



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
RICHARD J. DALEY CENTER
COOK COUNTY
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602

THOMAS J. DART
SHERIFF

October 28, 2019

Honorable John P. Daley
Chairman, Finance Committee
118 N. Clark Street, Room 567
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Chairman Daley:

Thank you for your recent letter with questions from the League of Women Voters regarding the Sheriff's Office Fiscal Year 2020 budget. Please find our responses below.

1. Which of your detainee programs are most effective and why?

CCDOC offers a broad range of programs; through quantitative and qualitative analyses, including interviews with detainees about their experiences, we believe the Mental Health Transition Center (MHTC), Therapeutic Healing Recovery Initiative for Vitality and Empowerment (THRIVE), Sheriff's Anti-Violence Effort (SAVE) and Recipe for Change are some of the most effective programs.

MHTC started in 2014 to assist detainees by providing mental health and substance treatment, criminal risk reduction and intervention, vocational skills training, and educational services. What is truly unique about this program that has proven to be successful and is now being implemented in other programs is the post-release participant engagement (alumni meetings and follow ups with case workers). The participants have established meaningful relationships with the staff and counselors, so much so that they continue to engage in therapeutic relationships post-release. In a recent graduation ceremony one of the participants talked about how the program helped him to re-establish a relationship with his parents that had been strained due to his behaviors that are related to his mental illness, substance abuse and engagement in the criminal justice system. These qualities are challenging to measure, but it is clear that establishing therapeutic relationships and fostering an environment of trust is a successful component of the program. Data also indicates that MHTC participants are re-booked into the jail at lower rates than a comparison group.

THRIVE offers services to support women who suffer from addiction during their time in jail, addressing the biopsychosocial factors related to addiction and incarceration. This program also encompasses the nurturing relationships between staff and clients that help our women feel safe



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and begin the process of healing and recovery. THRIVE is a unique and successful program because recovery focuses on the entire wellbeing of each woman. Programs offered include substance abuse, domestic violence, parenting, and health and wellness. Women are provided the opportunity to have contact visits with their children, which allows for connection within families. Our data shows that women who enter the program feel better. For example, on measures of depression, anxiety and stress, scores were statistically significantly lower in all areas. This is important because it shows progress in treatment while women are still struggling with their criminal cases and being incarcerated.

The Recipe for Change program provides culinary and nutritional instruction to participants, focusing on self-development and teaches the participants skills that will assist them in developing a self-identity that they are proud of. They also receive tangible resources (such as a Serve Safe food handlers and managers certificate) to help them obtain employment in the food industry when they return to the community.

SAVE offers robust cognitive behavioral therapy for 18-24-year-olds from various Chicago communities, as well as partnerships with community organizations for case management, job training and education, with the goal of decreasing violence in our youth and the community. 76% of the individuals who participate in the post release community component of the program have not been re-booked on a violent case.

2. By what measures do you determine if a program is effective or not?

The Sheriff's Office of Research analyzes jail re-booking rates for participants in many programs (e.g., MHTC, SAVE, THRIVE) using comparison groups generated through a statistical technique called propensity score matching. Because many of our clients are returning to similar (if not the same) conditions that led to their criminal behaviors due to lack of resources and community support, we do not believe that rebooking analyses alone should measure a program's success.

Therefore, we assess our clients on measurements of mood. For example, our THRIVE program uses the Depression Anxiety Stress Scales (DASS 42) assessment at intake and discharge. The differences in scores on all three measures were statistically significant demonstrating improved mood and feelings of well-being. Other programs use the TCU criminal thinking scales.

In terms of operations, our programs measure disciplinary incident engagement. Our data indicates that detainees engaged in programs are less likely to engage in disciplinary incidents, which creates safer environments for detainees in custody as well as our staff.



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3. Does it make sense for the Sheriff to continue to oversee some of those released on Electronic Monitoring (EM), as opposed to having all under a single program under the Chief Judge?

As we discussed last week, given the current jail population and the statutory mandate for the Judiciary to operate Pretrial Services, the Sheriff's Office agrees that the vast majority of electronic home monitoring should be consolidated under the Office of the Chief Judge. If the current Sheriff's Electronic Monitoring program is consolidated with the Chief Judge's Pretrial Services program, the Sheriff's Office would continue to handle fugitive apprehension of EM AWOLs and handle the monitoring of participants in Sheriff's Office step-down programs. I am attaching the correspondence we sent to Chief Judge Evans last month.

Thank you again for your continued support during this year's budget process. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bradley Curry", is written over the typed name.

Bradley Curry
Chief of Staff