



Jail Diversion for People with Mental Illness

Joplin Consulting
November 22, 2016

Data Collection Process

- ▶ Started August 24, 2016
- ▶ Phone interviews with jails
- ▶ Site visits
- ▶ Interviews with state-level staff
- ▶ National best practices scan



Divert Who?

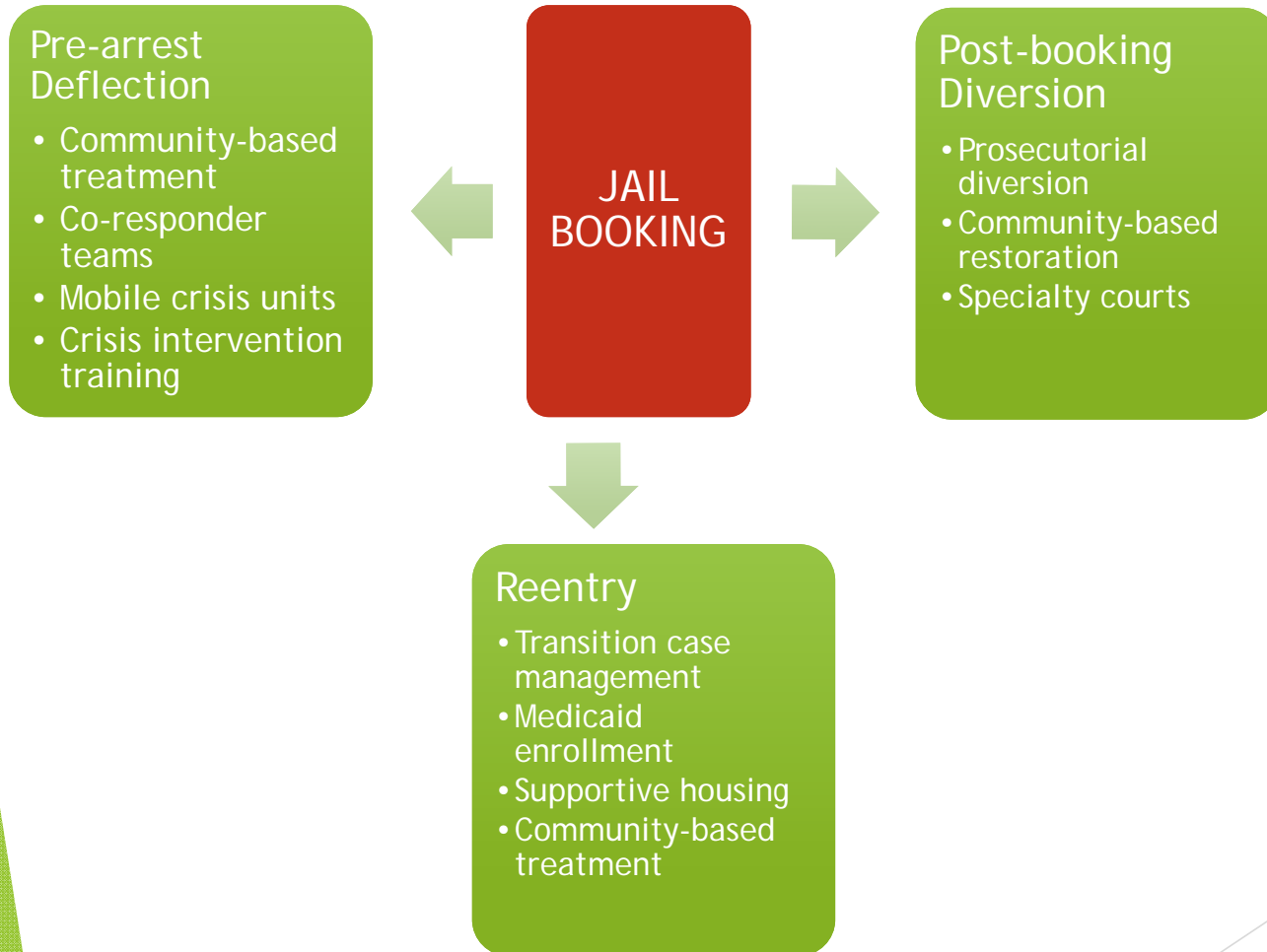
People in Washington Awaiting CST

- ▶ 70% had multiple arrests
- ▶ 67% had multiple referrals for CST
- ▶ 62% had received some outpatient treatment
- ▶ 50% had received residential services.
- ▶ 55% had a substance use diagnosis, but few had received treatment
- ▶ 46% ranked housing as the most helpful diversion service

National Data

- ▶ Poor
- ▶ Homeless
- ▶ Background of abuse
- ▶ Chronic physical illnesses
- ▶ Mostly low-level nuisance crimes
- ▶ Vulnerable to intimidation & assault
- ▶ Symptoms are exacerbated in jail

Diversion Opportunities



Divert to what?

\$ \$ \$\$ Cost and Acuity \$\$\$ \$\$\$\$

Supportive housing with case management

Outpatient treatment

Stabilization and transitional

Subacute residential

Evaluation & Treatment Center

State Hospital

Key Findings from Interviews

- ▶ Lack of housing and treatment resources
- ▶ Need to identify people with mental illness more quickly
- ▶ Need to incentivize coordination between jails, providers, and health plans
- ▶ Need for better data
 - ▶ Electronic medical records and information exchange
 - ▶ Regular and ongoing analysis

Recommendations: First Tier

► Community-based Solutions

1. Increase the availability of low- and no-barrier, supportive housing
2. Increase treatment capacity
3. Increase the capacity and accessibility of crisis services

► Jail-based solutions

4. Better identify detainees who have mental illness.
5. Incentivize cooperation between jails and mental health providers/health plans

► Court-based solutions

6. Implement a community-based competency restoration process
7. Modify the competency restoration process

Recommendations: Second Tier

▶ Community-based solutions

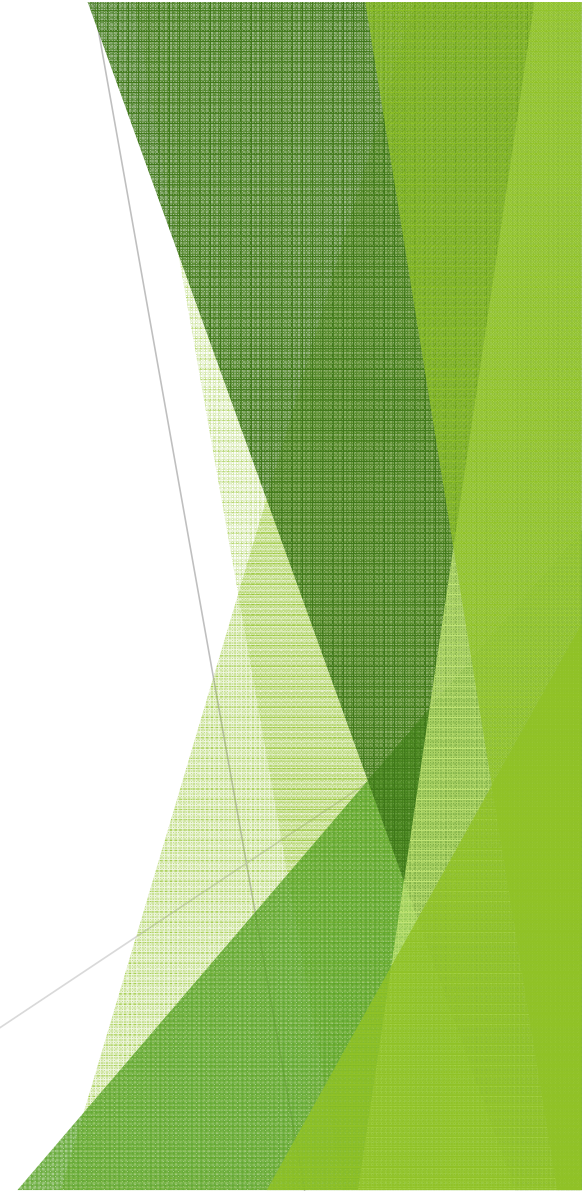
8. Establish a mechanism to fund outreach work by peer support specialists
9. Increase collaborative planning

▶ Jail-based solutions

10. Identify and prioritize high utilizers of multiple systems

▶ Court-based solutions

11. Support the establishment of pretrial release programs statewide.
12. Modify specialty court policies and practices



Questions?

