

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

**JUSTICE
CARE AND
OPPORTUNITIES**

DEPARTMENT

Reducing Recidivism

June 12, 2023

Judge Songhai Armstead (Ret.) | Interim Director

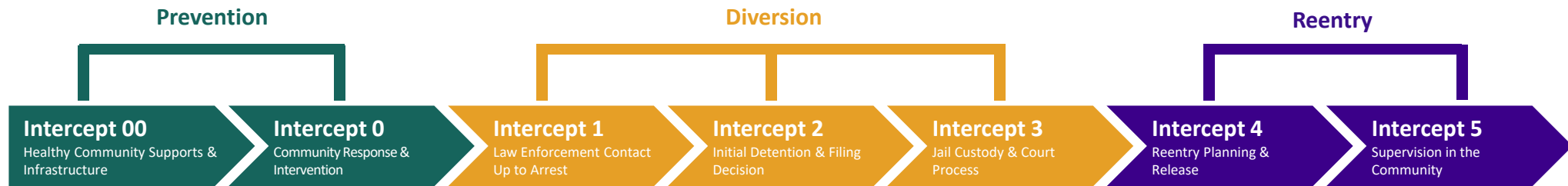


Presented to the Civilian Oversight
Commission by Kate Vacanti, Director,
Reentry Workforce and Education Programs

JCOD's Strategy for reducing justice-system involvement

Based on the Sequential Intercept Model

JCOD's strategy for policy and program development is based on the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM). The SIM helps to identify gaps in the County's resources and (re)design policies and programs to address them. Accomplished through a collaborative process that brings together justice-impacted individuals, community advocates, service providers, decision-makers in the justice system, and other departments throughout the County who share common concerns and goals for justice reform.



Our strategy falls into four main areas of effort:

1 - Prevention

Prevent justice impact by expanding community capacity, supports, and systems of care that bolster protective factors and mitigate risk factors for justice involvement.

2 - Diversion

Reduce justice impact by facilitating offramps from the justice system for individuals as early in their justice involvement as possible.

3 - Reentry

Alleviate justice impact by linking our returning citizens, and their families, to supportive services that lessen harms from their justice involvement and reduce recidivism.

What can lead to recidivism after release from incarceration?

Lack of access to or engagement in services and support to address an individual's underlying risk factors, bolster protective factors and strengths, provide basic stabilization in the community, and navigate the collateral consequences of a criminal record.

Potential risk factors

Lack of education/employment, family support, or pro-social peers/friends, attitudes and beliefs, substance use disorder

Potential strengths and protective factors

Employment or educational attainment, family support, pro-social peer/friend networks, recreational activities

Basic stabilization needs

Housing, food, clothing, physical healthcare, mental health support/trauma healing

4 Practices for reducing recidivism in JCOD's reentry programs



Credible messengers/transformative mentoring. People with shared lived experience serve as trusted peer mentors, provide intensive case management and service referrals, and help motivate system impacted individuals to achieve their goals and navigate the collateral consequences of a criminal record as they reintegrate into their communities. Credible messengers often work alongside probation and parole officers to help individuals stay engaged in services to meet their individual needs.



Sector-based employment training models. Sector-based training programs have been shown to improve employment outcomes among low-income workers, including people impacted by the justice system. Some employment programs have also been shown to reduce recidivism among justice-involved individuals. Having a stable, higher quality and higher earning job can have a greater impact on recidivism.



Cognitive Behavioral Interventions. CBI is a form of psychological treatment that helps individuals exam their thought patterns and emotions that lead to unwanted behaviors and apply strategies to alter those thoughts and emotion. CBI is a form of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy that can be delivered by non-clinical staff who have undergone training in a CBI curriculum.



Collaboration with Law Enforcement, County partners, and CBOs. JCOD collaborates with Probation and LASD to enroll individuals into programs and with other County departments and community-based organizations to connect program participants to the services they need.

JCOD Reentry Program Highlights



- Credible messenger program launched in 2018 that provides case management and service navigation through Community Health Workers (CHWs) and Peer Support Specialists with lived experience of justice involvement.
- 85 CHWs support clients by assessing their needs and connecting them to services for basic stabilization (food, clothing), physical healthcare, mental health and substance use disorder, housing, CBI, employment and education, legal aid, and other social services.
- 26,000 clients have been served since 2018.

JCOD Reentry Program Highlights



- Transformative mentoring program launched in partnership with Probation in 2022 to prevent recidivism among emerging adults (18-24) by engaging them productively in education, work, and civic life.
- Services include credible messenger mentors with lived experience of incarceration who offer support and advice, case management with a focus on education and employment, group sessions to foster comradery and support amongst participants using curriculum based on cognitive behavioral principles.



- POWR link systems-impacted women to safe housing, employment, family reunification, support groups, mental health, and substance use treatment, to reduce recidivism, improve their well-being, and achieve self-sufficiency.
- The program includes participation in a 12-session group therapy curriculum called “Beyond Trauma: A Healing Journey for Women,” which uses cognitive behavioral techniques, relational therapy, and mindfulness to help women heal from trauma, PTSD, and addiction.

JCOD Reentry Program Highlights



- Employment program that offers skills training and paid work experience in high-growth sectors that offer career pathway opportunities and family sustaining wages.
- Credible messengers through Career Coaches and Peer Support Specialists with lived experience who support participants with job readiness and connecting to mental health and substance use disorder services.
- Cognitive Behavioral Intervention group sessions help participants build problem-solving skills for the workplace to improve job retention and prevent recidivism.



SECTOR participants in a solar panel installation training with Paving the Way, Lancaster, CA

JCOD Reentry Program Highlights

DOORS (Developing Opportunities and Offering Reentry Solutions)

- Co-located with Probation's Reentry Opportunity Center, DOORS provides an array of comprehensive supportive services to address the barriers to reentry for justice-involved individuals, particularly those on adult felony supervision, their families and the community.
- Services include housing, employment, legal aid, educational support, mental health assessment and linkage, substance use counseling, and health and healing through the arts.
- Services are provided in a welcoming environment by County partners, including Dept. of Mental Health, Dept. of Economic Opportunity (INVEST program), and Dept. of Public Social Services, and community-based organizations with experience serving the reentry population.

