



City of Dallas
Housing/Community Services
Presentation



**OFFENDER REENTRY
DISCUSSION**

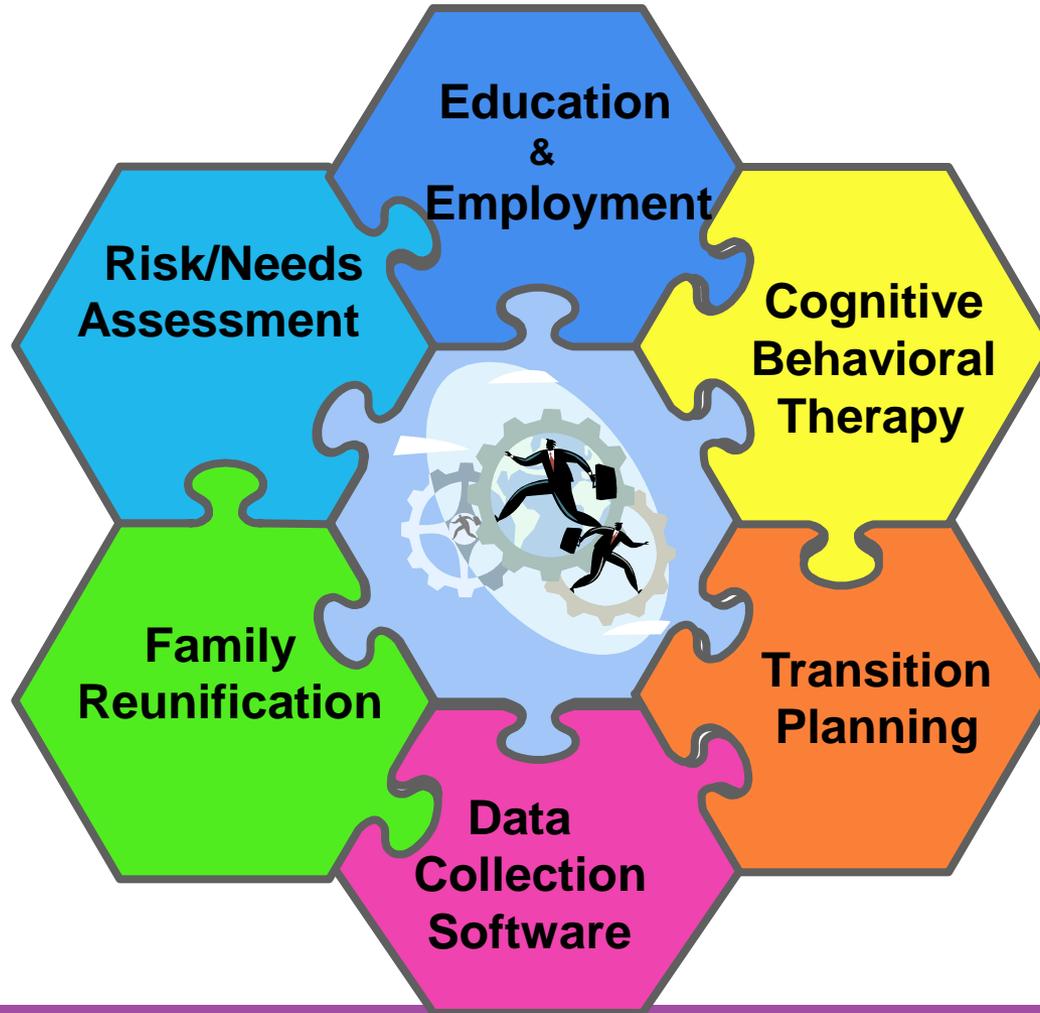
MAY 23, 2012



“Although the world is full of suffering, it is full also
of the overcoming of it”

-Helen Keller (20th-century American writer)

A COMPLETE SOLUTION



COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

4

Government:

Dallas County Criminal Justice Advisory Board

Community Supervision & Corrections Department (Adult Probation)

Texas Department of Criminal Justice

District Attorney's Office

Dallas County Sheriff's Department

Public Defenders Office

Child Protective Services

Dallas Housing Authority

Dallas County Juvenile Department

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS



Community:

Nexus Recovery Center

Project Reconnect

Urban League of Greater Dallas

Texas Offender Reentry Initiative

His BridgeBuilders

Big Brothers Big Sisters

Volunteers of America

Project Matthew

Resolana

2000 Roses

Cedar Valley College

DOORS

Safer Dallas Better Dallas

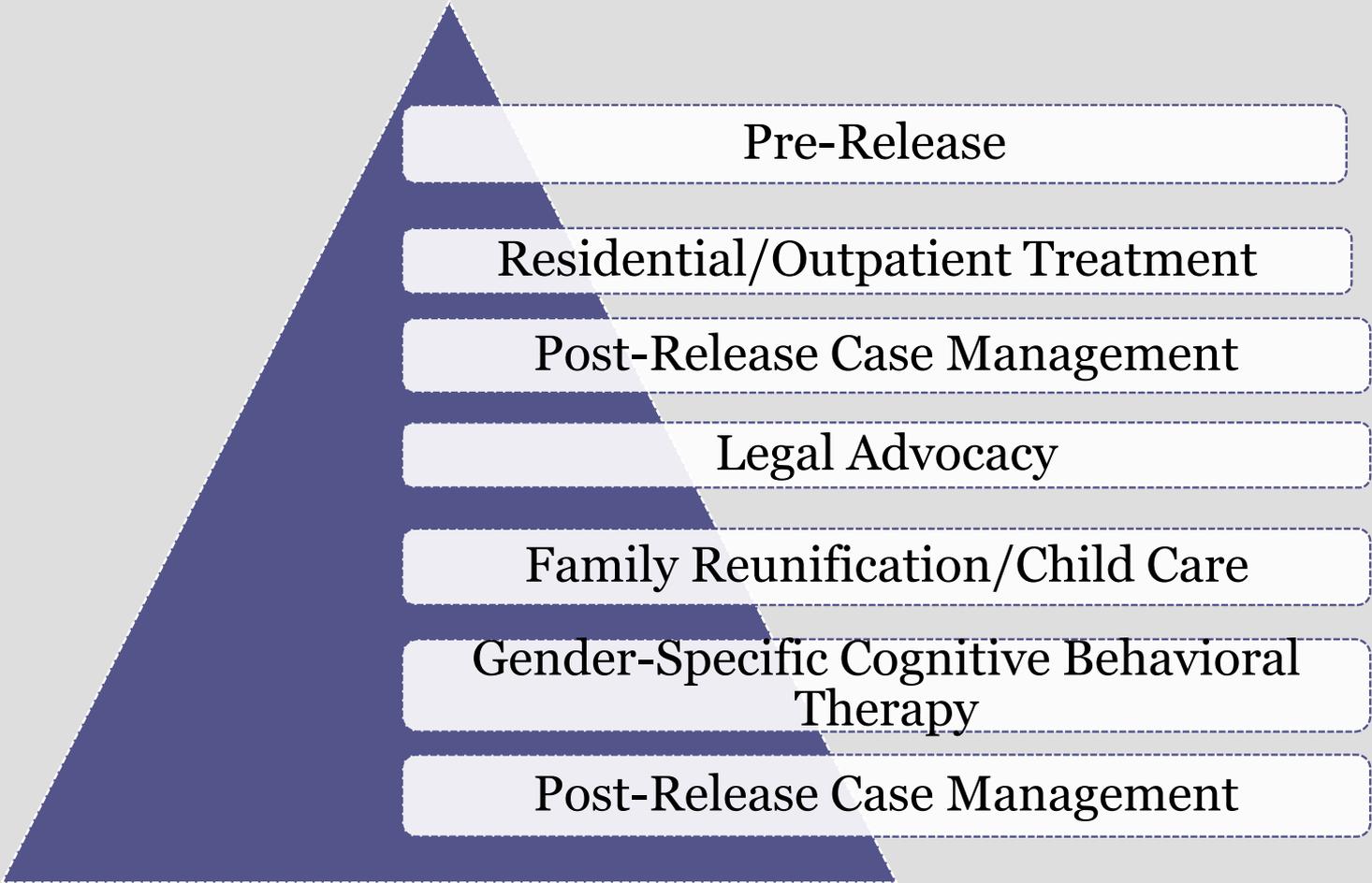
One Heart Project, and more

TARGET POPULATION



- **Target Population:**
 - Expectant mothers and mothers of young children
 - Diagnosed with substance abuse issues
 - Incarcerated at Dallas County Jail and Wilmer JTC
 - Minimum of 30 days of pre-release services
 - Moderate to high-risk of recidivism

iMOM Services



Gender Differences in Addiction



- **Women get addicted for different reasons than men**
 - ❖ Want to belong with their group
 - ❖ Don't want to hurt other's feelings by not using
 - ❖ To lose weight
 - ❖ To relieve stress or boredom
 - ❖ To improve their mood
 - ❖ To reduce sexual inhibitions
 - ❖ To self-medicate depression
 - ❖ To increase confidence

Gender Differences, continued



- Women progress faster in their addiction
- Shame and hiding is a large part of addiction for women
- Women recover differently
- Women relapse differently

Barriers to Treatment



- No children
- Lack of child care or safe child care
- Lower wages-less money
- Role central to stability of family
- Can hide in less visible role at work
- Attendance problems – can blame sick child

Parental Motivations for Treatment

- Children
- Child Protective Services
- Pregnancy
- Relationships with other family members closely related to the children

Stigma for the Female Addict



- Severe social disapproval
- More stigma for women substance abusers
- Different for young women than “moms”
- Belief that moms don’t love their children
- Even more stigma for pregnant substance abusers
- Stigma plus legal issues for substance abusing women with children
- Descriptive words-lush, slut, fallen woman, crack head

Areas of Focus in Treatment



- Low self-esteem
- Grief related to the loss of children, family members, partners, and/or alcohol and drugs
- Attachments to unhealthy interpersonal relationships- any relationship is better than no relationship
- Isolation related to lack of support systems
- Mental health
 - ❖ Medications are an important element of treatment for many clients
 - ❖ Co-existing disorders should be treated in an integrated manner

Areas of Focus, continued



- **Parenting**
 - ❖ Teaching women how to balance parenting and recovery
 - ❖ Treatment setting and services to children serve as a prevention effort for the children
- **Relationships**
 - ❖ Connection to others is very important to women
 - ❖ Women are trained to be more “other focused”
 - ❖ Must focus on developing healthy relationships
 - ❖ Need to involve relationships in recovery
 - ❖ Family integration is a central stabilizing force

Trauma Focused



- Studies indicate 90% of individuals with substance use disorders have experienced one or more traumatic event and 33% have been diagnosed with PTSD
- Many females have been abused by people they knew and loved and trusted
- Females have more perpetrators, more frequently and longer periods of trauma
- Some PTSD symptoms become worse with abstinence

Trauma Focused, continued



- Past trauma is a significant relapse risk
- Do a thorough trauma assessment
- Train staff on the impact of trauma on the brain and subsequent behaviors
- Create a trauma-informed environment and focus of care

Core Principles of a Trauma Informed System of Care



Safety

Trustworthiness

Choice

Collaboration

Empowerment

Treatment/Recovery Goals



Early Treatment Goal

- Establish safety

Early Recovery Goal

- Learn how to contain or express feelings without using

Resources



- Seeking SAFETY: A Treatment Manual for PTSD and Substance Abuse, by Dr. Lisa M. Najavits
- Helping Women Recover, Stephanie Covington
- The Handbook of Addiction Treatment for Women: Theory and Practice, Straussner and Brown
- Women under the Influence, National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (CASA)
- Dansky et al., Prevalence of victimization and PTSD among women with substance use disorders, *International Journal of the Addictions*, 1996