**International City/County Management Association**

**2016 Annual Awards Program**

**Nomination for the Community Partnership Award**

 **Category by Douglas County**

**I. Section 1: Information About the Nominated Program**

**A. Program Excellence Award Category:**

Community Partnership

**B. Name of program being nominated:**

Douglas County Sheriff’s Office – Detention Division - Reintegration Program

**C. Jurisdiction where program originated:**

Douglas County, Colorado

**D. Jurisdiction population:**

Douglas County Population: 319,310 (as of January 1, 2015)

**E. Project implementation:**

June 2015

**F. Name and title of individual to be recognized:**

Douglas J. DeBord, ICMA member

**II. Section 2: Information about subject matter experts:**

Sheriff Tony Spurlock

Captain Kevin. B. Duffy

Division Commander

Douglas County Sheriff’s Office

Detention Division

**III. Section 3: Nomination Summary**

**A. Problem assessment, the challenge or need that prompted the local government to develop the program:**

In 2015 the Detention Division of the Douglas County Sheriff’s office, along with the Douglas County Department of Human Services and Douglas County Community Justice Services, embarked on a collaborative effort to address the recidivism rates of individuals with substance abuse, mental illness, temporary homelessness and chronic unemployment. Each agency recognized the continued high utilization of county resources for this population.

Understanding the limited availability of community resources and the barrier the geographic location the detention facility presents, a plan was outlined to address the needs of this population based on each department’s abilities and current department resources.

**B. Program implementation:**

The initial start of the program was to combine the resources of the programs that were already established in our facility: JBBS, Reentry, and Medicaid enrollment. Through the collaboration of these programs, we learned as individuals returned to custody, the resources provided while in custody were not easily accessed in the community due to one or more of the barriers previously listed. In order to provide assistance with connecting to or navigating resources, it became apparent that community outreach was needed. To address this issue, the Sheriff’s office assigned a deputy and the use of a vehicle as part of a community outreach team that includes our JBBS therapists. Through this vital component of the program we can follow up with individuals after release to assist with navigating those barriers in order to continue to utilize the tools and resources that were established while in custody. A stakeholder group was formed that consisted of the Sheriff’s office, Department of Human Services, Community Justice Services, Courts, District Attorney’s office, Public Defender’s office, Probation, and AllHealth Network (ADMH). Shortly after forming the stakeholder group, known as Collaborative Program for Reintegration, Douglas County Cares took a seat at the table bringing a wealth of information and new community partnerships. In 2016 Arapahoe Douglas Works! was welcomed aboard, rounding out the fundamental needs that we were working to address.

**C. The Cost of the Program:**

There is no specific cost to the program. Utilizing the available resources already in use and collaboration of the available resources to the specific needs of the clients is the primary focus of this program. The Deputy who is assigned to this program was not created primarily for these duties and is being paid through the divisional budget already in place.

**D. Tangible results or measurable outcomes of the program:**

Once we all came together we learned that each agency/organization was scrambling to locate the same resources that were sought after in custody. As a result of our collaboration the baton can be handed off from one agency to the next eliminating duplication of efforts. In many instances outside organizations/agencies can start their assessments/applications prior to release due to the programs collaborative efforts.

Through our collaboration with AllHealth Network our JBBS program completed 208 group substance abuse treatment sessions, equaling 312 hours, an increase of 52% from the previous year. In February we began combining pods in order to maximize our group participation resulting in a total attendance of 691.

On November 16th, we added Moral Reconation Therapy to the JBBS program lineup. This treatment modality is conducted by both of our JBBS therapists. The participants of this program are selected from the existing JBBS groups based on the progress already accomplished in their current treatment and the readiness to expand their treatment. MRT is a recommended treatment modality by the Behavioral Health community, especially for the criminal justice population. At the close of 2016 we completed 7 MRT group sessions equaling 16.5 hours. 126 inmates participated in the JBBS program and 30 of those were actively enrolled at the end of 2016.

Our reentry program delivered resources to 434inmates during 2016. In June Reentry workshops where initiated to maximize the number of inmate participation. In collaboration with Classifications, referrals are sent to the program based on information gathered at the time of the classification interview. The referral enables us to proactively reach out to the inmate that has been identified with substance abuse and/or mental illness. Posters have been placed in the pods as well, describing the services available through our program. Once an inmate is identified, a worksheet is sent out, allowing us to have a preliminary understanding of what resources are needed. Reentry is the primary source of referral for Reintegration’s many programs such as JBBS, AD Works and Medicaid and is a vital referral source for the Collaborative Program for Reintegration.

Arapahoe Douglas Works! joined our program in March. Co-located in our facility is a Career Services Advisor. In June, the Detention Division purchased 5 Laptop computers which enabled AD Works to conduct employment workshops. 60 workshops were completed over the course of 20 weeks. 67 inmates attended the employment workshops which are conducted over a 3-day period and include 3 components: building a profile and learning to navigate the state employment website, Connecting Colorado; resume building and interview techniques. The latter being critical to the population we serve. Once the workshop is completed, AD Works! continues to work with inmates individually to determine which employment programs they will be eligible for after release such as Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. Each participant receives an employment packet in their property that includes a flash drive loaded with their resume. Once released from custody AD Works! continues to work with those individuals motivated to find employment. At the close of 2016, 11 individuals who were first connected with AD Works while in custody continued with AD Works in the community. Of those 11 individuals, 8 found employment.

In partnership with Douglas County Department of Human Services, a Medicaid Eligibility Technician has been is co-located in our facility since 2015. Through this partnership, we offer assistance with Medicaid enrollment, benefit information and benefit case management for individuals in our custody. In 2016 we met the needs of 540 inmates with these services.

An 18% increase from the previous year. As expected more individuals brought into custody reported Medicaid as their insurance at the time of arrest. This has created the need for case management for their benefits. This comes in many forms such as education regarding the status of their benefits and what is required, to something as simple as providing their Medicaid number.

Along with this case management information pamphlets on how to use Medicaid benefits are provided. These pamphlets were obtained through our partnership with the Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition.

All Collaborative Program for Reintegration partners meet weekly to coordinate services for inmates identified at high risk for recidivism due the severity of their substance abuse and mental health diagnosis/concerns. The efforts of this group have resulted in treatment, employment, medication assistance, transportation, housing, compliance with the courts and probation. In 2016, 62 inmates, all of who were involved with one or more of the program partners, were submitted to the group for review. 7 inmates were identified as appropriate to participate in all stages of the program. The remaining 55 continued to receive the services needed from the program partners. Once identified the program begins with participation in JBBS. The next requirement is working as a trusty in the facility to demonstrate an ability to comply with the facility rules. If eligible, work release is the next transition. Working with AD Works and our employer partners in the area, employment is obtained. While in the work release program, the inmate is required to attend treatment in the community on a self-pay basis. In some cases, Probation can provide vouchers for treatment. By the end of the jail sentence, employment and treatment have been established, probation is already involved and the transition into the community faces less barriers.

Once in the community the Reintegration Community Outreach team continues to follow up with individuals who participated in our program. The team provides support and resources with the assistance of the program partners. This outreach effort has resulted in 44% of individuals that participated in the JBBS component while in custody, is in engaged in one or more of the following: some form of treatment, employment/employment programs, stable living arrangements, and in some cases continuing education. A 25% increase from the previous year.

An added bonus to our program was the inclusion of our team members to the 18th Judicial Problem Solving Courts. Douglas County Sheriff’s Detention Division has one deputy involved in each of these courts: Wellness, Recovery and Veterans. Currently Douglas County judicial cases make up 36% of Recovery Court clients, 29% of Wellness Court clients, and 35% of Veterans Court clients. An increase of 24%, 19%, and 15% respectively.

**E. Lessons learned during planning, implementation and analysis of the program:**

Initially every aspect of the criminal justice community was included as a stakeholder. We learned that certain entities of the criminal justice community could not easily effect change due to the nature of their responsibilities. For example; the district attorney’s primary responsibility is to represent the people. This proved to be a conflict when it came to problem solving for the individual that they were prosecuting. The courts (judges) found having information on the program and the options that are provided important. So much that they allowed for a presentation of our program at one of their EnBanc sessions.

These two groups found that they did not need to be a stakeholder in this program; however the program continues to work collaboratively when necessary and maintains this valuable partnership.

Initially we were scrambling at the time of release to locate resources. We quickly realized that we needed to develop a way to reach the inmates within the initial days of arrest. Working with our classifications department, four initial questions were asked during the initial interview: Have you ever received a mental health diagnosis, Are you currently taking any mental health medications, Are you currently dependent on any drugs or alcohol, and Have you ever suffered a traumatic brain injury? A positive answer to one or more of these questions prompts a reentry worksheet to be sent out. By returning the worksheet, the inmate is letting us know that he/she is requesting to participate in our program. This outreach along with the posters in the pod and word of mouth, has allowed us to reach the vast of inmates, whether they choose to participate or not.

In order to bring the different programming into facility, we learned very quickly that some of the ways of doing business in corrections needed to be reviewed and adjusted if possible. One paramount change was to allow the combination of housing pods to maximize attendance. This allowed the programming to be delivered to as many inmates as possible. In order to facilitate this we work closely with classifications to determine if there are any potential risks that could be encountered. We also developed specific program procedures to ensure that participation in our program does not promote management problems in the housing pods. The next big change was allowing inmates access to laptops to use during the employment workshops.

Funding is always a challenge. Currently our program does not have specific funding so we make the best use of the funding sources that we have available to us. This is why our community partners are so important, they provide much needed assistance in locating funding, one inmate at a time. At the same time we continue to apply for grants when available. Currently the JBBS program is the only outside funds that we receive and these monies are limited to the therapists salaries and specific recovery items available only to the JBBS clients. Office of Behavioral Health has added additional monies for the purchase of Naloxone that can be provided to any inmate regardless of JBBS program participation.

Through this funding we were able to provide an inventory of NARCAN (Naloxone) for the jail as well as supplying our patrol deputies with NARCAN to carry with them. Shortly after the patrol deputies were issued the NARCAN, a call was responded to and NARCAN was used and a life was saved.

The lack of affordable inpatient treatment and housing resources remains to be a huge challenge. Many of the inmates that we work with have a greater chance of success if they are able to transition from a custody setting to an inpatient setting, which has a better chance of transitioning them into a more independent living setting. Because of the challenges the lack of inpatient treatment and housing presents, our outreach program in many ways is the primary link to resources.

When working with the criminal justice population it is necessary to always expect the unexpected, such as new criminal charges. These situations tend to derail what has already been set in motion, or at the very minimum suspend everything until we can collaborate with the outside agencies involved.

Finally it was important to create a data base for this program. Initially we collected basic data on a spreadsheet. Realizing that we needed to be more detailed with our data, we turned to our jail management system to see what could be achieved. Working with our IT department we found a case management component that we could add data for any inmate in or out of our jail that participated in any or all of our program components. We started entering data in this program in January 2016. Throughout the year we fine-tuned the categories each inmate participated in. At any time a report for a specific inmate can be ran with all the programming information, to include progress notes. Our goal this year is to add specific objectives along with progress notes for the inmate once they are released to the community. This should provide valuable outcome measures for our program.