

Evidence-Based Approaches to Criminal Justice System Improvements: A Case Study on Reentry

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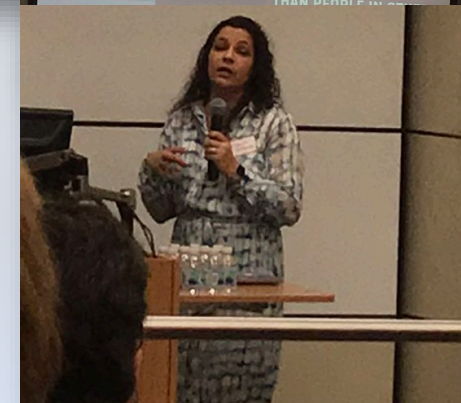
Center for Justice Research and Policy (CJRP)

Hosts an interdisciplinary team of scholars and practitioners focused on the study of crime, violence, and *criminal and social justice policy*.

Mission: To affect positive change in criminal justice policy and practice.

Action and Policy-Oriented

- Use rigorous research to:
 - Prevent crime and violence
 - Promote safe communities
 - Reform policing
 - Reduce mass incarceration
 - Increase equity in the justice system
 - Improve outcomes for justice-involved people





CJRP Leadership Team

Freddy Barton	Director, Hillsborough Safe & Sound	<i>Violence Prevention, Reentry, Community Engagement</i>
Jonathan Bethard	Anthropology / CAS	<i>Missing Persons, Forensic Anthropology, Racial Bias</i>
Major David Dalton	Clearwater Police Department	<i>Crime Prevention, Evidence-Based Policing</i>
Chae Jaynes	Criminology / CBCS	<i>Reentry, Employment, Offender Decision-Making</i>
Micah Johnson	Mental Health, Law, & Policy / CBCS	<i>Substance Misuse, Violence Prevention, Juvenile Justice</i>
Karen Liller	Public Health / Public Health	<i>Gun Violence, Victimization, Public Health Activism</i>
Capt. Paul Luszczynski	Tampa Police Department	<i>Gun Violence, Crime Prevention, Opioids</i>
Major Jeff Peake	Pasco Sheriff's Office	<i>Evidence-Based Policing, Crime Prevention, SNA</i>
Khary Rigg	Mental Health, Law, & Policy / CBCS	<i>Drug Prevention, Community-Based Interventions</i>
Joan Reid	Criminology (St. Pete) / CBCS	<i>Human Trafficking, Public Health, Sexual Victimization</i>
Christine Ruva	Psychology (Sarasota) / CAS	<i>Jury Decision-Making, Eyewitnesses, Courts</i>
Jason Wilson	Internal Medicine / USF Health	<i>Emergency Medicine, Gun Violence & Opioid Prevention</i>
Robin Ersing	School of Public Affairs /CAS	<i>Disaster Recovery, Community Resilience</i>



CJRP Priorities



Research

Engage in interdisciplinary researcher-practitioner collaborations to solve real-world problems using science and evidence



Education & Training

Administer workshops and trainings
Train next generation of criminal justice researchers and practitioners
Develop certificate and graduate programs



Community Outreach & Consultation

Implement and evaluate justice policies & programs: reentry, mental health, policing, juvenile justice
Inform the public and disseminate research in accessible way



Select Research Projects: Two Primary Streams

Corrections and Reentry

- Psychological Assessment of Risk and Needs in Pasco Jail
- Reentry Planning & Services
 - Funded by National Institute of Justice (NIJ)

Policing

- Dr. Bryanna Fox, co-director of CJRP
- Policing Reforms
- Gun Violence Reduction Programs
 - Project Safe Neighborhoods
 - Funded by Bureau of Justice Assistance and NIJ grants

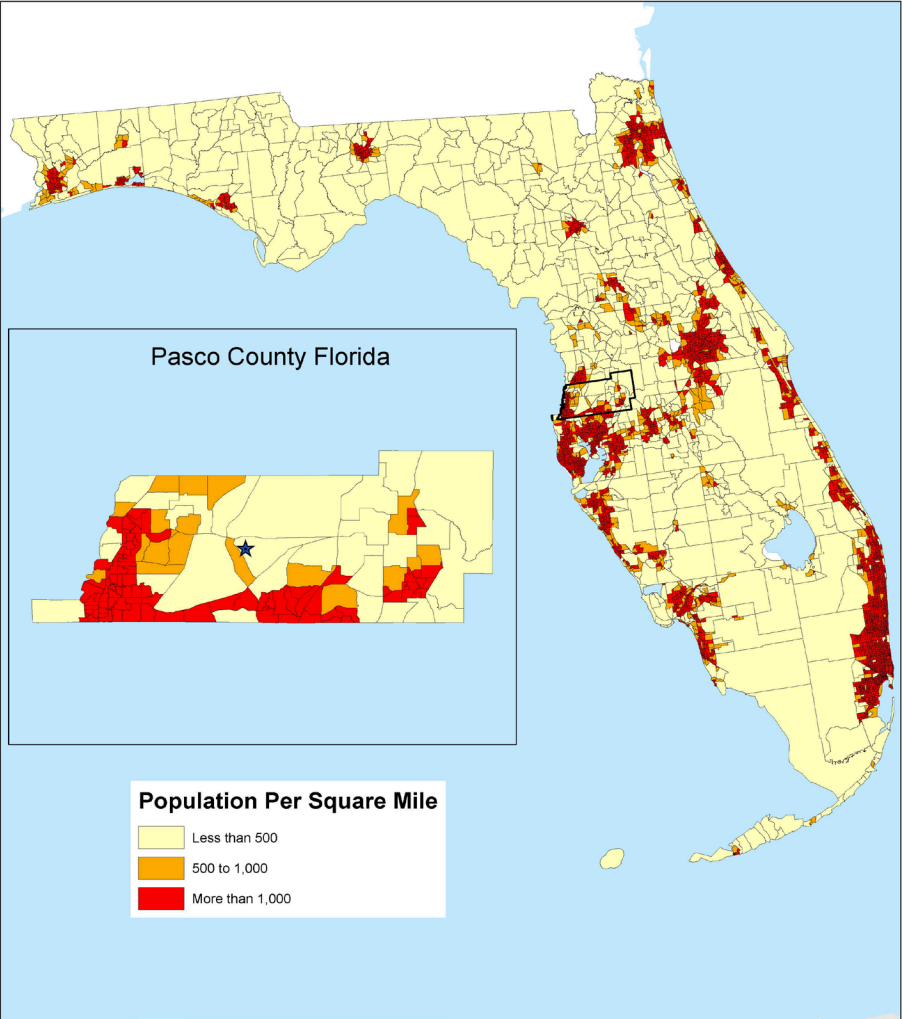


Corrections: Improving Reentry

- **Psychological Assessment of Risk (PARC)**
 - Identify risk factors & needs among jail inmates
 - Link these to future re-arrests
- **Jail Reentry Project**
 - 5-year \$1.2 million grant funded by National Institute of Justice (NIJ)
 - Randomized controlled trial on impact of pre- and post- release services on reentry and recidivism
 - Just started our 4th year on project

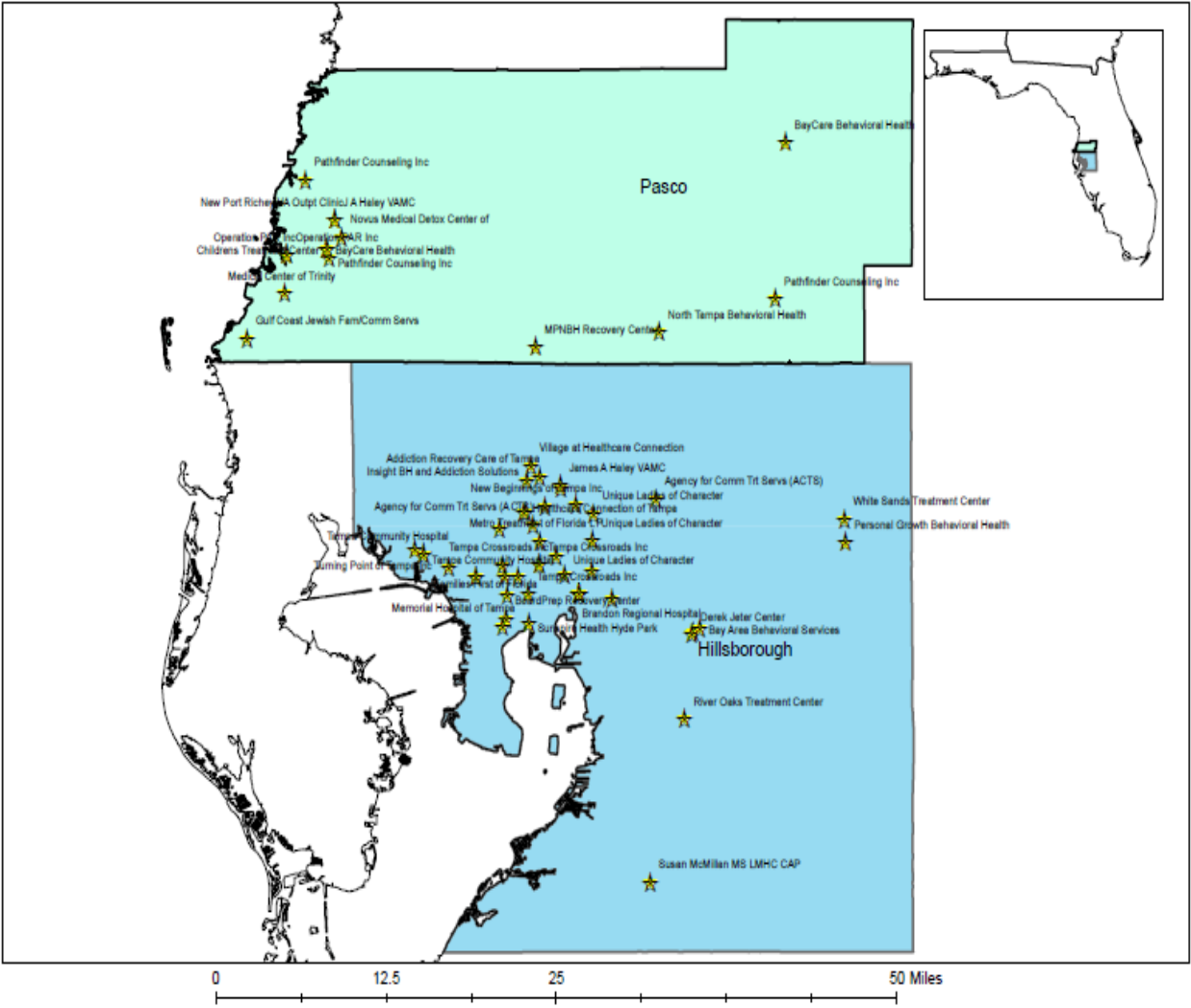
Training & involvement of more dozens of undergraduate and graduate students across campus departments and colleges

Pasco County Population Density Per Square Mile



Mental Health Facilities in Hillsborough and Pasco Counties, Florida

List from US Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Database



Pasco County



Corrections: Improving Reentry



The United States has one of the highest recidivism rates in the world. According to the U.S. Sentencing Commission, jail inmates have a **76.6%** chance of returning to jail within **five years** (Hunt & Dumville, 2016).



In Pasco County, Florida, **42.3%** of the 16,043 individuals released from the PSO detention facility in 2017 were re-incarcerated in Pasco County within **one year**.



Jails detain high proportions of people with mental illness, substance abuse, trauma, and neurodisability (e.g. traumatic brain injury), which can be directly tied to recidivism (Baillargeon et al., 2009; Craig et. al, 2018)



Corrections: Improving Reentry

Risks & Needs



Characterize inmates on relevant sociodemographic, psychological and criminological risk factors and identify needs

- Refine risk assessments for this population
- Inform classification/housing, jail policy

PARC PROJECT GOALS

Recidivism & Reentry

Map risk and needs to recidivism and inform reentry

- Design rehabilitative jail programming
- Inform reentry planning and facilitate post-release services

PARC Project

PHASE 1

- During booking
- Administer standardized item set measuring demographics, personality traits, broad level psychological functioning, substance use, criminogenic risk factors.

PHASE 2

- A subset of participants from Phase 1
- 3-hour interview assessing cognitive ability, mental health symptoms, arrest history, and antisocial patterns





PARC Project: Risk Factors

- Large number of inmates assessed
 - Over 1000 during booking
 - Over 150 went through a thorough psychological/clinical assessment
- A large proportion show histories of **mental health problems**
 - 56% had lifetime depression, 14% psychosis, 18% bipolar, 33% history of suicide attempts. Heavy past year substance use
- **Trauma history** is extensive
 - 69% have experienced 3+ adverse childhood experiences (e.g., physical abuse, neglect, household domestic violence)
- High rates of **head injury**
 - 55% experienced 1+ head injuries, over 20% endorsed 3+ head injuries resulting in unconsciousness and/or confusion/daze
- High levels of **adversity and reduced resources**
 - Unemployment, unskilled labor, homelessness
- Inmates with low level charges spend a **long time in pre-trial detention**



PARC Project: Key Findings & Future Directions

- Psychosocial risk assessment
 - Based on psychosocial factors that are associated with risk of recidivism, 2/3 show moderate- to high-risk profiles (Fox et al., 2021)
 - These profiles predict recidivism (Crim grad student Kelly Kortright project)
- Mental health and head injury
 - Mental health problems not prospective predictors of recidivism, but TBI post-concussion symptoms are (Psych grad student Lauren Fournier thesis)
- Cash bail, pre-trial detention
 - Young men of color more likely to get detained rather than bond or ROR, controlling for arrest history and severity of their offenses (Psych grad student Alora McCarthy project)
 - Effects of detention on long-term outcomes

Goal is to produce research that can inform practice and policy



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JAIL REENTRY PROJECT GOALS



Jail Reentry Project

Goal 1: Implement pre-release and post-release services customized to address individual risks and needs of inmates

Goal 2: Evaluate pre-release and post-release services, individually and in combination

- Using 4-group randomized controlled trial (RCT): control, pre-release services only, post-release services only, combined services
- Examine changes prior to release & 1-year/36-month post-release (recidivism, but also other outcomes)

Jail Reentry Project

“Adapted Risk-Needs-Responsivity Reentry Model to Reduce Jail Recidivism in Underserved Area: A Randomized Controlled Trial”

Funded by National Institute of Justice (NIJ)

Risk-needs-responsivity (RNR) approach – focus on highest risk, and tailor resources and services to risks and needs

Consider reentry challenges for persons released from jail

Randomized evaluation



Jail Reentry Project

Example Risk-Needs-Responsivity Model

Risk/Need	Indicators	Response/Service
Personality	Impulsive, aggressive, irritable	Teach problem-solving skills, anger management, cognitive behavioral therapy
Mental health concerns	Severe depression, psychosis, bipolar disorder	Stabilize acute mental health symptoms, adherence to medications
Substance use problems	Excessive use of alcohol and/or drugs	Substance use treatment program
Employment difficulties	Poor performance, lack of prosocial work/ school history, lack of vocational skills	Teach job skills such as resume building and interviewing, connect with hiring employers

Jail Reentry Project

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Jail Reentry Project

Challenges:

- Inadequate funding, dearth of programs in custody
- Jail environments are often aversive or re-traumatizing
- Stays are short

Opportunities:

- Released into their own communities
- Create bridges between jail and community supports

Jail Reentry Project

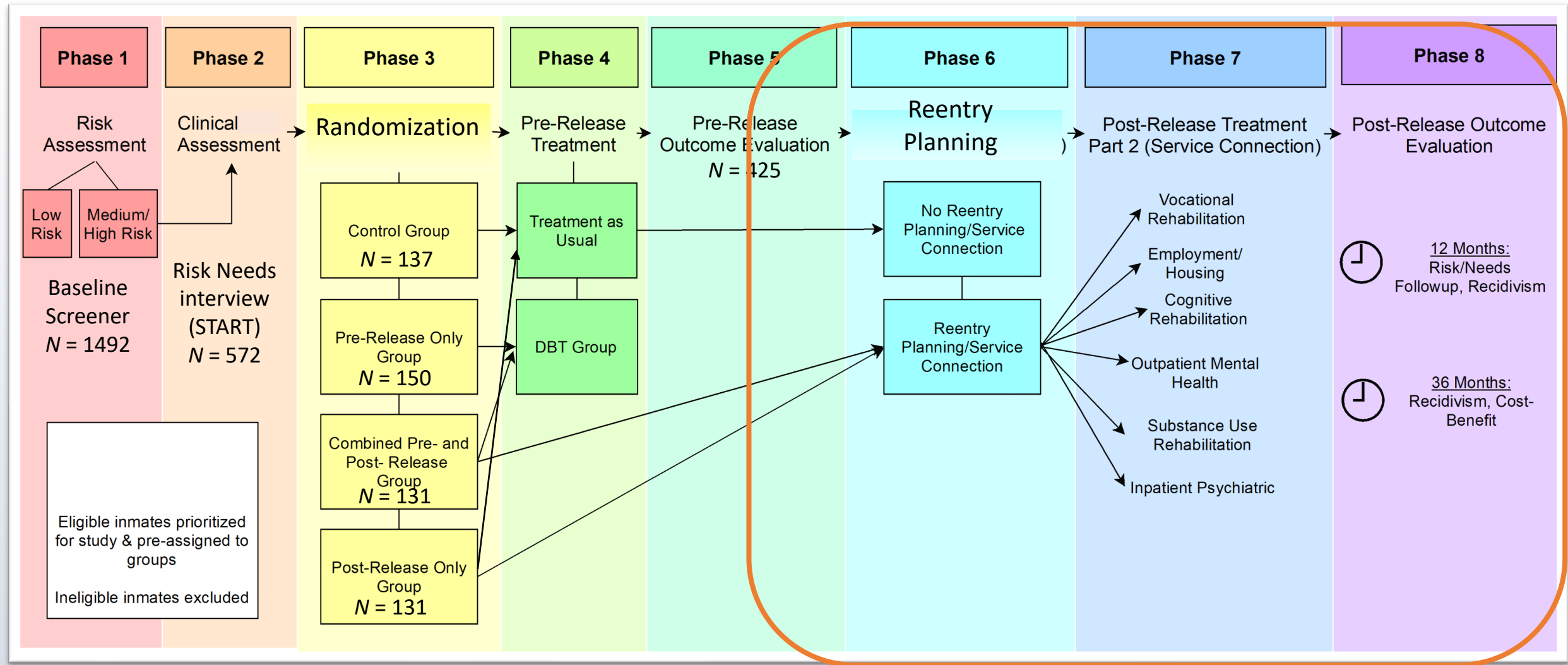
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RCT Design



Jail Reentry Project

Pre-Release Services: DBT Skills Group

While in custody, give them tools they can use to later navigate challenges of reentry



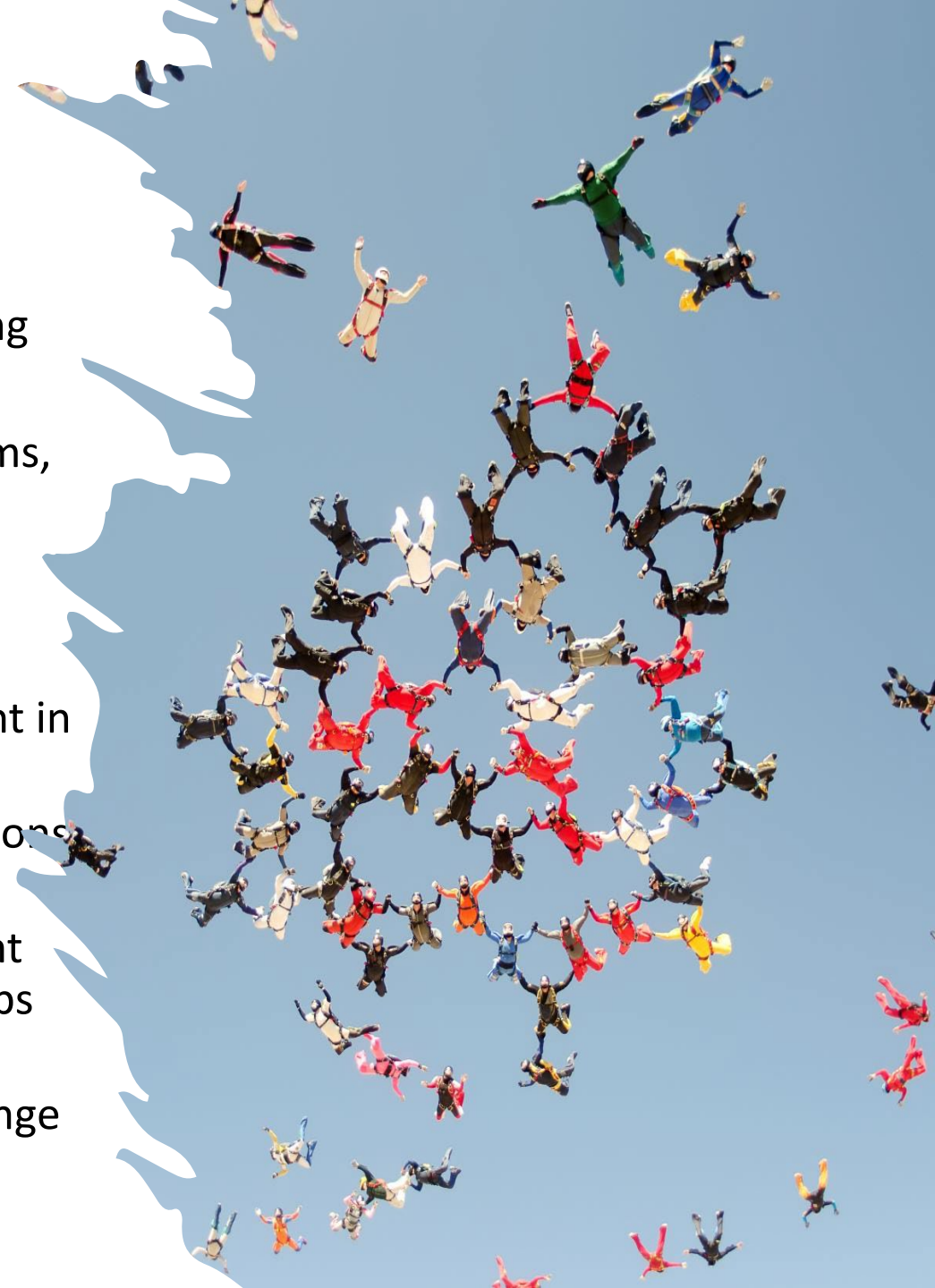
The intervention must be:			
Brief	Skills-based	Accessible	Tailored to needs & risks

Dialectical Behavior Therapy (type of CBT)
Skills Training Group

Jail Reentry Project

DBT Skills Training Groups

- Balance acceptance of current situation with focus on changing ineffective behaviors
- Enhance capabilities to cope with situations and solve problems, without resorting to behaviors that make situations worse.
- Groups held 2x/week for 1.5 hours each, 12 session cycle
- Four skills modules:
 - **Mindfulness:** the practice of being fully aware and present in this one moment
 - **Distress Tolerance:** how to tolerate pain in difficult situations accept what cannot be changed, ride out urges
 - **Interpersonal Effectiveness:** how to ask for what you want and say no while maintaining self-respect and relationships with others
 - **Emotion Regulation:** that you want to changehow to change emotions



Week #	Session #	Content (6 Weeks, 2x Per week; 18 Hours of Content Total)
Each session begins with a mindfulness exercise, followed by homework review from the previous group. Each session will end with homework assignments and a wind-down mindfulness exercise		
1 Orientation, Mindfulness	1	Intro to DBT (goals, assumptions, ground rules, diary card), Values
	2	Life worth living goals (diary card - target behaviors), States of mind
2 Mindfulness, Distress Tolerance	3	Mindfulness in practice (what, how)
	4	Distressing situation analysis, Crisis survival skills (STOP, urge surfing, TIPP)
3 Distress Tolerance	5	Crisis survival skills (ACCEPTS and self-soothe, IMPROVE)
	6	Reality Acceptance Skills (radical acceptance, turning the mind, practicing willingness and noticing willfulness)
4 Emotion Regulation	7	Understand and name emotions (model of emotions)
	8	Changing emotional responses (Check the facts, Opposite action, Problem solving)
5 Emotion Regulation & Interpersonal Effectiveness	9	Reduce emotional vulnerability and emotion regulation in the long-term (ABC PLEASE)
	10	Dialectics and the middle ground (balancing wants and shoulds); Clarified goals
6 Interpersonal Effectiveness	11	DEAR MAN
	12	GIVE FAST



Jail Reentry Project

DBT Feasibility & Attrition So Far

- $N = 277$ randomized to DBT so far (pre-release only & combined conditions)
- Dose of treatment
 - 52% have completed 6-12 sessions (considered target dose)
 - 35% have completed 1-5 sessions (13% no sessions)
- Reasons for discontinuation before 6 sessions
 - 55% transfer or release from facility
 - 41% voluntary drop out
- Attendance
 - 81% of sessions attended, among those who complete at least 6 sessions



Jail Reentry Project

Post-Release Services: Reentry Planning and Case Work Referrals

- Reentry Planning session before release
- Case management and connection to services by BayCare Behavioral Health case worker following release
- Services:
 - Coaching and support
 - Employment/Occupational Training
 - Childcare
 - Mental health
 - Substance use
 - Housing

Jail Reentry Project

Reentry and Post-Release Services Feasibility and Attrition

- N = 260 participants have been assigned to post-release services
- 79% have participated in at least reentry planning and initial referrals
 - 29% are still active for receiving services
 - So far, only 10% have engaged in post-release services
 - 16% lost contact, 24% in prison or outside the area, 6% decline services

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Three Evaluation Points

Time-Point	Outcome	Results Expected
Pre-Release/Post-Treatment Outcomes (effects of DBT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DBT treatment engagement & skill use• Attitudes toward reentry (relative to baseline)• Coping skills (relative to baseline)• Mental health (relative to baseline)• Jail violence and misconduct	Summer 2024
Post-Release Outcomes (effects of cumulative services; 12 months)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Service seeking & treatment engagement• Social support/employment/housing stability• Risks/needs and strengths (relative to baseline)• Coping skills (relative to baseline/pre-release)• Mental health (relative to baseline/pre-release)• Substance use (relative to baseline)• Aggression (relative to baseline)• 12-Month Recidivism	Fall 2024
Long-Term Follow-Up (36 months)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 36-Month Recidivism• Costs and Savings	Prelim: Fall 2025



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