

# The John Howard Society of Toronto:

All About the Reintegration Centre

January 8th 2015

DT-HSJCC



# Who We Are and What We Do

Mission Statement: Making our community safer by supporting the rehabilitation and re-integration of those who have been in conflict with the law.

The John Howard Society of Toronto is a non-profit organization committed to providing and developing programs that reduce the social, economic and personal cost of crime

# JHS-T: 3 Types of Services and Programs



- Alternatives to prison/  
Crime Prevention
- In-reach to prisons
- **Post-release strategies  
and services**



# Alternative/Crime Prevention

- Justice on Target (2201 and 1000 Finch, ASAP)
- Partner Assault Response/ CRP-High Risk In-Reach at E.D.C.
- Toronto Drug Court Transitional Housing
- Committee, coalition, community involvement, advocacy and research

# In-Reach to Prisons

- Institutional Services (group and individual)
- Native Inmate Liaison Officers
- Substance Use and Housing Services
- Discharge planning (when possible)
- Volunteers/ Mailbag program
- Freeing the Human Spirit

# Post-Release Strategies and Services

- Substance use/Relapse Prevention- harm reduction
- Intake and Case Management
- Pre-Employment (STEAM and FECR)
- Record Suspension (Pardons)
- Anger Management
- **Housing- FTF, PIHS, TDTC**
- **Etobicoke Reintegration Centre**

# Why do we need Reintegration Centre?



# Toronto South Detention Centre:

- 160 Horner Ave. -Opened January 27, 2014
- \$594 million to build
- Capacity for 1,620 male inmates-replace older local jails (closed or decommissioned) deal with future capacity needs (adult provincial correctional system)
- First jail in Ontario to use pre-fabricated modular cells.
- Built in Atlanta, Georgia -shipped by rail car-equipped with its own plumbing, windows, doors, and wiring.
- Limited visitation (CCTV, few interview rooms)



- Those sentenced to 90 days or more - LSI OR assessment and moved elsewhere- currently after 11 days
- **210 new admissions a week**
- **180 releases a week (this does not include returns from court who are discharged from the site later that day or from onsite at bail).**
- **Average age -34 yrs old, 20% will be older than 21 yrs old**
- Predicted average stay for remanded inmates at TSDC is 30 days
- Built to maximum security specifications but can house all level of inmates.

# The Reintegration Centre



# Main Objectives

- Afford better access by releasees to services and programs as indicated by need
- Respond to immediate needs
- Reduce high-risk behaviours and/or accidental drug overdoses causing death
- Improve the flow between services (inside/outside)
- Provide hope, positive role models, and support (PWLE)
- Increase community safety
- Decrease recidivism

# Soft Opening - Reintegration Centre

- Six partner organizations
- Space: Two floors
- Personnel:
  - RC Coordinator
  - Housing worker (PIHS)
  - Intake/Reception
  - 3 P/T Peers
  - Staff representative/s from each organization
- TJSC Release have begun walking through the door
- Currently developing a collective service delivery and referral process



## About RC space

- Conduct short needs assessment to provide appropriate “Warm” referrals (internal/external) in private intake rooms
- Provide HR education and support Provide community accompaniment for releasees to referral points (peers)
- Establish phone/computer equipped resource area for releasees to use while waiting to meet with a Centre Intake Worker.
- Afford separate waiting/resource area for family members and loved ones
- Transportation assistance
- Clothing, food etc.

# The Evaluation Committee

- To build on success and re-adjust practices as needed (No other projects like this have been found in the existing body of literature and certainly not within a Canadian context)
- Array of participants- mostly academics, hope to include PWLE
- Established role and goals
- Publications and reports
- Dissemination including media
- **Leverage for sustainable funding**
- Transferable to other contexts
- Literature review, REB approval, data collection (intake forms), analysis etc..
- U of T School of Health application



**“Fighting crime by building more jails is  
like fighting cancer by building more  
cemeteries”.**

**- Paul Kelly, Little Rock, Arkansas, 1997**

*(Source: Paul Kelly, elected City Director, helped defeat a "jail tax," a permanent sales tax increase to expand the county jail. "Fighting crime by building more jails is like fighting cancer by building more cemeteries." Kelly and state Rep Michael Booker, also of the New Party, argued that drug prevention and treatment, not the construction of more jail cells, was the proper way to fight crime)*

<http://www.populist.com/97.12.dispatches.html>

# Thank you!

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