Proposition 47 Grant Program: Final Report Highlights

Description of Grant and Need for Programs

In 2014, Proposition 47 reduced certain drug and property crimes from felonies to misdemeanors. These types of offenses tend to be committed by individuals with an underlying substance use disorder (SUD) or mental health issues that are more effectively addressed in the community, rather than in the justice system. To address the needs of this population, the County of San Diego Public Safety Group (PSG) applied for and was awarded a three-year, $6 million, Prop 47 grant (with a one year extension) from the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC). Regional partners on this grant that composed the Local Advisory Committee (LAC), included the San Diego County’s District Attorney’s Office, City Attorney’s Office, Probation Department, Public Defender, Sheriff’s Department, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA), as well as San Diego Superior Court. Grant funds were utilized to implement the County program CoSRR and expand the San Diego City Attorney’s S.M.A.R.T. program.

Local Advisory Committee (LAC)

Stakeholders in the system were actively involved throughout implementation and the LAC provided feedback and guidance throughout the program cycle.

Prop 47 Program Structures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Based Services and Recidivism Reduction (CoSRR)</th>
<th>San Diego Misdemeanants At-Risk Track (S.M.A.R.T.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary</td>
<td>SUD Treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Management</td>
<td>Housing Support</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Client Demographics

- **CoSRR Participants**
  - 253 unique participants
  - 65% male
  - 35% female
  - 42 years (average age)
  - 59% homeless
  - 81% unemployed
  - 25% high school diploma or less

- **S.M.A.R.T. Participants**
  - 135 unique participants
  - 66% male
  - 34% female
  - 46 years (average age)
  - 100% homeless
  - 99% unemployed
  - 21% high school diploma or less

Client Characteristics and Needs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AVG # OF JUSTICE SYSTEM CONTACTS 3 YRS BEFORE PROGRAM</th>
<th>CoSRR</th>
<th>S.M.A.R.T.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARRESTS</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>10.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOOKINGS</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>10.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONVICTIONS</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 47% of CoSRR and 60% of S.M.A.R.T. participants reported methamphetamine as their primary drug

- 49% of CoSRR and 51% of S.M.A.R.T. participants had a prior mental health diagnosis

TOP SELF-REPORTED CLIENT NEEDS

- Housing
- Transportation
- Mental Health Support
- Connection to a Clinic/Doctor
- Employment Skills
Research findings from the Criminal Justice Clearinghouse

Key Program Accomplishments

The Prop 47 grant program...

- Reached the goal to increase services for Prop 47 impacted individuals and served over 400 clients from 2017 - 2021
- Clarified the top needs of individuals impacted by Prop 47 are housing, mental health support and SUD treatment
- Connected clients with an average of 2 – 2.5 services and 100% engaged in some form of SUD treatment
- Participants displayed desistance (i.e., change in frequency, level, and type of offenses post-participation) from criminal behavior

Average number of arrests, bookings, and convictions pre- and post- CoSRR participation

Jake* had used meth for 21 years of his life and had six drug convictions that resulted in a suspended driver’s license and 18 months of incarceration. Since enrolling in CoSRR, Jake managed to obtain his own housing and start paying his student loans. Jake demonstrated leadership skills in his recovery meetings and enrolled in a local community college this fall 2019 to obtain his Drug and Alcohol Counselor Certification. Jake shared that “This program helps in a lot of areas; it works great, and helps you get back on your feet”.

*Participant’s name has been changed to protect his identity

The SANDAG Criminal Justice Research Division served as the research and evaluation team for this Prop 47 grant. For more information about our work please visit our website by clicking here or visiting www.sandag.org/CJ