A Second Chance at Inclusion: People with Disabilities, Work, and Re-entry after Incarceration

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Housekeeping II: Questions

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Welcome

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Presenters

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Participants will learn about

• Practices that support labor market entry and reduce recidivism.
• Avenues for partnering and collaboration to increase services for individuals.
• Funding Sources.
• Inclusion and service gaps.
• Advocacy and inclusion opportunities.
Context: Most people who are justice-involved want to work

Among 25–44-year-old people who are formerly incarcerated, 93.3% are either employed or actively looking for work, compared to 83.8% among their general population peers of similar ages.

Source: *Prison Policy Initiative*, 2018
People with Disabilities are Overrepresented in the Justice System

**Figure 1**

Mass incarceration of Americans with disabilities
Prevalence of disabilities among state and federal prisoners and jail inmates, 2011–2012

- **Prisoners:** 31.6%
- **Jail inmates:** 39.9%

Note: Disability types include hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory, self-care, and independent living.
Context: With 650,000 people released from prison and nine million people released from jail each year, millions of people with disabilities re-enter communities seeking employment, housing, and a second chance.

Sources: U.S. HHS, ASPE and US DOJ, Photo AP/Rich Pedroncelli
Alliance of Disability Advocates (ADANC) – Center for Independent Living (CIL)

- Independent Living Skills, Travel Training
- Housing, Employment
- Clothing, Food
- Benefits Advisement
- Behavioral / Mental Health
- Peer Recovery Support

Located in Raleigh, NC
ADANC: Re-entry Practices

• Positive support, non-punitive
• Individualized treatment and therapy
• Meet people where they are
• Pre- and post-release services and plan
• Connection to “second-chance employers”
• Support from peers (with certification)
• Connection to services: Department of Motor Vehicles, vital records, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Supplemental Security Income
ADANC: Partnerships and Funders

• CIL, U.S. Health and Human Services funding
• North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities
• Probation/Parole
• CILs as providers and partners with re-entry and employment service organizations.
ADANC: Hopes for the Future

• More connections between disability and re-entry communities
• Tailored services within public workforce development programs that include disability and re-entry population
• Larger scale programs to reach more people
Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC)

• California-based services in Los Angeles and Sacramento
• Support and advocacy network
ARC: Practices for Re-entry and Disability

• Support at every stage of people’s journey: incarceration, to release, to reentry
• Peer-to-peer support model
• Individual and group mental health services (clinical therapists on staff)
• Life skills
• Address labels and stigma
ARC: Partnerships

• Universities:
  • Sacramento State
  • University of Southern California
• Government agencies
• CalFire Program
• NBC Universal
ARC: Funders

• Individual Donors
• Private Foundations (e.g., California Wellness Foundation, Irvine Foundation, Chan Zuckerberg Initiative)
• Public Grants & Contracts (Local, State, Federal) (U.S. DOL, California Dept. of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Los Angeles County Probation)
• Corporate Sponsorship (Verizon, National Football League)
ARC: Hopes for the Future

• Sustainable support for mental health and trauma at scale

• Increased WIOA flexibility and incentives for serving justice-involved people.
Programs Tend to be Siloed

- Populations have a high degree of overlap.
- Yet, we see gaps at the point of service, which leads to these questions:
  - Are reporting requirements disincentivizing workforce programs from serving re-entry populations?
  - Do reentry programs assess disability status? If so, how do they work to make their programs accessible (e.g. programmatically and physically)?
  - Do disability service providers have capacity to serve justice-involved individuals?
Questions
Resources - I

- **Quick Reference Guides: Serving Returning Citizens with Disabilities**
- **Guidelines for Successful Transition of People with Mental or Substance Use Disorders in Jail and Prison**
- **Supporting Successful Reentry for People with Disabilities: Disability-Specific Supports**
- **Supporting Successful Reentry for People with Disabilities: A Brief Guide to Issues and Resources**

*Seeing-eye dog trained by prison inmates at Mass Dept of Corrections Source: Patriot Ledger*
Resources - II

- The Importance of Medicaid Coverage for Criminal Justice Involved Individuals Reentering Their Communities
- Mental Health Problems Reported by Prisoners and Jail Inmates
- Disabilities Reported by Prisoners: Survey of Prison Inmates
- Disability Advocacy Group Revamps Prison Reentry Program
Some of Our Remaining Questions

1. The inclusion gap: How can existing services be expanded and more inclusive?
2. The service gap: How can supports, services, and resources be expanded for people with disabilities who are justice-involved?
3. How complete is this analysis of service and resource structures? What is missing? What are we not considering?
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