Reducing Inmate Segregation
A Mental Health Perspective

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• Why – DOJ & DRN
• What – Reduce D Roster Seg
• How – Policy & Training
• Results – How have we done
• Challenges – data for results
• What’s next?
D Roster inmates are also known as Serious Mentally Ill or SMI
In December, 2011, US DOJ launched an investigation into constitutional rights violations of PA mental health inmates for being kept in long term seg at SCI-Cresson (CRE),

Secure Special Needs Units (SSNU) housed up to 24 inmates for 23 hours a day, for months, or even years, at a time at CRE, and up to 150 inmates under the similar conditions department-wide.
In March 2013, DRN sued the PA DOC concerning the treatment of inmates diagnosed with serious mental illness (D Roster),

Lawsuit charged:

- D Roster inmates (SMI) were punished for symptoms of their illness,
- SMI inmates were subject to extremely harmful conditions,
- SMI were denied adequate mental health care.
DOJ and DRN both focused on:

Treatment of SMI inmates, “by policy and practice” of unit staff were geared unintentionally to punish rather than treat inmates,

Policy and Practice options included:

- Restraint chair placements for extended periods of time (averaging 10-11 hours),
- Use of Electronic Immobiling Devices (EID) on fully restrained SMI inmates,
- Other forms of dysfunctional “treatment.”
PA Pioneers 1st ever System-Wide Mental Health Culture Initiatives

• Crisis Intervention (CIT) and Mental Health First Aid training initiatives.
• Expansion of Certified Peers Specialists (CPS).
• VERA Institute of Justice Segregation Reduction Project.
• Performance Based Contract with Incentives and Penalties.
• Sequential Intercept Model Mapping,
• Formation of Central Office Special Needs Psychiatric Review Team COSNPRT.
New PA Inmate Mental Health Classification

Active MH Inmates

- "D" Roster (SMI) – this implies that the individual is diagnosed with a serious mental illness and/or intellectual disability and is receiving close monitoring from the facility's multi-disciplinary psychiatric review team.

- "C" Roster – this implies that the individual is receiving mental health services but the individual is NOT diagnosed with a Serious Mental Illness or intellectual disability.
New PA Inmate Mental Health Classification

Inactive MH Inmates

• “B” Roster – this implies that the individual received mental health treatment at some time, either in the community or otherwise, but does not require mental health services currently.

• “A” Roster – the individual has no history of mental treatment and the individual has no current mental health care needs.
Serious Mentally Ill Classification Include:

- **Substance-Induced Psychotic Disorder**
- **Schizophrenia & Delusional Disorder**
- **Brief Psychotic Disorder**
- **Other Psychotic Disorders**
- **Bipolar I and II**
- **Major Depressive Disorder**
- **Functional Impairment**
- **Intellectual Disability**
Impact on MH numbers:

• Due to change in practice of keeping all inmates with SMI diagnosis on roster. Previously only those showing symptoms were considered SMI.

• Caused slight increase in overall MH numbers but dramatic shift in SMI numbers

• Total MH inmates increased almost 400% from 7,880 in 2006 to over 13,000 in 2016
  • Males increased by 380% during the same period
  • Females increased over 450% during the same period

• SMI increased over 350% from a low of 900 in 2012 to over 4,200 total inmates in 2016
  • Males increased by over 353% during same period
  • Females increased by 660% during the same period
Overall, Male and Female Percent of Inmates on MH Roster
Modifying Disciplinary Action for SMI Inmates

• **Training for All SCI and CO staff,**

• **Encourage Use of Informal Resolutions instead of formal misconducts and sanctions,**

• **Independent psychology staff evaluates to determine serious mental illness and if segregation is contraindicated,**

• **Training for all Hearing Examiners,**

• **Sanctions > 30 days require referral to psych staff with notice to Central Office.**
Rate Per 100 Inmates of Written Misconducts by MH Status
Percent of Misconducts on D Roster Inmates with DC Sanction and Rate of DC sanctions per 100 D Roster Inmates

- % D with DC
- Rate/100 D's

Graph showing the percentage of misconducts and the rate of DC sanctions per 100 D Roster Inmates from January 2012 to November 2015.
Average Days DC Santion with Average Days DC Time Served and Percent of Average DC Time Served for D Roster inmates

- **Avg Days Sanctioned**
- **Avg Days Served**
- **Avg % days served**
Rate per 100 inmates for Segregation Placement

Mar 2015 Diversionary Treatment Units officially opened
How have we done?

Between Jan 1, 2012 and Dec 31, 2015:

• Inmates classified as Seriously Mentally Ill (SMI or D Roster) have increased by over 400% from 2% of total population in Jan 2012 to 8.5% in Dec 2015,

• The rate per 100 inmates of D roster inmates given written misconducts has decreased by 62% from a high of 21 in Apr 2013 to 8 in Dec 2015

• Total disciplinary infractions informally resolved have increased from under 10% to over 35% from Jan 2012 to Dec 2015
How have we done?

• The rate per 100 inmates of D roster inmates who have been sanctioned to disciplinary custody has decreased over 55% from over 11 to around 5 between Mar 2013 and Dec 2015,

• The percent of D roster inmates sanctioned to restrictive housing has decreased from almost 76% in Jan 2012 to 65% in Dec 2015
How have we done?

• SMI roster inmate sanctioning to restrictive housing or Diversionary Treatment Units (DTUs) has:
  • decreased by 55% days sanctioned from 73 days in Jan 2012 to 33 days in Dec 2015,
  • decreased by 49% days served from 45 to 23 days in the same time period,
  • decreased by over 21 percentage points for average time served in restrictive housing from over 92.6% to 71.5% in the same time period.
• Since March 2015, all D roster inmates sanctioned to disciplinary custody are in DTUs with over 20 hours per week of out of cell time, so they are not in restrictive housing.
How have we done?

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Liman-ASCA survey

- Disciplinary Custody numbers:
  - decreased by 13% from 933 inmates in Dec 2012 to 814 in Sep 2015,

- Administrative Custody numbers:
  - decreased by 2% from 783 to 767 during the same period even with an increase due to single cell PREA inmates

- SMI inmates decreased from 23 to zero in extended restricted housing as defined by survey (confined more than 22 hrs per day more than 15 continuous days)
Data Challenges

• Systems not set to calculate continuous days in seg (developed model in excel) nor actual time served.

• Sanctioning fields include:
  • Number days sanctioned,
  • Effective date of sanction,
  • Estimated completion date of sanction,
  • Actual completion date of sanction.

• Issues (primarily surrounding time cuts):
  • Effective date can be in future with completion date in past for good time,
  • Same completion date for multiple MCs.
Suits Closed

• In Jan, 2015, the DRN settled it lawsuit with PA DOC because of the DOC’s efforts to divert inmates with SMI who have demonstrated problematic behavior to specialized treatment units instead of restricted housing.


• In April, 2016, in a letter to PA Governor Wolf, the U.S. Department of Justice wrote that it was closing its investigation because the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections had already made so many significant changes and improvements.

http://www.cor.pa.gov/initiatives/Pages/Mental-Health-Services.aspx#.VyyudKTD_mQ
What’s next?

- Ad Seg/Violence reduction initiative to further reduce Seg population underway,
- Two initial meetings involved over 300 field staff from all ranks who served on 3 main committees with numerous subgroups,
- Identified 12 initial RCTs to target ways to reduce in-prison violence and segregation
  - Change locks provided to inmates for less harmful weapons,
  - Smaller, rubber, toothbrushes for less harmful weapons,
  - Incentivize financially med compliance for MH inmates.
Violence Prediction Assessment

- Ran correlations on new commit cohort (Jan – Jun 2013) to predict violent MC’s:
  - Religion, race, and marital status
  - Custody level at reception
  - Violent offense younger than 16
  - Employment 6 months prior to incarceration
  - MH status
  - Risk, AGG and ANT score
  - 301 personality disorder
  - Self harm
  - Min length of sentence
  - Grade complete and IQ
  - Time to first MC and drug MC
  - Age at reception
Violence Assessment for New Commits

- Ran corrections to find the most highly correlated,
- Regression analysis determined the most predictive were:
  - Custody Level,
  - Violent Offense younger than 16,
  - Age at Reception
  - MH Score,
  - AGG Score,
  - Min Length of Sentence, and
  - Time to 1st MC
- All had significance of .000 with a R square of .704
In-Prison Violence Prediction Using Machine Learning

• Next steps to run all indicators through machine learning models to see whether we can improve prediction,

• Conduct a survival analysis for SMI inmates on violent behavior.
Questions?

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