

r

by Josephat Kamuyu

Submission date: 30-Oct-2020 06:01PM (UTC+0300)

Submission ID: 1431275812

File name: criminal_justice_reform_path.edited.docx (23.38K)

Word count: 1274

Character count: 7378

Criminal Justice Reform Path

Name

Institution

Course

Instructor

Date

Criminal Justice Reform Path

The incarceration of drug and substance-abusing men with mental and behavioral diagnoses in the state of Texas, Bexar County is significant. Majority of individuals being subjected to jails and prisons due to being involved in drug abuse are many, however, the issue has resulted in increased populations in jails hence increased cost. Nevertheless, the citizens of Texas are the ones being exploited as they will have to provide finances through taxes to cater to food and other needs to these men while in jail. This leads to reducing development programs and increased cost of employing more prison guards to deal with the rapid population increase in prisons. To reduce the costs Bexar County has implemented a diversion program that will take these men to treatment rather than in prisons. Hence, this paper will focus on the transactional costs related to the incarcerated men abusing drugs and substances with mental and behavioral diagnoses.

The United States has experienced the problem of increased cost due to the population increase in prisons brought about by the incarceration of drug and substance-abusing men with mental and behavioral diagnoses. Therefore, since many men are imprisoned with such actions, it causes the criminal justice system to undergo more cost in taking care of them while confined. According to Justice (2000), nearly 560,000 individuals were getting treatment due to mental disorders in state healthcare facilities in 1995. However, currently, less than 55000 individuals are treated in mental hospitals (Hnatow, 2015). For that reason, the process of reducing the rate of individuals being treated with mental illness has led to an overload of emergency departments and jails. Moreover, these men are frequently cycled within the criminal justice system because, according to utexas.edu (n.d), at least over 2.6 million mentally ill and substance abuse

individuals are incarcerated in prisons and jails. Surprisingly, people diagnosed with mental disorders are incarcerated due to nonaggressive and victimless delinquencies.

Also, anticipation, therapeutic services and sustenance assist individuals to recover from mental and drug use. Developing strategies that will help change these men to evade drug abuse and mental behaviors will be substantial in reuniting them with their families as well as enhance the health and affluence of Bexar County and the nation in general. Furthermore, people and their families are overwhelmed with the problem of staying with mental disorders and drug abuse. For example, in the year 2017, it was estimated that 18.7 million and 46.6 million grownups were suffering from drug abuse and mental behavior diagnoses respectively (Samhsa.gov, 2018). However, among the total number of individuals 8.5 million of them were associated with mental behaviors and drug abuse. Regrettably, most of the individuals who are diagnosed with mental behaviors do not attain the required treatment, nevertheless, only forty-three percent of them get therapeutic services. In addition, among the 43 percent who get therapeutic service only eight percent have the opportunity to obtain specialty treatment, however, at Bexar County, they are determined to change the situation and increase the number of adults getting treatment.

According to Hnatow (2015), at least 40 percent of men with mental disease are associated with law enforcement. Moreover, the same source added that nationally about sixteen percent of individuals are incarcerated for crimes linked to cognitive impedance, illness, or substance abuse. The increase in the number of adults being incarcerated due to mental diseases and substance abuse has resulted in congestion in prisons and increased transaction costs. For instance, in 2014, Texas prison stated that they spend 54.89 dollars a day for a single adult. Similarly, parole individuals spend 4.04 dollars, while those in community supervision spend

3.20 dollars within a day (utexas.edu, n.d). However, the cost stated above does not include those under medication because it was noted that those who require medical care spend around ninety-six to one hundred and four dollars within a day, and those in psychiatric correction institutions spend at least 145 dollars (utexas.edu, n.d). The increased use of the conditions may result in increased cost and this becomes a huge load to the government and Bexar County residents as they will require to utilize the development funds into taking care of the individuals in incarceration.

Bexar County has worked towards developing its organizations and reducing the number of men being incarcerated due to mental behavior disorders and drug and substance abuse. Due to the intensification of adults incarcerated due to mental diseases and substance abuse behaviors, resulting in increased cost in prisons and jails. The development of ¹the Bexar County Jail Diversion Program will aid in the reorganization of the process of prison diversion to decrease the rate of individuals being incarcerated due to mental diseases or drug and substance abuse (Hnatow, 2015). Again, the intervention has been created to lessen the unsuitable utilization of the emergency department to the mentally retarded and substance abuse behavior individuals. Despite jails being established to deal and control individuals who perform criminal offenses as they wait for judgment, they have been castoff to comprehend and regulate the homeless and mentally ill individuals.

Mental health behaviors and drug and substance abuse have significant effects on the community. Therefore, as a county, they need to work on establishing programs and plans that will prevent and treat these problems. The issue of mental disease is a problem of the community, and therefore, they need to develop community-based solutions. However, several communities have established programs on finding methods of getting nonaggressive criminals

out of prison and help them get away to live. If the situation is left unchecked and unaddressed then it may cause substantial social, individuals and economic costs. Furthermore, the purpose of addressing the problem is also to decrease the effects of drug abuse and mental behaviors on Bexar county communities (Samhsa.gov, 2018). Also, the county will manage this through providing the required resources and management such as establishing policies and programs required to reduce the drug and substance use and mental behavior diagnoses through inhibition, therapeutic and recovery to enhance individuals and community health.

Additionally, having such programs in existence and working together with the government will help reduce cost, develop better services to individuals with mental diseases as well as reduce the imprisonment rates (Hnatow, 2015). Nevertheless, the process of changing individuals from incarceration to suitable members of society is not an easy thing; thus, the Bexar County Jail Diversion Program developed different stages that will help them create a diversion. The first stage required them to avert the adults from the criminal justice system before being detained by either screening for mental sickness or providing treatment options. The next step is realizing the mentally disabled individuals in jail and follow up on their release to joining treatment institutions. Lastly, it is offering necessary mental care and support services to the individuals.

In summation, Bexar County has utilized a significant amount to cater for incarcerated drug and substance-abusing men with mental behavior diagnosis. Thus, while the problem has been a burden as the majority of them are associated with law enforcement, they have developed the diversion program that will help reduce the number of men being taken into jails and divert them to treatment. This will enable a reduction in transactional cost and enhance both individuals and community health.

References

Hnatow, D. (2015). Working with law enforcement to provide health care for the acute mentally ill. *Psychiatric Times*, 32(11), 11-11.

Justice, C. (2000). Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Samhsa.gov. (2018). Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration.

<https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/samhsa-fy-2020-congressional-justification.pdf>

Utexas.edu. (n.d). Texas Department of Criminal Justice and Local Criminal Justice Agencies.

Hogg Foundation for Mental Health. <https://hogg.utexas.edu/public-behavioral-health-services-in-texas/texas-department-of-criminal-justice-and-local-criminal-justice-agencies>

ORIGINALITY REPORT

1%

SIMILARITY INDEX

1%

INTERNET SOURCES

0%

PUBLICATIONS

0%

STUDENT PAPERS

PRIMARY SOURCES

1

www.psychiatrictimes.com

Internet Source

1%

2

Submitted to Texas A&M International University

Student Paper

<1%

Exclude quotes Off

Exclude bibliography On

Exclude matches Off