Alternatives to Detention (ATD)

Public Safety Committee
October 18, 2019

Presentation Overview

- Project background
- Program description
- Research methodology
- Process measures (what and how was ATD implemented)
- Outcome measures (what impact did ATD have)
Project Background

- Goal: Reduce future involvement in juvenile justice system through community-based interventions
- Three year (2015 – 2017) grant from California Board of State and Community Corrections to expand ATD throughout the region
- Collaborative project involving 5 CBOs and juvenile justice stakeholders

Program Description

- Target population: Youth who have been arrested and/or charged, or violated their conditions of probation and are eligible for detention
- Evidence-based model
- Services in the community
- Two core program components: Intensive case management and cool bed and intensive case management
- Short term involvement: Three to four months
Research Methodology

- Conduct a process (what and how) and impact evaluation (outcome)
- A quasi-experimental design using a matched/synthetic historical comparison group (weighted propensity score matching)
  - Treatment group
  - Comparison group (synthetic)
- Simple cost avoidance analysis

Participant Characteristics

- 1,242 unique youth served, and 26 entered more than once
- 8% or 99 youth, utilized cool bed serves
- Average stay was 5 days (range 1 to 20 days)

Number of ATD enrollments by year:
- 2015: 203
- 2016: 503
- 2017: 562
Participant Characteristics: Justice Involvement

Majority did not have prior justice involvement

- Arrest: 27%
- Booking: 19%
- True Finding: 16%
- Commitment: 3%

Most entered on a misdemeanor offense

- 67% entered ATD on a misdemeanor offense
- 26% entered ATD on a felony offense
- 7% entered ATD on a status offense

Participant Characteristics

- 74% male
- 16 years old on average
- High school diploma (<1%) / GED (3%)
- High school (84%)
- Middle school (12%)
- Elementary school (<1%)

- 41% not enrolled in traditional school

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Asian</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>2%</td>
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ATD Services Received

- 59% attended quality of life groups
- 100% had contact with a case manager, with a mean of 12 contacts
- 35% participated in some form of psychotherapy (individual and/or family)

98% face-to-face contact (range 0-29)
86% phone contact (range 0-48)
67% collateral contact (range 0-72)
70% received at least one referral to an outside agency

ATD Completion Status

- 85% completed at least 50% of goal plan
- In program 116 days average
- 91% successful completion

Successful Completions
Less Likely to Have Prior System Contact

- Prior booking
  - Successful = 16%
  - Unsuccessful = 52%
- Prior true finding
  - Successful = 13%
  - Unsuccessful = 46%
- Prior commitment
  - Successful = 2%
  - Unsuccessful = 14%

Successful (n=1,150) Unsuccessful (n=103)
ATD Participants’ pre- and Post-Level Risk

ATD Participant and Comparison Group
Continued Contact with the Justice System
ATD Participation Associated with Less Detention and Lower System Cost

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>ATD group</th>
<th>Comparison group</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Days Detained</td>
<td>24,210</td>
<td>59,232</td>
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<tr>
<td>Costs of Days Detained</td>
<td>$8,388,657</td>
<td>$18,761,191</td>
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$10,372,534 fewer dollars spent on detaining ATD youth compared to the comparison group

Lessons Learned

- Explore additional interventions to address the needs of higher risk youth
- Monitor fidelity and outcomes
- Conduct ongoing outreach to build a culture that views alternatives to detention as the norm
- Co-locate ATD staff member in the Detention Control Unit (DCU) of Juvenile Hall during critical hours
- Leverage existing resources in the community to bolster services
- Redirect cost avoidance savings towards non-institutional interventions
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