



LOUISVILLE METRO DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS FAMILIAR FACES DISCHARGE PLANNING

Louisville Metro Department of Corrections (LMDC) books approximately 37,000 inmates annually; that is an average of 100 bookings and releases per day (LMDC Fact Sheet data from 2014). As a result, many people are released into homelessness. These people face significant barriers as they re-enter society, and without supportive services, may cycle between jail and homelessness. This costs criminal justice systems and communities large amounts of money and resources. Communities must find ways to break connections between the inmate and the jail while establishing connections between the person and the community to reduce recidivist outcomes.

The moment of release represents a critical point in time that can make or break an inmate's successful reintegration into society. The benefits of conducting discharge planning from custody are:

- *Linkage to appropriate next step resources based on needs; reduces reverting to methods of survival that often are self-destructive*
- *Prevent vulnerable populations from returning to homelessness*
- *Investment in outcome that every life has some human potential to be a productive member of society*
- *Maintain gains achieved during the course of incarceration (medical stabilization, completed detoxification, substance abuse education/treatment, etc.)*

By recognizing the importance of the above, LMDC has committed to a successful discharge planning process for inmates that are the most vulnerable and require additional assistance in meeting basic needs. Discharge planning includes the following elements of basic necessities: clean and seasonally-appropriate clothing, medication, public transportation/bus tickets, shelter/housing, resource handbooks, backpacks, clean socks/underwear, hygiene items, Medicaid enrollment, SSI/SSDI enrollment, etc. Ensuring a continuum of care from LMDC to the community is also a critical component to the health and wellbeing of the exiting inmate and the community to which they return. As such, it is critical that LMDC works closely with agencies, organizations, and programs that are willing to and are committed to reducing recidivism, and helping those in need.

Anticipated measurable outcomes for Familiar Faces Discharge Planning will include, but are not limited to, number of clients tracked, number of clients released with housing/shelter bed, number of clients released with medication, recidivism/number of clients returned to custody with new charges, Medicaid Enrollment, etc.

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