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

Amy Shaner, Brandy McCord, Meredith Canada and Mike Trent

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
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 the best idea
- Outpatient Commitments
Questions?
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?

Brandy McCord
Regional Director of Re-Entry
Corizon
Brandy.McCord@CorizonHealth.Com

Phone: 317-844-2992 x 1407
Fax: 317-844-4328