabilities are far more likely to be victims than perpetrators of violent crime.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>

REACH OUT STAGE 4:

RE-INTEGRATE INDIVIDUALS INTO SOCIETY THROUGH APPROPRIATE TREATMENT AND FAMILY SUPPORT MODELS.

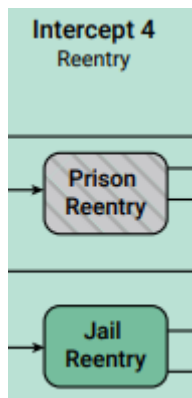
If a defendant is released with care coordination for behavioral services, peer-support services, housing, transportation, or any



other need identified, Release Coordinators link the defendant to those services prior to release. Additionally, transportation directly to behavioral health and housing services with a warm hand-off is coordinated as needed.

Through Business Associates Agreements meeting HIPPA standards and Releases of Information signed by the participants, the Sheriff's Office and the behavioral health providers will track the participant's post-release treatment engagement within the behavioral health system.

Once connected, engagement in treatment will be tracked to further provide options to criminal justice practitioners in the adjudication of the case.



RE-ENTRY

Upon release from incarceration, individuals with behavioral health issues face many barriers to successful reentry into the community, such as lack of health care, job skills, education, stable housing, and poor connection with community behavioral health providers, which may jeopardize their recovery and increase their probability of relapse and re-arrest. Individuals leaving correctional facilities often have lengthy waiting periods before attaining benefits and receiving services in the community.

SAMHSA.gov

CROSS-SYSTEM RECIDIVISM TRACKING DATABASE:

Program analysis is available through the utilization of the unique cross-system, recidivism tracking database.



Information is collected regarding the:

- screening,
- crime,
- courts process,
- release, and
- connection/referral information.

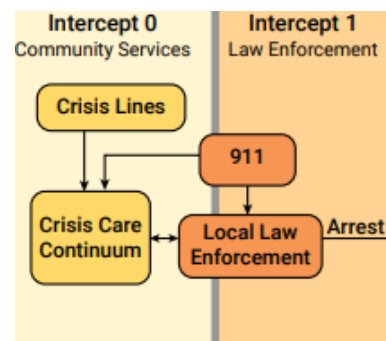
Tracks on-going progress with:

- each request for service,
- recidivism, and
- behavioral health engagement post-release.

When an incarcerated defendant is coordinated with behavioral health care, a Release of Information to share limited

information between the Detention Center and the provider is obtained and uploaded into the database. This allows the provider to access screening data and any court orders related to treatment. Providers then upload treatment program data 30- and 90-days post release indicating if the participant has remained engaged in treatment as deemed appropriate by the behavioral health provider. Partnering community behavioral health providers are to be trained and have access to their members' screening information, and to update post-release engagement. If a participant is re-arrested, the database will notify the behavioral health provider and will begin a new record, allowing for recidivism tracking and program evaluation.

Because this database is available to all dispatch agencies in the county, all law enforcement agencies have access to this cross-system database to determine if an individual has a previous deflection and with which service agency, thus assisting in diversion decisions. The information that is obtainable for officers and dispatch includes date of diversion(s), reason for contact, type of diversion, agency conducting diversion, law enforcement agency and any diversion notes. If by chance a person who has been through pre-arrest diversion is later arrested, the Release Coordinators also have access to this information as it will assist in re-connecting them with the diversion agency.



With specific database permissions given to our partners, utilization of the database assures that information regarding referrals, deflection, screening, crimes, assigned courts, releases and connections are gathered consistently. It tracks on-going progress with each request for service, recidivism, and behavioral health engagement post-release, as well as provides access to quick dashboards that deliver tracking outcomes and evaluation points.

YAVAPAI JUSTICE AND MENTAL HEALTH COALITION

The Yavapai County Reach Out Initiative is a coordinated effort that works in collaboration with multiple criminal justice, behavioral health, and community service providers as well as all three levels of government.



The establishment of the Yavapai County Justice and Mental Health Coalition brings together all the stakeholders to create a systemic process that directly influences this population. The Coalition is a coordinated community effort to address the intersection of behavioral health and criminal justice and is located within the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office. Through this Coalition the Sheriff's Office has gained the cooperation, participation and buy-in of the Superior Court, Limited Jurisdiction Courts, County Attorney, Public Defender, Board of Supervisors, all local Law Enforcement Agencies, Adult Probation Department, Behavioral Health providers, various Treatment and Services Providers covering a multitude of disciplines, outside Researchers and Programmatic Evaluators, and the Medicaid Health Plans.



The stakeholders within Yavapai County meet regularly as a large collective and as task-focused work groups to brainstorm, identify differences, suggest solutions, and create innovative approaches to working with a shared

population. Criminal justice and behavioral health speak different languages and have varying missions. It is imperative that a successful coordinated reentry program find areas of common ground to work with. Yavapai's model has experienced a myriad of barriers, but the efficient means in working through the barriers is recognizing strengths and the resources that are available. It is common for justice agencies in rural communities to feel left out, that they do not have the resources of their more urban neighbors. One success that the Yavapai model would like to share with our peers is that in most cases, the resources exist. What often lacks are the processes for each system and discipline to access the resources.

Yavapai's success relies on the behavioral health and treatment providers willingness to utilize their expertise and treatment facilities in a manner that accommodates the needs of law enforcement and first responders. Unfortunately, payor sources drive programming, and not all payor sources are set up to adequately support diverse communities. Understanding that positive programs such as Coordinated Reentry Planning Programs drastically effect the health of the people they serve, treatment providers have the opportunity become cornerstones and leaders of their communities. It is imperative to think outside of the box in creating response teams tailored to the justice system. Yavapai's Reach Out partners are willing to work with the providers from other rural jurisdictions to listen to where roadblocks lay and share ideas that were successful. Addressing issues as they occur instantly creates lasting trust, transparency, and relationships needed to truly de-criminalize mental illness.