# Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office Detention Facility (ACSODF) Programmatic Activity

Current vs. Proposed Phase 1 and 2 of the Campus Master Plan

Current Phase 1 Phase 2

#### **Substance Abuse Programs**

The ACSODF do not have a wide variety of drug and alcohol programs available at the jail due to limited space and scheduling availability. See below for current substance abuse programs offered.

#### **Substance Abuse Programs**

After expansion, additional programs can be established to help inmates struggling with drug & alcohol issues. Although ACSODF has a dedicated substance abuse program through the Jail Based Behavioral Services (JBBS) Program (see below for more specific JBBS information), there are many circumstances where inmates are not able to attend classes due to the length of their sentence or sentence type. Ultimately, providing additional resources and programs related to substance abuse would be available to all inmates within the jail will help reduce recidivism and relapse upon release.

Additional Drug/Alcohol related Programs that could be added, e.g.:

- Drug Abuse & Addiction Education Classes
- Driving Under the Influence (DUI) & Driving While Ability Impaired (DWAI) Classes, which could link with components of existing Multiple Offender Program, such as counseling and resources available via Aurora Mental Health.
- Narcotics Anonymous Meetings
- Alcoholics Anonymous additional material offers a program of recovery for inmates who are the families and friends of alcoholics
- Other Substance Abuse counseling programs

## Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings: 224-336 participants/month

- Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) is an international fellowship of individuals who once had a drinking problem.
- 7 meetings are provided by local volunteers on a weekly basis

Due to housing restrictions, meetings are often only offered to one of six of the housing sections within the pod unit on a rotating schedule. Therefore, even though meetings are offered weekly to each pod, an inmate inside a specific housing area may only be able to attend meetings once every six weeks.

#### JBBS screening: 48 participants/month

This identifies those that have substance abuse and mental health, and motivation for treatment. If the minimum requirements are met, will be referred for full

#### **Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings**

After expansion, additional space could be used for meetings with an AA Sponsor. Establishing this relationship prior to release could provide a better support system to reduce recidivism and relapse, as well as other problem behaviors. These areas could also be used for individual counseling sessions of other drug/alcohol related programs mentioned above.

#### JBBS screening: 96 participants/month

• Screening identifies clients at high risk of being victimized due to their vulnerabilities, thereby increasing inmate safety

JBBS assessment; if minimum requirements for JBBS are not met, issues will addressed or referred to re-entry.

• Staff can provide basic, simple techniques that they can practice that will assist them with coping in general population

#### JBBS group therapy: 768 participants/month

#### JBBS group therapy: 1152 participants/month

- Group therapy helps foster social skills to work with others in a more productive manner; inmates are taught life skills that help reduce impulsivity and stress mediation
- Group setting allows clients to learn through other clients' experiences and use that as motivation to address their mental health and substance abuse issues; foster an environment to help prevent relapse

# JBBS individual session (case mgmt.): 384 participants/month

#### JBBS individual session: 576 participants/month

- During individual sessions, clients increase their stake in societal norms thereby decreasing safety issues
- Staff can develop treatment plans that focus on the underlying reasons that they abuse substances and identify their mental health symptoms

#### **Mental Health Programs**

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Mental Health Programming is currently limited to what is offered to JBBS clients (see above) and mental health services offered via the facility's contract with the medical vendor. This is an area of opportunity to expand mental health programs offered. Future offerings could include group sessions for general population, special populations, "step down", and individual mental health sessions for those who are participating in groups.

- Safety can be better maintained by identifying those that are at higher risk of harming themselves or others, clients are less likely to be impulsive when their concerns have been validated and a treatment plan has been established, and clients engaged in mental health treatment are less of a safety risk to themselves and others
- Increased mental health programming can help identify those inmates that need more intensive treatment while at the facility, thereby impacting the overall mental health needs in the facility. Meeting with a client allows for the development of individualized treatment plans and allows the clinician to provide crisis intervention services, when needed. This can also reduce time spent in isolation, which is a dangerous area for staff and inmates.
- By providing education regarding mental health diagnoses and providing tools to the client, they are able to better understand and appropriately respond to their symptoms. Group settings allow for the realization that they are not alone, encourages emotional development, personal responsibility and leadership skills.

#### **Religious Services**

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These services are scheduled weekly for each pod. Due to housing restrictions, services are often only offered to one of six of the housing sections (dayrooms) within the pod unit on a rotating schedule. Therefore, even though services are offered weekly to each pod, an inmate inside a specific housing area may only be able to attend service once every six weeks. This makes it difficult to estimate how many more inmates could be served, but each of these services has an ongoing list of inmates waiting to attend. See list of religious services available below.

Increasing the number of religious services in jail can be an effective tool for reducing criminal behavior outside of jail and reducing recidivism. Additionally, in the Journal of Offender Rehabilitation, a study showed that religious involvement in jail decreases the total number of inmates with infractions while in jail, which translates into a safer environment for both inmates and staff. This will also provide additional opportunity to provide a more equal opportunity for religious services for all inmates. According to a study published in Psychiatric Quarterly, when religion and spirituality is used as a coping resource for facing stressful life situations, it is associated with lower frequency and severity of depressive episodes. After expansion, additional space could be used to increase the number of religious services offered and increase the total amount of inmates that are able to attend services.

Additional religious services from other world religions could also be added, e.g.:

- Jewish Services
- Islamic Services
- Hindu Services
- Buddhist Services
- Other Minority Faith Groups

#### Chaplain Services: 200-280 participants/month

• 7 religious services provided weekly by the full-time Chaplain

- Communion services provided by Chaplain on monthly basis
- The Chaplain provides one-on-one religious counseling to inmates by request

#### Catholic Services: 140-280 participants/month

- 7 Catholic services provided by local volunteers on a weekly basis
- Catholic communion services are provided on monthly basis
- Catholic confession offered monthly by a priest

#### Gideon's Services: 40 participants/month

 2 Evangelical services provided by local volunteers on a weekly basis

#### House of Joy Services: 24-40 participants/month

• 3 Pentecostal services provided by local volunteers on a weekly basis

### Jehovah's Witness Services: 120-196 participants/month

 6 Jehovah's Witness services provided by local volunteers on a weekly basis

#### Open Bible Study: 60 participants/month

 3 Christian services provided by local volunteers on a weekly basis

#### Prison Fellowship: 120-168 participants/month

• 6 Christian services provided by local Prison Fellowship volunteers on a weekly basis

#### **Professional Clergy Visitation**

An inmate may request to visit with his or her own clergy member for religious counseling. Professional clergy members usually meet with inmates in the attorney visitation area (if available), however if the attorney visitation area is in use, there is limited space for these private meetings to take place.

#### **Education & Life Skills Classes**

See below for current education classes

Additional religious programs that could be added:

- Religious Mentorships could be offered to assist with inmate reentry back into society. With additional space and resources, Volunteer Mentors could meet with inmates prior to release and provide continuity of religious guidance when an inmate reenters society.
- A Religious Library could provide additional reading materials outside of the materials offered through the facility Library and the religious texts offered to inmates. This could provide a wider range of religious self-help/education books available to the inmates and digital religious resources.
- Streaming of Religious Services. The "Multi-Purpose Rooms" available inside each one of the housing sections would have the capability of streaming religious services from various organizations. This is beneficial because it lessens the need for volunteers to go down to each pod and overall creates a safer environment. Not only could religious sermons be streamed from outside organizations, but current volunteers could record and stream their services from a central location within the jail so that their service is offered simultaneously to all pods and housing areas. This would help serve minority faith groups in particular, where numbers of available volunteers impact the level of service we can provide.
- Prayer or Meditation areas can be established within the Jail. These rooms would provide safe areas within the jail for individual inmate religious practices without hindering other services or Programs. Having these areas available would help support better mental health for inmates.

#### **Professional Clergy Visitation**

After an expansion, there will be a number of added professional visitation areas added for each pod unit. This will ensure that the inmates will be able to visit with their Professional clergy members.

#### **Education & Life Skills Classes**

After expansion, increased classroom areas could be utilized to offer additional classes. Preparation for life outside of the jail is essential to reduce recidivism and provide a better quality of life for the inmate upon release, and has a positive impact on mental health.

Additional education & life skill related programs that could be added, e.g.:

- Pre-Release & Reintegration Program
- Life Skills Classes, such as Parenting classes
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) a therapeutic treatment to improve mental health by establishing effective coping skills, understanding how an individual's feelings influence their behaviors, and changing obstructive

## GED Classes: 192 participants/month

- GED Education is provided by Arapahoe County's full-time Inmate Educator. When the inmates are appropriately prepared for testing, Arapahoe County provides a certificate for off-site GED testing, with no cost to the inmate.
- Inmates work on reading, writing, and math skills using a 10-station computer lab. Inmates may also receive individual tutoring from volunteers who assist inmates during education class. Learning materials are also available to those who do not speak English as a first language.
- 8 GED classes are scheduled per week in a centralized GED Classroom. Inmates must be escorted by a deputy to and from their housing area to the classroom. There have been circumstances where deputies are not easily available to do this, and a delay is created. Classes are held where inmates from multiple pods will have to attend a single class. Staff must review inmates to ensure that there are no housing restrictions and no enemies within the same class. There is an ongoing waiting list for this service.

#### Health Education Classes: 40-60 participants/month

- Sexual Health information classes (taught by a registered public health nurse) are provided to the female inmates to offer comprehensive education on birth control, sexually transmitted infections and prevention, availability of resources, and access to care upon their release.
- These classes are scheduled every 3 weeks for the

behaviors/thoughts.

- Empathy Classes- leading research is showing that teaching the concept of empathy has significant impact on recidivism as well as behavior in custody.
- Establishing recreational & leisure-time activities Inmates that have specific interests and hobbies upon leaving the facility are less likely to reoffend. Helping inmates find productive leisure-time activities can help reduce stress and improve their mental health. Examples may include yoga, meditation, and writing. This can also link with wellness in Health Education classes.
- Career Related Classes Helping inmates gain employment upon release can reduce recidivism and provide better mental health. Examples may include resume writing, job search & retention classes, mock job fairs, and practice interview skills.
- Financial Classes Helping inmates have a better understanding of financing will reduce future offending behaviors and reduce recidivism. Examples may include budgeting/money management, and credit recovery.

#### **GED Classes**

After expansion, increased classroom areas could be utilized to offer additional eucation classes. Additional classrooms will increase availability and eliminate the need for inmates from differing housing areas to attend the same class. This will increase safety/security of the facility with less inmate movement, lessen issues with housing restrictions or enemies within the same class, and decrease the need for deputies to escort inmates.

A specific classroom could be established for "English as a Second Language" classes where non-English speaking inmates can receive a more personalized education experience, using technology as needed to assist. Conversely, inmates could learn other languages that may be a benefit to them as they search for employment and reintegrate into the community.

Additional Education related Programs that could be added, e.g.:

- Adult continuing education
- Computer skills
- College Readiness Workshops

#### **Health Education Classes**

After expansion, increased classroom areas could be utilized to offer additional Sexual Health Education classes. Classes could also be offered to the male population.

Additional Health related Programs that could be added, e.g.:

- Chronic Care Education- HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, Diabetes, etc.
- Men's Health Education learning about important health topics for men, like prostate awareness and testicular cancer

female housing unit. Classes are offered to all dayrooms as long as there are no housing restrictions or enemy conflicts.

#### Domestic Violence Education: 300 participants/month

- Domestic violence classes help inmates understand the cycle of violence, cognitive distortions, and surface triggers that lead to violence. Additionally, inmates learn the role that alcohol and drugs play in domestic violence.
- These classes are scheduled once a week to all male housing areas, and are 8 weeks long. Inmates must be escorted by a deputy to and from their housing area to the classroom. There have been circumstances where deputies are not easily available to do this and a delay is created. Staff must review inmates to ensure that there are no housing restrictions and no enemies within the same class.
- There is a substantial waiting list of 40-60 inmates at any time for this class.

#### Re-entry Programs

#### Re-entry services: 224 participants/month

These services link with community resources to include housing, employment, mental health, substance abuse. This service provides group and individual sessions.

#### Veteran specific services and housing

There is currently no veteran specific housing. If an arrestee identifies as current or former military on booking documents, they are referred to the Veterans' Affairs representative for further resources. Current programming allows the VA rep to meet with some inmates on an individual basis but is limited by space and schedule constraints; future programming would include group and individual sessions.

- Women's Health Education learning about important health topics for women like breast health and menstrual hygiene
- Healthy Eating Education
- Other general health & wellness education, including timely information about regional disease outbreaks

#### **Domestic Violence Education**

After expansion, increased classroom areas could be utilized to offer additional domestic violence education classes. Furthermore, with the option to record classes and stream videos directly to the Multi-Purpose Rooms inside each one of the housing areas, classes would be more readily available to all inmates with fewer constraints due to housing restrictions or enemies from other Pods. This will make the class more available to inmates, decrease the need for deputies to escort inmates, and substantially reduce the waiting list.

Additional related Programs that could be added, e.g.:

- Domestic Violence Classes for Female Offenders
- Victim Assistance & Education For Victims of Domestic Violence or Related Crimes. Classes to help inmates recognize what trauma and abuse is, and how they can help themselves get out of abusive situations
- Healthy Relationships Classes
- Victim Impact Classes
- Anger Management Classes
- Other Educational Classes meant to reduce violence, such as Empathy

#### **Re-entry Programs**

#### Re-entry: 1446 participants/month

We could offer 24/7 staffing in Phase 1 which allow the clients to meet with the re-entry staff member during the book in or release process; additionally classes will be offered to the client on a daily basis for more general questions.

- Safety increases due to the client being focused on resources that benefit them as opposed to being distracted by stereotypical jailhouse politics.
- Mental health/ substance abuse: links the clients with community resources upon release. Studies have shown that this leads to decrease recidivism; helps to ease their transition back into the community since resources are already in place with the goal being that the client has appointments scheduled upon release.

#### Veteran specific services and housing

- Veterans housing will allow the VA rep to be more efficient, decrease movement in the facility, and will allow for enhanced services in the housing unit.
- By having mental health/ substance abuse classes in jail, many of the barriers that veterans experience in the community will be greatly diminished, i.e. wait time to receive services, personal embarrassment/ stigma associated with mental illness, etc.