Re-Entry Programming and Offenders with Co-Occurring Disorders: Clinical and Recidivism Findings from a Pilot Program

Adrienne Pande, M.A., Philip Mulvey, M.A., Michael Shafer, Ph.D., Richard Rivera, M.A., Vicki Staples, M.A.
Arizona State University, Center for Applied Behavioral Health Policy

Background

• Develop and implement an inter-agency process for pre-release screening, assessment and placement.
• Develop and implement a series of post-release services for persons with co-occurring disorders.

Methods

• The pilot project was implemented at the Arizona State Prison Complex (ASPC) Tucson.
• The sample included 199 participants (Treatment Group, n=90; Control Group, n=100).
• Participants were initially housed in dorm-like settings in a Modified Therapeutic Community (MTC), and then were transferred to a medium custody yard housing approximately 700 inmates.
• Participants were housed on a medium custody yard with approximately 400 inmates, and then were later transferred to a low custody yard housing approximately 200 inmates.
• The pilot project was implemented at the ASPC-Tucson houses approximately 3,700 inmates.

Clinical Outcomes from the Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale (BPRS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Treatment Group</th>
<th>Control Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anxiety</td>
<td>54.006 medium</td>
<td>30.000 large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depression</td>
<td>53.000 medium</td>
<td>29.157 small</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hallucinations</td>
<td>51.008 medium</td>
<td>28.641 very small</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conceptual Disorganization</td>
<td>56.500 medium</td>
<td>31.014 large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reality Distortion</td>
<td>52.042 large</td>
<td>30.035 large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Social Function</td>
<td>54.000 medium</td>
<td>30.002 large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total BPRS</td>
<td>301.400 large</td>
<td>301.200 large</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Findings

• The treatment program showed slightly lower rates of re-arrest for completed participants, although the treatment group did not demonstrate significant clinical improvements.
• The majority of participants completed a publicly-funded behavioral health services (54.6%) and publicly-funded health services (50.8%).
• Participants were highly motivated to reduce substance use and mental health symptoms, and reported attending support groups or alumni meetings (54.1% and 50.8% respectively).
• Late discharges were defined as any charges (excluding some minor traffic offenses) that were reported on the initial intake assessment.

Conclusions

• The study findings have implications for future co-occurring programs and the need for future co-occurring programs.
• The results of this study provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of the treatment program for reducing recidivism and improving outcomes for offenders with co-occurring disorders.
• The findings suggest that the program is effective in reducing recidivism and improving outcomes for offenders with co-occurring disorders.

Grant support provided by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA).