

# Progress Report:

## Court to Community Treatment Program



Mental Health Center of Denver

Enriching Lives and Minds

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*MHCD Case Manager Michael Prejean, B.S. CACII works with C2C consumers at MHCD's Capitol Hill Clinic at Humboldt. He credits the direct collaboration with Denver's criminal justice system and flexibility in treating consumers as individuals for the program's success.*

When you first meet Matt, a soft-spoken young man in his mid-twenties with a gentle demeanor, it is hard to believe that he has been arrested close to 100 times for violations like trespassing and being uncoopera-

tive with police. Once he entered MHCD's Court to Community Program (C2C), Matt's life started down a different path.

MHCD and the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless partnered 18 months ago with the Denver Crime Prevention and Control Commission and the Denver court system to create Court to Community, targeted at individuals with mental illness and a history of repeated violations of city ordinances, like trespassing. The initial goal of the grant-funded program was to decrease jail time and court appearances by 25 percent. **Remarkably, in just a year-and-a-half, the program has been so successful that results show a reduction in jail recidivism by 80 percent.**

Matt, who has Bipolar Disorder and a

history of substance abuse, was living on the streets when he first became involved with MHCD eight years ago, according to his case manager Michael Prejean. Prejean, one of two MHCD clinicians who work with the 24 C2C consumers at MHCD's Capitol Hill Clinic at Humboldt, entered Matt into the program in the hopes of helping him break his cycle of arrests. A little more than a year later, Matt has not been arrested or jailed, and he now lives in an apartment and manages his own finances.

By court order, C2C connects consumers to mental health treatment and medication, substance abuse services, and housing and social support assistance, leading to significant progress for the majority of the program's 41 total participants, according to MHCD Program Manager J. Eric Smith. "It's the immediate connection to needed services that makes the difference," he says.

C2C's unique approach closes treatment gaps and provides the most appropriate services for consumers, according to James Ginsburg, Director of Substance Treatment Services/ Housing First, who heads up the program for the Coalition. "This program is ultimately about providing the proper care for people who are not really criminals," explains Ginsburg. "They are people who are caught up in the expensive cycle of jail and court."

For consumers like Matt, who calls C2C "a step in the lifelong road to recovery," C2C requires personal effort and commitment. "Court to Community is a program that builds

### **Total of 41 Court to Community Consumers:**

- 70% Male
- 30% Female
- Ages 19 to 69 Years Old

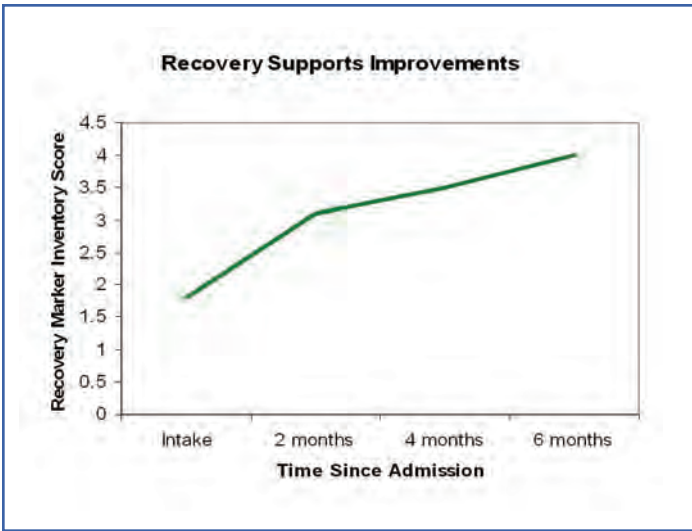
### **After 18 months:**

- 2/3 Have Not Been Re-Arrested
- 80% Reduction in Jail Time
- \$104,790 Savings to Taxpayers

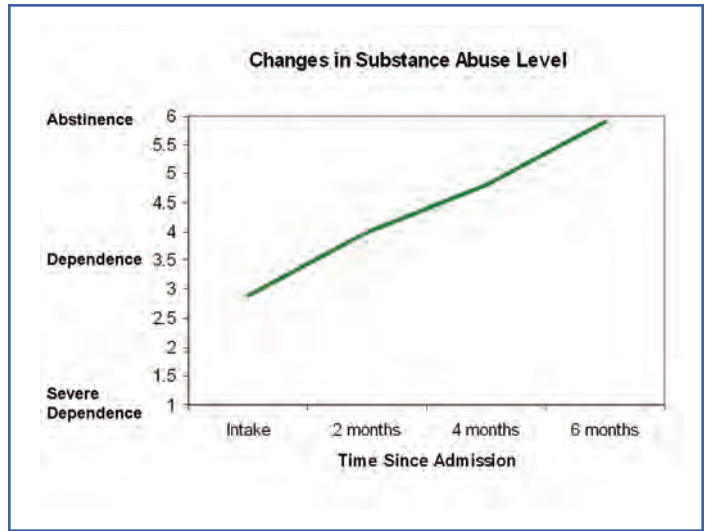
on people's strengths," says Matt, "but you have to contribute. No one is entitled. You have to understand what you can do with your strengths."

There is definitely no sense of entitlement for Matt, a young man who has worked hard to take advantage of the opportunities C2C offers him. "I am grateful for this program and for all of the people who have helped and contributed to MHCD to make this program happen," he says. "I can now look at the different directions in life available to me."

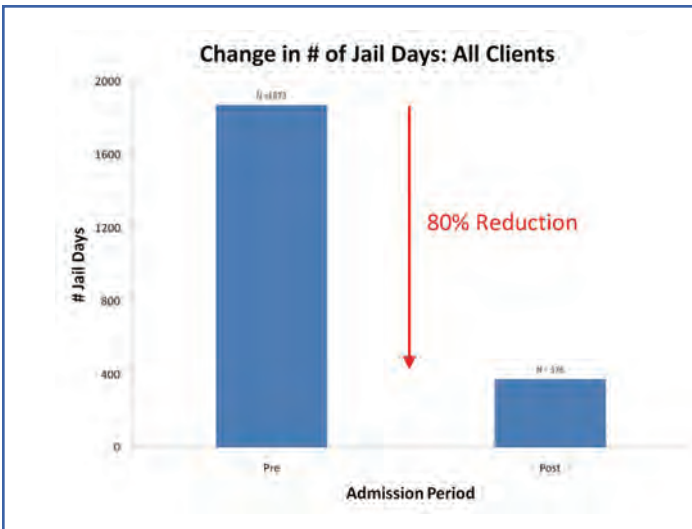
Court to Community is partially funded through grants from the Colorado Health Foundation and Denver's Crime Prevention and Control Commission.



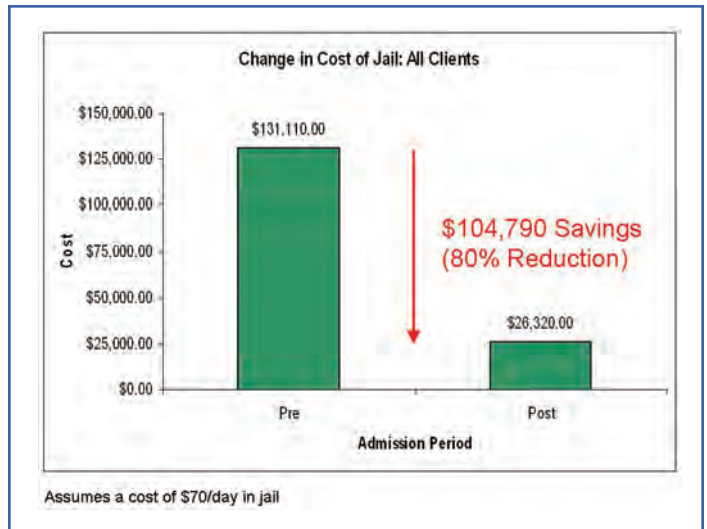
Average change in the Recovery Marker Inventory (RMI) score over the 6 months after admission to the C2C program. Increases in the RMI score indicate improvement in the consumers Recovery Supports.



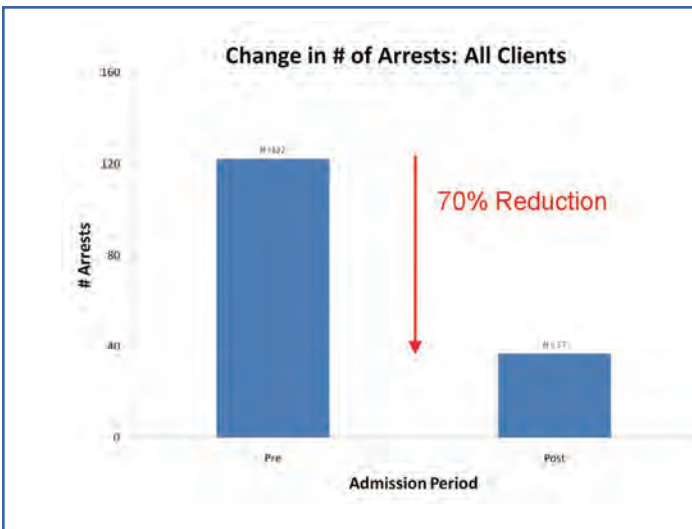
Average change in the level of substance abuse over the 6 months after admission to the C2C program. Increases in the score indicates decreasing dependence on commonly abused substances.



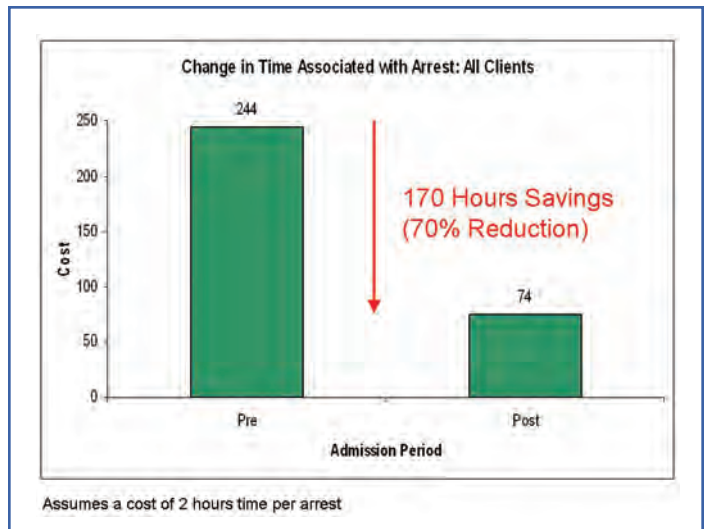
Total number of days served in jail among all consumers during the year prior to admission to the C2C program versus one year after admission.



Estimated cost of days served in jail among all consumers during the year prior to admission to the C2C program versus one year after admission. Cost was based upon estimate of \$70/jail day.



Total number of arrests among all consumers during the year prior to admission to the C2C program versus one year after admission.



Estimated cost of arrests, in terms of officer hours consumed, among all consumers during the year prior to admission to the C2C program versus one year after admission. Cost was based upon estimate of 2 hours/arrest.