Office of The Municipal Public Defender

Presentation to Safety, Housing, Education, & Homelessness Committee, February 16, 2022

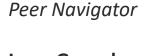


Client Support Team

Denver's Front Door to Procedural Justice

- Launched in February 2021 with a 3year Justice Assistance Grant in partnership with Denver Human Services
- Awarded a 3-year Alternatives to Jail Caring for Denver Grant in September of 2022 to expand project
- Goals: Connect clients to resources, benefits, housing, reentry services, & behavioral health treatment; Improve Case outcomes; & Reduce Recidivism





Rica Rodriguez



Lupe Gonzalez *Bilingual Outreach Case Coordinator*



LeAnn Fickes *Program Manager*





Our Clients

75% are living with trauma, mental health, or substance misuse conditions

50% are experiencing homelessness & more are at-risk of losing housing

Highest users of safety services including jail beds, hospital, police, & fire [1]

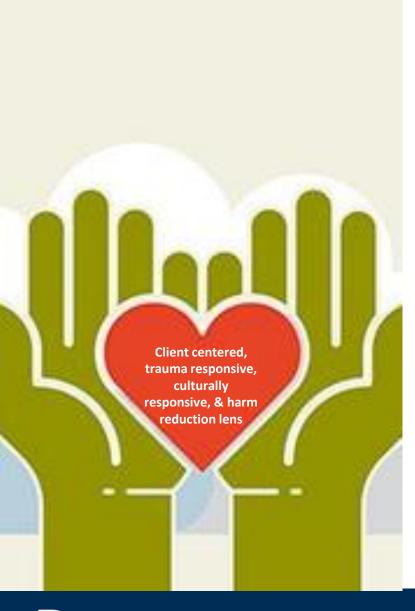
Limited access to behavioral healthcare especially for clients of color [2]



Court Outcomes

- High recidivism and missed court appearances
- Many distrustful of the judicial system and services





How we Help our Clients

- We provide wraparound services, including case management, peer support and navigation, & behavioral health navigation
- We connect clients to community resources, housing and shelter & behavioral health treatment
- We support clients both in the community and in-custody by attending court and community meetings, checking-in, reentry planning, providing mitigation, and more
- We collaborate with City and community partners to coordinate and link clients to care and services
- We educate agency staff and attorneys by coordinating trainings



Year 1: 2021 Impact

Denver's Front Door to Procedural Justice

Recidivism

7% of participants received new Municipal charges after program referral

Court Appearances

Participants appeared for court **93%** of the time

Collaboration

Partnerships created with **20** programs/organizations



261 client referrals



1,500 + client outreaches



10 clients connected to housing 245 housing & shelter referrals



749 resource connections 117 behavioral health referrals



54 clients participated in peer support and navigation

^{*}Recidivism and court appearance rates calculated from a sample of 66 participants



Participant Voices

"Rica, I wanted to send sincerest gratitude for all of the work you have done to help me get back on my feet! I have been accepted for Veteran's Affairs Supportive Housing and I wouldn't have known where to start when I got out of jail if you were not there to support me...The Client Support Team has made a huge impact on my well being as well as the well being of my family."

"Thanks again for all your help with everything up to this point. I'm blessed to have you as a social worker. I never had one before."





2022 & Beyond

Denver's Front Door to Procedural Justice

- Project expansion hiring 2
 additional Peer Navigators and a
 Behavioral Health Navigator
- Continued monitoring and evaluation
- Develop an advisory council with previous participants
- Request City funding to make the Client Support Team a permanent part of the Office



Questions & Comments

Thank you for your time!



References & Appendix

References

- 1. OMPD. (2020). Black Lives Matter: Summary of research on the OMPD and Denver Municipal Court. Retrieved from https://wp-denverite.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2020/08/OMPD.pdf
- 2. Colorado Health Foundation. (2020). Colorado coronavirus survey. Retrieved from https://coloradohealth.org/news/colorado-survey-finds-major-mental-health-impact-coronavirus-outbreak-especially-among-women

Appendix

1. Department of Safety. (2019) High Resource Utilizer Project presentation

