Dependency Advocacy Center’s Corridor Program

Breaking the Cycle of Child Welfare and Criminal Justice System Involvement
Presentation Overview

Origin of the Program

What is Corridor?
- Interdisciplinary Team
- Program Model
- Outcomes and Objectives

Corridor Case Studies: Open and Prevention clients

Data and Evaluation

Milestones and Lessons Learned
Origin of the Program
Strengthening the system of care for children and families impacted by incarceration

Overarching Goals of the Initiative:

• Ensure children of arrested or incarcerated parents are healthy, thriving, and living in safe and nurturing families
• Ensure arrested or incarcerated parents have access to resources that strengthen their capacity to raise healthy, thriving children
• Reduce incarceration and recidivism of parents in Santa Clara County
• Break the generational cycle of involvement in multiple systems (criminal justice, child welfare)

Three Workgroups: Booking, Incarcerated Parents, Formal Probationers
### Racial/Ethnic Disproportionality and Population in Santa Clara County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Santa Clara Population (age 0-21)</th>
<th>Children in Foster Care</th>
<th>Adult Probation Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>38.1%</td>
<td>70.0%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>25.8%</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>33.8%</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>.2%</td>
<td>.3%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistics from Department of Family and Children Services training on Santa Clara County Child and Family Practice Model (CFPM) and Safety-Organized Practice Tools, July 25, 2017.

Children in Foster Care figures reflect 2016-2017 Fiscal Year.
A closer look
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Substance Abuse</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional Factors</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Orientation</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abuse/Neglect &amp; Trauma</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isolated/Situational</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Presenting problems in child welfare petitions – Santa Clara County

82% of all cases involve substance abuse, domestic violence, and/or mental health of one or more parents.

Data taken from all child welfare petitions filed between January-September 2018. (N=316 children)
Corridor Program
The Problem

Too often families feel trapped between the criminal justice and child welfare systems.

Parents on formal probation are at risk of child welfare system intervention.

The removal of a child from a parent is a traumatic experience for both the parent and the child.
Empowering parents on formal probation to keep their families together, strengthen community supports, and reduce involvement with child welfare and criminal court systems.
## Our Clients:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prevention Cases</th>
<th>Open Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• No current DFCS involvement</td>
<td>• Open dependency court case</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Informal DFCS involvement</td>
<td>• Formal Probation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Formal Probation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Target Population for Prevention Cases:

1. Custodial parent
2. Formal probation in Santa Clara County
3. Child under 6 years old (may be pregnant or expecting)
4. High risk of system involvement
5. Willingness and ability to engage
Target Population for Open Cases:

1. Open Dependency Court case
2. Formal probation in Santa Clara County
3. Willingness to engage
4. Ability to reunify
Components of Corridor Model

Assessment and Case Planning

Interdisciplinary Team Support

Court Support

Community Connection
Assessment and Case Planning

- Assess client needs and co-create action plan based on intake, self-sufficiency matrix, and risk assessment tools.
- Identify skills needed to stay out of dependency and criminal court systems.
- Provide linkages to resources for clients in immediate need.
Interdisciplinary Corridor Team

- Attorney
- Social Worker
- Mentor Parent
What does interdisciplinary team support look like?

**Attorney – Legal support (min 1x per month)**
- Provide legal consultation and support
- Ensure client understands probation requirements and how to remain in compliance
- Zealous dependency case legal representation (for open cases)

**Social Worker – Face to face contact (min 1 hour per month)**
- Provide emotional and behavioral support
- Skill building based on action plan and assessment
- Linkage to community resources
- Attend CFT meetings and interface with county social worker

**Mentor Parent – One on one contact (min 30 minutes per week)**
- Provide education, advocacy, and emotional peer support
- Skill building based on case plan (e.g. relapse prevention, time management, etc.)

All cases are staffed by the team each week to coordinate support for Corridor clients.
Court support by any team member

Attend criminal court hearings and advocate on the parent’s behalf if appropriate.

For open dependency cases:

Attend all Dependency Wellness Court hearings and staffings, statutory review hearings, and criminal court proceedings.

Corridor social worker or mentor parent will attend Child and Family Team meetings, TDMs, and other collaborative meetings.
Community connection by any team member (min 1x per month)

Provide community connection and support through intentional integration into the client’s community to reinforce skill building and self-sufficiency.
Prevention Outcomes

Short Term

Client understands risk of DFCS involvement.

Client understands terms of probation and how to be successful.

Client understands how to plan for their safety and prevent relapse.

Increased engagement with peer supports.

Intermediate

On track to complete probation.

Increased engagement with community.

No 300 Petition filed.

Increased life and coping skills.

Long Term

Completed probation/on track.

No DFCS/Probation involvement.

No substantiated CPS referrals.

Increased resiliency.
Open Case Outcomes

Short Term

Inspire hope.
Understand court process and case plan.
Understand terms of probation and how to be successful.
Increased engagement with peer supports.

Intermediate

On track to complete probation.
Reunified/on track or on track for dismissal.
Increased life/coping skills.
Increased engagement with community.

Long Term

Completed probation/on track.
No DFCS/Probation involvement.
No substantiated CPS referrals.
Increased resiliency.
Corridor Case Studies
Early Data and Outcomes
- Recidivism
- Child welfare entry/reentry
Convictions
Santa Clara County General Population
Adult Probation

- Percentage: 29%
- Population: 1,270

- Percentage: 71%
- Population: 3,163

Convictions
Corridor Program Population

- Percentage: 15%
- Population: 14

- Percentage: 85%
- Population: 88
Convictions
Open Court Cases and Closed Court Cases with no After Care

Percentage: 25%
Population: 14

Percentage: 75%
Population: 38
Convictions
Prevention Cases and
Closed Court Cases with Aftercare

Percentage: 2%
Population: 1

Percentage: 98%
Population: 42
Child welfare involvement in Corridor

In the last 18 months, 9 babies were born to Corridor open or prevention clients. 8 were born without drugs in their system and all 8 remain with their parent or parents.

The Department (DFCS) intervened in 5 Corridor prevention cases and 1 became an open dependency case. Voluntary services (or no action) by DFCS on the remaining 4 cases.

Corridor was involved in 3 open court cases that were dismissed either before jurisdiction was taken or immediately thereafter.
“In addition, the Corridor Program appears to be effective in helping clients address challenges in multiple life domains that intersect with risk for child welfare and potential risk for recidivism in probation. Some of the critical supports documented in both self-sufficiency measures and analysis of case file data included help with accessing support for substance abuse problems (e.g., treatment services, self-help meetings, building sober-support networks), stability in housing, and addressing domestic violence.

- Corridor Program Project Evaluation, San Jose State School of Social Work

| Table 1: Changes in scores on the Self Sufficiency Matrix (SSM) among Corridor participants with open-cases in child welfare based on a 5-point scale from 1 (in-crisis) to 5 (thriving). |
|-------------------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|--------|
| **Self Sufficiency Domains**  | **Number**    | **Baseline Scores Mean (SD)** | **Interim scores (3+ months) Mean (SD)** | **p-value** |
| Housing                       | 29            | 2.24 (.988)        | 2.79 (.978)       | .012   |
| Employment                    | 27            | 1.85 (1.06)         | 2.07 (.997)       | <.001  |
| Mobility (transportation)     | 27            | 2.63 (1.08)         | 3.19 (.879)       | .002   |
| Life Skills                   | 29            | 3.10 (.817)         | 3.48 (1.02)       | <.001  |
| Community Involvement         | 28            | 2.21 (1.07)         | 3.36 (1.42)       | .020   |
| Parenting Skill               | 29            | 2.38 (1.15)         | 3.38 (1.24)       | <.001  |
| Legal (Dependency)            | 34            | 2.5 (1.24)          | 3.029 (1.19)      | .067   |
| Legal (Probation/Other)       | 33            | 2.52 (.566)         | 2.79 (.696)       | .010   |
| Substance Abuse               | 27            | 3.037 (1.26)        | 4.11 (1.25)       | <.001  |
Funding and Implementation

Logic Model Creation

Collaboration with San Jose State University: Evaluation and Social Worker Interns

Development of Assessment Tools

Incorporation of Evidence-Based Practices
Lessons learned
“Corridor helped me believe in myself and have belief that I could be a better mother. Working with the Corridor Program is a benefit to my entire life. It helped me stay sober. Gave me advice on how to stay in recovery. And ultimately showed me how to live today. Without the Corridor Program I would not have been able to get my son back, keep my daughter, or achieve my goals! Thank you Corridor Program.”

- C.H.
CORRIDOR OPEN AND AFTERCARE CLIENT
Questions?

Ask the Corridor team:

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- Antoinette Manuel, MSW – Social Worker
- Rosalio Chavoya – Mentor Parent
- Victoria Ruiz – Mentor Parent
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