

Shared Services Alternatives to Incarceration Summary 2010

Shared Services refers to programs that work with individuals with serious mental illness or with serious mental illness and co-occurring substance abuse disorders. This initiative began in 2001 with the then Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives, now a merged Office within the Division of Criminal Justice Service, issuing a single contract to an organization in New York City. It was designed to address what was too often a revolving door of criminal justice involvement. Shared Services refers to the partnering with other state and local agencies to access treatment and services to reduce criminal justice recidivism. This work has been informed by a statewide Shared Services Committee that models collaboration at the state level and includes representation from the NYS Office of Mental Health, Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services, Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, the NYS Commission on Quality of Care and Advocacy for the Mentally Disabled and the NYS Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors, Inc. The committee has worked with OPCA in monitoring the contracts that have been issued in response to a Request for Proposals to promote best practices in work with individuals with mental illness or a co-occurring disorder. Program elements reflect those that are being identified nationally by the Council of State Governments originally in the Criminal Justice/Mental Health Consensus Project Report and in the 2003 Report of the New Freedom Commission on Mental Health.

Beginning in 2002, five county contracts were awarded to allow for mental health staff to be available to or co-located in probation departments. County contracts were again awarded in 2007, and four county contracts are in place currently at reduced funding levels. These contracts are supported with funding through the Demonstration Alternatives to Incarceration appropriation. Requirements for the new contracts included sequential intercept mapping of criminal justice contact points in each participating county. In addition, the contracts recognize the importance of peer-based services and other evidence-based practices such as Wellness Self-Management and the importance of employment as part of the recovery process. In Schenectady County peer-assisted groups are run in the probation department in collaboration with Ellis Hospital.

The two currently funded New York City contracts work with individuals before the court in the Bronx and in Queens to accomplish diversion in the community. The contracts are supported by an appropriation for the specialized supervision and treatment of offenders. The Bronx Court Felony Mental Health TASC project was named by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice as one of five national mental health court learning sites for its innovative and effective approach. Both contracts are operated by EAC, Inc. and support community-based alternatives to incarceration programs for the diversion of individuals with serious mental illness and co-occurring disorders. Beginning with an extensive assessment to address public safety and determine appropriateness for diversion in the community, the contracts evaluate the special criminal justice and other needs of the population through coordinated, evidence-based intervention, addressing criminogenic needs in addition to securing treatment access combined with specially trained, court-based clinical case management for the period of diversion. Recently, OPCA has supported these projects adding cognitive behavioral programming to address criminogenic needs, in line with new expert guidance promulgated

by the Council of State Governments pointing to the necessity of providing such programming to this population as with other individuals under supervision.

Project Connect: A central part of the initiative to improve outcomes for individuals with serious mental illness or co-occurring disorders has been the provision of technical assistance to counties by the NYS Office of Mental Health and the then Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives. A 2009 process evaluation of Project Connect found that the teams including probation, treatment agencies and other community providers, including peer-based organizations were effective in improving practice and increasing knowledge through cross training between probation and mental health and through increased recovery and wellness awareness by peer presentations.

Shared Services ATI by the numbers:

	2009	2010
FUNDING	\$ 526,360	\$ 449,230
ENROLLMENTS	333	338
CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS	244	285
SUCCESSFUL COMPLETIONS	142	180
EMPLOYMENT -- Total Jobs:		
FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT	48	34
PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT	17	40
JOB RETENTION:*		
90 Day Retention	28	46
180 Day Retention	24	27

2010 Summary

	Allegany County	Madison County	Schenectady County	Warren County	EAC Bronx	EAC Queens	Total
# Placed in the Project	121	15	62	29	75	36	338
# Placed with co-occurring disorders	75	14	56	29	75	36	285
# Satisfactory Completions	68	8	33	17	32	22	180
# Unsatisfactory Terminations	15	5	23	2	15	5	65
# Administrative Discharges	10	1	6	1	0	0	18
Completion Rate	81.9%	61.5%	58.9%	89.5%	68.1%	81.5%	73.5%

Employment Data

Full-time employ (Min. 30 hrs wk)	11	2	5	0	15	1	34
Full-time employ 90 days	7	4	2	16	2	1	32
Full-time employ 180 days	3	3	3	0	6	0	15
Part-time employ (under 30 hrs wk)	14	3	3	0	18	2	40
Part-time employ 90 days	7	0	1	0	5	1	14
Part-time employ 180 days	2	0	3	0	7	0	12

