

# JAIL RE-ENTRY UPDATE

*Progress Update*

*September 19, 2019*



# EL PASO COUNTY RE-ENTRY HISTORY



- 2016 Commissioners Court initiated Justice recidivism project
- 2017 Commissioners Court created re-entry program
- 2018 Hired experienced re-entry manager
- 2018 Began homeless and jail project
- 2019 Began jail veterans project
- 2019 Began coordinated entry for indigent clients in the jail
- 2019 Received updated pretrial and recidivism data
- 2019 Enhanced re-entry programming
- 2019 Jail pods specifically designated for re-entry program

# OVERVIEW



According to the Correctional Populations in the United States, Bureau of Justice Statistics, at year-end 2016;

- 2.1 million individuals were incarcerated in state or federal prisons or held in local jails.
- Approximately 95 percent of those individuals will be released and return to communities across the nation.
- Have needs that, if unaddressed in prison and jail, may negatively impact their ability to live crime-free lives after release- impacting the safety of communities.

# LOCAL RESEARCH



## El Paso County Uniform Recidivism Measure Project Study-January 30,2018

- Began in 2013 based on interest and initiative of criminal justice planners in Bexar, Dallas, El Paso, Harris, and Tarrant County. (El Paso being a leader)
- Tracks three-year recidivism rates for jail releases and state populations supervised in the county from 2011 - 2015.
- Overall, recidivism in El Paso has remained largely static over the years.

# LOCAL RESEARCH



## The El Paso County Pretrial System Assessment Study-May 24,2019

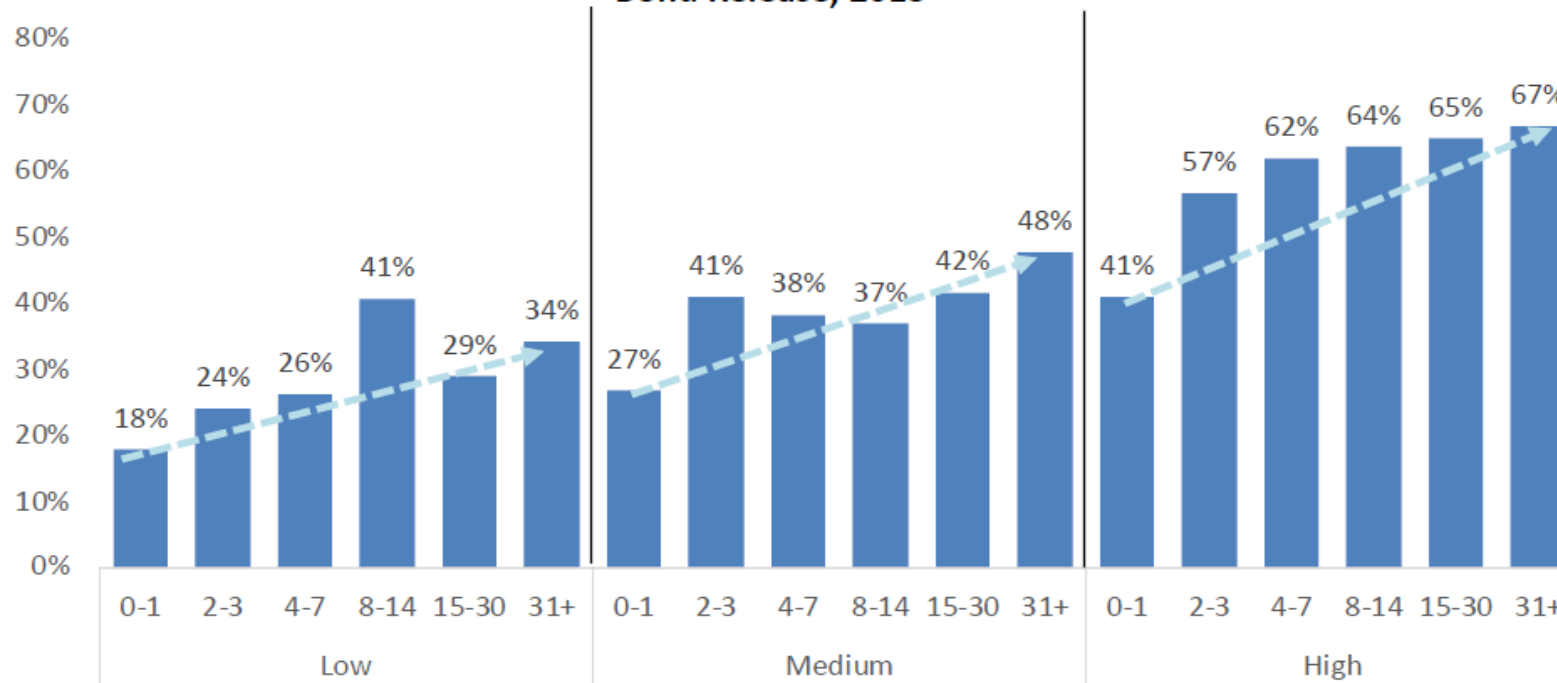
- Evaluated policies and trends as a continuation of the initial recidivism project study.
- Indicated that recidivism rates did not decline significantly for any of the participating counties due to few initiatives in place targeting high risk populations released from jail.
- Stated that defendants in 2018, facing a felony charge and released on PR Bond, spend an average of 24.7 days in jail before release.

# EL PASO OUTCOMES VIA RISK LEVEL



## Recidivism Increases the Longer Defendants Stayed in Jail Before Their Pre-adjudication Release at All Risk Levels

Figure 30: Three-Year Recidivism Rate by Risk and Length of Stay Prior to Bond Release, 2013



- Figure 30 shows the three year recidivism rate by risk level and length of day categories measure in days.

*\*Justice Center Research, 2018*



# RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE RESEARCHERS



## PRIMARY GOALS OF PRETRIAL EFFORTS SHOULD FOCUS ON:

- Increasing the number of defendants released on personal bond and releasing them from jail as quickly as possible may potentially have a significant impact on recidivism and reduce jail costs at the same time.
- Providing the adequate risk-based supervision for those on pre-trial release supervision may have positive effects on outcomes and potentially reduce county jail costs. These should be primary goals of the present pretrial reforms.

*Page 4, CJG Justice Center 2018*



# RE-ENTRY

## MORE THAN RELEASE AND TRANSITION PLANNING:

- Evidence Based Programming
- Supportive Transition
- Assistance with Services/Benefit Enrollment
- Community In-Reach and After-Care
- Employment, Education, and Treatment Options
- Support of Safe Family Integrationn
- Instilling HOPE





# PROJECT CHANCE

## Jail Reentry Partnership

A Partnership between El Paso County Sheriff's Office and the Community Services Department, Reentry Division.

- Assisting individuals transition from incarceration to the community with the goal of reducing recidivism.
- With the intent to empower the men and women incarcerated at the El Paso County Jail to be better than they were at the point of incarceration.



# PROJECT CHANCE

## Program Design

- A 60-90-Day holistic strength-based in-reach/outreach program.
- Designed to provide reentry related services; care management, life skills classes, education, and groups inside these cell blocks.
- Develops capacity and partnerships in providing services to med-high risk offenders that provide a successful transition back into the community, prevent recidivism, reduce crime, and improve public safety.



# PROJECT CHANCE

## Composition

Consists of 3 Jail Cell Blocks Designated for Reentry Services

- A Female Cell Block- houses 24
- 2 Male Cell Blocks- houses 48
- A Care Manager, Special Officer, and a Community Volunteer
- Assistant Chief, Lieutenant, Sergeant, Program Manager



# PROJECT CHANCE

## Three Phase Approach

- **Phase I- Pre-Release:** Develops a proactive Jail Reentry System conducive to offender change.
- **Phase II-Transition:** Assists with reintegration back into the community and eliminates a break in service.
- **Phase III-Post-Release:** Provides continuity of care through supportive services in the community.

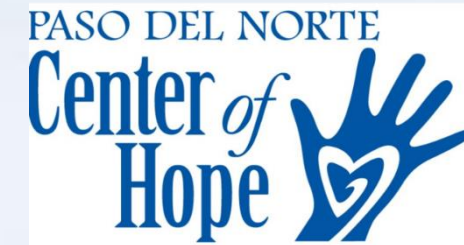
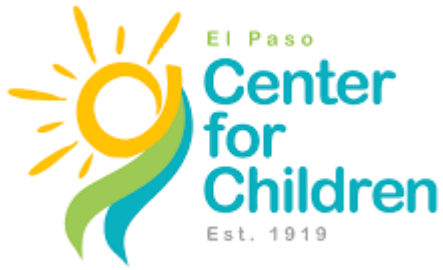


# PROJECT CHANCE Collaboration

- Care Managers will provide a system of care through care management services.
- Special Officers will provide support and security.
- Community Provider Volunteers will deliver the daily classroom curriculum and groups with Care Manager and Special Officer support.



# COMMUNITY PARTNERS







# PROJECT CHANCE

## Services Provided

- Monday through Friday, 8am- 4pm
- Free of charge to program participants
- Will be posted on the daily activity schedule
  - Life skills classes, to include, but not limited to: Abuse prevention, Vocational, Job Readiness, Money Management, Cultural Diversity, and Nutrition
  - Groups: Women's, Men's and Veteran's support groups
  - Individual Support: Care Management and Service Coordination, Recovery Coaches, Religious Services, Prevention Specialists



# PROJECT CHANCE

## Services Provided Cont'd

- **Educational/Vocational:** Mental Health First Aid, Inmate Health and Wellness, GED, Microsoft Word, Arts and Crafts, Pets Advancing Wellness (PAWS) program, Landscape program, Commissary, Laundry Services, Kitchen Crew
- **Employment Assistance:** Job placement development resources, portfolio development, resume writing, proper dress, interview technique training, employment counseling, mock job fairs and interviews on-site, educational programming referrals
- **Housing Assistance:** Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) program, Assessment through Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

# GOALS



## ENHANCE JUSTICE REFORM

- Improve the individual
- Reduce recidivism rates
- Encourage effective reintegration
- Create a streamlined system of care
- Offer judges alternatives to incarceration
- Enhance and utilize community resources



# SUMMARY

## Supporting Successful Transition

- Begins Inside-Identifying Barriers
- Creates an environment conducive to change
- Builds Care Teams-Care Management, Community Providers
- Conducts Risk/Needs Assessments
- Directs Connection to Community and Faith-based, peer to peer and support groups, and workshops
- Provides Essential Needs: Housing, ID, SS-card, Transportation, Hygiene Kit, etc.



# SIMILAR JAIL REENTRY PROGRAMS

- Harris County Reentry Program in Houston Texas  
(<https://www.harriscountycit.org/diversion/re-entry-service> )
- Allegheny County's Jail-Based Reentry Specialist Program, Pennsylvania (Rated Effective by CrimeSolutions.gov)
- Offender Re-Entry Transition Program, Winchester, Virginia  
(Programs Recidivism rate is about 25%)



# WORK IN PROGRESS

## Next Steps

- Reallocation of Staff-Additional Staff
- Complete Community Provider Volunteer Background Checks
- Create and finalize MOU's
- Continued planning with Community Providers in delivery of services
- Implementation projected September 30, 2019



# QUESTIONS?

