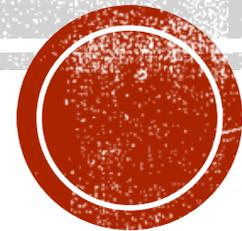


GAINS: AN INNOVATIVE MODEL FOR REENTRY

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PHILADELPHIA: REENTRY STATS

- Crime rates have dropped in recent years, and yet...
- Incarceration rates remain the highest among 10 largest U.S. cities
- Almost 7,000 people returning home to Philadelphia each year
- PA has 2nd highest probation / parole population in the country (highest in the NE)
- 44,000 on probation in Philadelphia alone
- Over 40% will be re-incarcerated within 3 years
- Highest rates (by far) of detention for parole / probation violations
- Accounts for 1/3 of state prison inmates and 1/2 of county jail population
- 1 in 3 of city's population has a criminal record
- Disproportionate impact on POC and those in poverty



PHILADELPHIA: A HUGE OPPORTUNITY

- There is a **community need** that is at the apex of a national epidemic
- The moment is **NOW** – the anticarceral movement is very effective
- The place is **HERE**: Philly is an ideal lab
- There is **no best practice** that has been established yet
- We can become a **national model**



GAINS: A MODEL INTERVENTION

Groups. CHATS intervention drawing on evidence-based practices

Advocacy. Changing the political environment associated with incarceration

Integrated

Network of

Services



CHATS

- **C**hallenges
- **A**lternatives/**A**void
- **T**riumphs
- **S**olutions



MEMBER EXPERIENCES: ROBERT

- “Since age 11, I haven’t seen a whole year in society. I’m 57.”
- “We get a chance to air things out, don’t nobody look at you any different, don’t nobody judge you. You can be vulnerable, if you wanna cry, you wanna open up. People are there to listen. The groups is fabulous. I look forward to that. It help me get through my day. When I’m feeling down, you know, I come here. Maybe out of a job, pick myself up, people give you inspiration. The Center has always been there. It’s something I look forward to every week. CHATS is good, we talk about a lot of different things people are going through, where they try to go, if they need assistance, job opportunities. A lot of conversation here is real positive. Since I came to The Center I’ve been able to open up and express myself, be myself. You know I don’t have to be different, I don’t have to wear no mask, I can just come as I am. And let people know what’s on my mind. I’m glad today that I don’t keep it inside. That I put it out there and let people know. If I’m hurt, or going through this or that.”



ADVOCACY: ENGAGING THE EXTERNAL POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

- Clients as spokespeople in different settings (empowerment & narrative mastery vs. exploitation & re-trauma)
- Engaging political stakeholders:
 - Court advocacy
 - Judges
 - DA's office
 - City Council
 - PD's office
 - Parole / Probation
 - CBH
 - Community groups



MEMBER EXPERIENCES: JOHN

- “What I know that I like doing now, is not necessarily consciously being an advocate, but telling my story and telling other people’s stories that I get to mentor. It’s a chance to get with my cohorts and colleagues and just tackle different discussions and present it to groups that are a little disconnected as far as knowing what the real problems and challenges are that we face.”
- “And all they have to do is just to have a conversation with us. Not that we’re the experts...but we’re the experts. We know. And that’s what ‘s been wonderful, like I shared, like last night – I knew I was the expert in there. And there were some big wigs there. And so to hobnob and rub elbows with these people, and to enlighten and educate them, is the thing that excites me. Again, I know what I want to do with the rest of my life.”
- “And doing that, and then convincing the young guys in my hood, or the guys from the Carceral Community here, that, ‘Yo, you too can come in there. And you don’t necessarily have to get a college degree, but you do have to know how to talk and tolerate. If you can do those two things, you’ll build on that, and you’ll be surprised at how far it will take you.’ Because I can’t even believe...sometimes it’s surreal that I’m in these rooms, that I’m in these conversations.”



OUTCOMES

- 125 clients throughout the past year
- 250 served since beginning the program
- 45/125 clients with high needs / provided with intensive engagement
- 15/45 are high risk clients (typical timeline of re-incarceration: 2-3 months on average)



OUTCOMES

	General clients (n=125)	High-need clients (n=45)	High-risk clients (n=15)
Maintaining Education/Job	115/125 (92%)	44/45 (98%)	14/15 (93%)
Secured Education/Job	N/A	N/A	9/10 (90%)
Reincarcerated	0	0	2



PRACTICE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS: GOING BEYOND “LIP SERVICE”

- Real, tangible, and effective wrap-around services as a standard model of care
 - Holistic, comprehensive care vs. piecemeal services (housing, employment, mental / behavioral health, physical health)
 - Collective vs. individualized services
- Development / expansion of evidence-based practices and evaluation-based services
 - Services must be designed for and tailored to this population
 - Academic and community partnerships (like Bland) that bring together scholars from across disciplines (Social Work, Nursing, Education) to sculpt a rigorous, evidence-based regime of practice
 - Cities (like Philadelphia) make data more available to academic research partners in order to generate evidence
- The city to step up in its role as provider of structural opportunities
 - Services won't work without access to the basics: housing, employment, healthcare/treatment
 - End marijuana testing for people under court supervision (probation / parole)





THE CENTER

for carceral communities

