

Community Re-Integration Transitional Services



Mission

- HOPE's mission is to serve as a life skills, enrichment, and resource center that promotes personal recovery and empowerment for adult consumers of the behavioral health community.
- "By Consumers, for Consumers"

Program

- Helping Ourselves Pursue Enrichment, Inc. (HOPE) is a non-profit organization located in Tucson, Arizona serving the community of Southeastern Arizona by providing psychosocial rehabilitation through a peer support system in a non-clinical setting for individuals determined to be SMI with co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders.

Guiding Principles

- **Flexibility & Customization**
- **Member Involvement – Peer Mentor Model**
- **Focus on Community Reintegration and Socialization**

The Problem?

- The criminal justice system reports that a disproportionate percentage of inmates and prisoners experience CODs, and that their lack of support and effective, long-term treatment opportunities contribute to increased recidivism rates.

Problem Cont'd

- Although many jails and prisons provide substance abuse and mental illness treatment within their facilities, the services are not extended when an individual serves his or her sentence and is released into the community. Some individuals will receive services referred by the regional behavioral health authority, ***however there is often a gap in services.***

A Plan for Improvement

- Community Re-integration Transitional Services (CRTS) seeks to prevent occurrences like the aforementioned and contribute to a *comprehensive continuum of care* for individuals with CODs or Title XIX and non-Title XIX SMI (serious mental illness) who have had experiences within the criminal justice system.

Objectives:

- Coordinate with local jail to be informed of release of inmates with CODs or SMI
- Provide transportation from jail to Nueva Luz facility for tour and program description
- Facilitate registration and encourage participation in HOPE, Inc. programs
- Provide for basic needs upon release, including a meal, shower, clothing and personal care items
- *Provide opportunity to contact local services and agencies for behavioral and medical health*

Goals for Community Reintegration Transitional Services:

- Facilitate smooth transition from incarceration to life in the community for inmates with co-occurring disorders (CODs) or SMI
- Encourage participation in the day program at Nueva Luz, increasing opportunities for positive and developmental experiences in psychosocial rehabilitation, socialization, peer support, life skills, and community integration, among many others

Goals Cont'd

- Develop a partnership between HOPE, Inc. and local government and criminal justice entities to reduce recidivism in released inmates who are experiencing co-occurrence of mental illness and substance use
- Utilize The National GAINS Center's *Re-Entry Checklist* as a guideline for identifying individual's needs and steps to take to promote successful objectives

Goals Cont'd

- Bridge gaps in services and contribute to a complete continuum of care for released inmates living with co-occurring disorders or SMI
- Provide services aimed toward reducing violence in the community
- Foster support for and decrease stigma against individuals experiencing CODs

Community Collaboration

- Local Mental Health Courts
- Pima County Jail
- Community Partnership for Southern Arizona
- Direct Service Agencies
- Gospel Rescue Mission

Community Reintegration in Action



Community Reintegration...

- **HOPE provides 7 day programming:**
 - **Life skills classes**
 - **Socialization practice:**
 - ✦ Parties, Sober Sundays, Barbeque
 - ✦ Art & Crafts
 - ✦ Wii gaming
 - **Field Trips**
 - ✦ Baseball
 - ✦ Botanical Gardens

Member Involvement



Members get involved...

- Community meeting
- “Community Civic Awareness” class
- “Solutions for Today” class
- “Planning Your Healthy, Active Weekend”
- Men’s / Women’s Discussion groups
- Art Projects

Creating the Recovery Mind-set

- Physical wellness
- Thinking about thinking
- Responsibility

Tough Times Spur Creativity

- How can we improve the ways we support our members?
- Can we offer more “wrap-around” services?
- Where are there opportunities to fill gaps in services?

HOPE's Unique Assets

- Experience with peer mentoring
- Member community & program
- Warm Line

Challenges: Member Tracking?

- Members can “fall off radar”
- Consequences can be serious
 - Recidivism
 - Lack of services
- Agencies collaborate to improve success

Outcomes:

- Increase number of released inmates served by program
- Increase number of released inmates serviced who choose to join HOPE program
- Track and reduce number of participants who reoffend
- Use qualitative measures of individual and community impact through informal interviews with participants and through the collaborative partnership with CPSA and Pima County Mental Health Court.
- *Maintain Peer Support regardless of outcome*

Vision of the future

- Tracking and follow-up
- Recovery milestones, program “graduation”
- On-site visits