

# **Improving the “Hand Off” of Mental Health Services for the Incarcerated**

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2-12-15



# Presentation Overview

- During this session we will:
  - Review barriers to offender re-entry
  - Share information about our Parole Liaison Program
  - Communicate ways your CMHC can work with us and the parolees to ensure successful community reintegration

# Objectives

Participants will:

- Learn about barriers to offender re-entry
- Learn about the Parole Liaison Program
- Understand how you can collaborate with our program to help parolees

# ACTIVITY

**What are some barriers to successful offender re-entry?**



# Barriers to Re-Entry

- Housing
- Employment
- Transportation
- Access to medical and mental health treatment without a payer source
- Stigma
- Intake process at community mental health center



# Barriers to Re-Entry

- Housing
  - Criminal History
  - Inability to pay
  - Lack of housing options
  - Limited shelters in the State

# Barriers to Re-Entry

- Employment
  - Criminal histories
  - Limited education and cognitive skills
  - Questionable work history
  - Limited interviewing experience
  - Poor job search skills



# Barriers to Re-Entry

- Transportation
  - Weak support system
  - Lack of public transportation system
    - Some cannot navigate the bus system
    - Many cannot afford bus passes





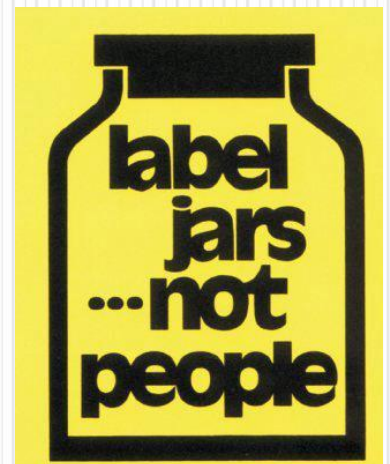
# Barriers to Re-Entry

- Access to medical and mental health treatment without a payer source
  - No sliding scale
  - Some CMHC deny services with outstanding bill
  - Cannot get Durable Medical Equipment other than walkers/wheelchairs with no payer source



# Barriers to Re-Entry

- Stigmas that make offender vulnerable
  - Homeless
  - Mentally ill
  - Physically fragile
  - “Convict/Offender”
  - Impoverished
  - Deadbeat Parent
  - Drug Addict/Alcoholic



# Barriers to Re-Entry

- Intake process at community mental health center
  - Multi-step intake process
    - Paperwork Intake
      - Lack of State ID
      - Medical Records
    - Assessment
    - Prescriber
  - Limited walk-in availability
  - Financial

# What is the Parole Liaison Program (PRL)?

- Indiana has 10 parole districts and supervises over 10,000 adults and juveniles. Each office is responsible for monitoring individuals transferred from prison to parole supervision.
  - There is 1 parole liaison per district
  - The program works with individuals who have medical, mental health and substance abuse needs to bridge the gap between parole and community providers

# About the PRL Program continued...

- Currently the PRLs are working with over 400 parolees around the state
- Since October 2014, PRLs have referred:
  - 158 parolees to outpatient mental health treatment
  - 161 for substance abuse treatment
  - 60 for medical treatment
- PRLs have partnered with 208 community organizations

# How are parolees referred?

- PRLs attend many meetings including:
  - Mental Health treatment team meetings
  - Monthly medical staffing meetings
- Referrals are received from:
  - Parole agents
  - Facility medical staff
  - Community at times
  - Corizon Regional Director
  - Other PRLs
  - DOC case management at times

# What do the Parole Liaisons do to assist the parolees?

- Partner with community organizations
- Link parolees to community services
- Provide support and motivate parolees and help them develop goals
- Focus on the mental and physical well-being of the parolee

# How can your Community Mental Health Center Help?

- Open communication between all service providers at the CMHC
- Partner with us to ensure good continuity of care and tell us what you need to schedule appointments
- Prompt scheduling with prescriber for our parolees on injectable medications
- Reach out to us if there is a problem or a patient isn't doing well
- Be cognizant of individuals who may need additional support and intervention when they are struggling
- Help educate us about what the individual needs because violating and returning them to prison may not always be the best idea
- Outpatient Commitments



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Questions?

# REMEMBER:

**If you are working with an individual who is on parole and need assistance, you can always contact us and we will do our best to assist you!**



Would you like more information or  
want to discuss specifics about  
how we can work together?

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