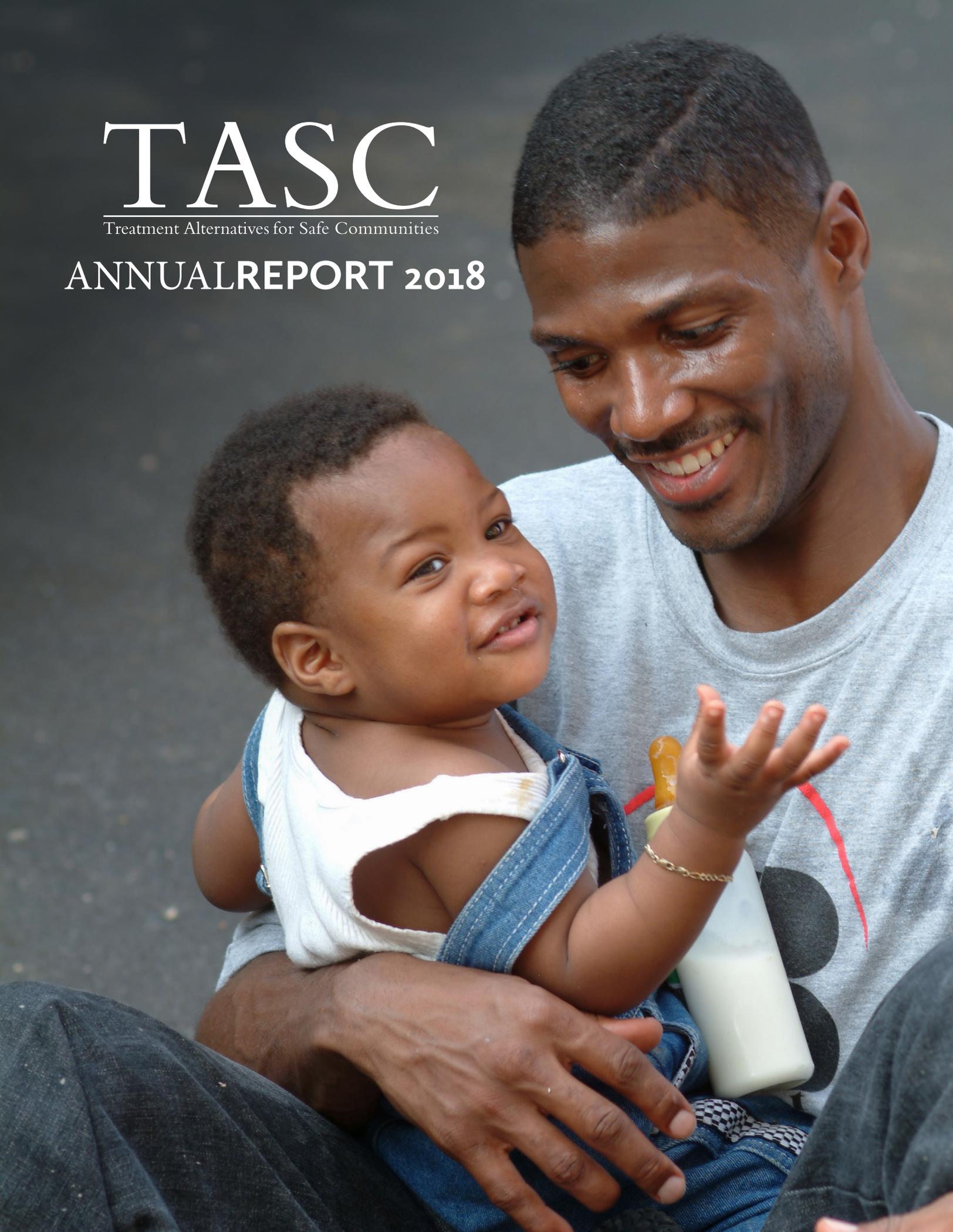


# TASC

Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities

## ANNUALREPORT 2018





## Our Mission:

We are committed to building a healthier, safer, and more just society.



Dear Friends,

The 2018 Word of the Year, according to Merriam-Webster, was “justice.” It’s a concept that has prompted inquiry and provoked conversations across the nation.

At TASC, justice is at our foundation. It reflects our commitment to building a healthy and equitable society where our clients and their families and communities can succeed and thrive.

Racial justice. Social justice. Criminal justice. Economic justice. Juvenile justice. These are not just words or lofty ideals. They are the urgent realities of communities we serve, of people who’ve been left behind. Where justice intersects with health—particularly substance use and mental health conditions—that is our work, our mission, our passion.

We fight for families facing the injustice of loved ones dying in jails from opioid withdrawal. For people who have served their time and paid restitution, but continue to face stigma and discrimination as they work to rebuild their lives. For youth in Chicago arrested and detained for marijuana charges when their counterparts in the suburbs doing the exact same thing do not end up with their records tainted, their future opportunities lessened before they even understand the implications.

On the following pages, you’ll find some of the highlights of our collaborative work, and some of the achievements that stood out in FY18. As we move forward, we hold firm to our guiding principles.

At TASC, we stand for justice. We stand for health. We stand for fair opportunities for people to get well and be well and stay well.

We thank you for standing with us.



**Pamela F. Rodriguez**  
TASC President and CEO

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Center for Health and Justice



# Program Highlights & Outcomes

TASC was founded on social justice. We are a path to health and recovery for thousands of adults and youth involved in criminal justice, juvenile justice, child welfare, and public health systems. Our services support public health and recovery while reducing crime and recidivism.

Individuals referred to TASC often face daunting and structural challenges in accessing transportation, employment, housing, and healthcare, all while working to achieve recovery, meet court dates, and fulfill family responsibilities. Without the right kind of help, at the right time, and in the right ways, they're likely to cycle back into the system.

In FY18, we reached more than 44,000 people in justice, corrections, child welfare, and health systems across Illinois. In addition to direct services for more than 13,700 people, TASC provided initial screening, assessment, and other services to over 31,000 individuals involved in justice and corrections systems in Illinois.

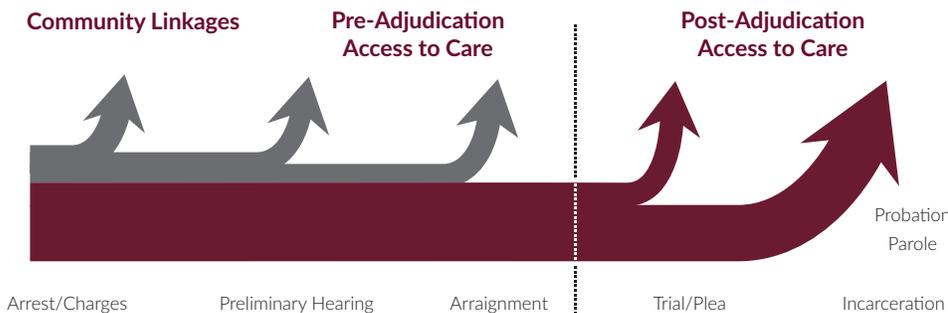
## Specialized Case Management

Through TASC's specialized case management, we not only help ensure that individuals are assessed and placed into the services they

need, but also that they remain engaged in services as they make significant changes in their lives.

We conduct comprehensive assessments to help clients determine where to start. For those with substance use or mental health conditions, treatment is only the beginning. We help individuals navigate complex systems, access services, and find peer supports to meet their most urgent needs.

By offering a ray of hope, a spark of dignity, and a clear path through the maze, we help individuals take essential steps in their journey toward health and recovery.



TASC offers “off-ramps” from the justice system to community-based services.

“Because TASC is baked into the criminal justice system in Illinois, the justice system presents a more human face—with a focus on the individual—and promotes public health and human rights.”

— **Ambassador Adam Namm**  
 Executive Secretary  
 Organization of American States (OAS),  
 leading an international delegation  
 visiting TASC in June 2018

# WE SERVE

## Adults involved in justice and corrections systems

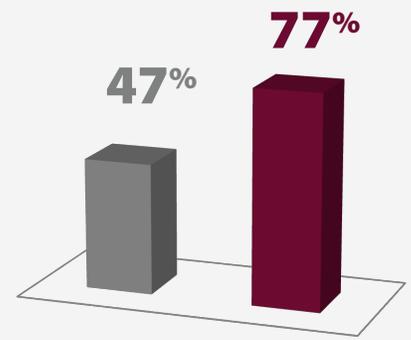
Every point in the justice system, from pre-arrest to probation and parole, is a decision point where people may be diverted to needed services in the community. At each point, TASC offers assessment, linkages to services, case management, and client advocacy to help make these options happen.

Our alternatives to incarceration, jail reentry, and prison pre- and post-release services help men and women reenter the community and reduce their likelihood of recidivism and re-incarceration. Across Illinois, these programs help relieve pressure on the justice system, save tax dollars, and give individuals the opportunity to rebuild their lives.

### Making a Difference

- In the past five years, TASC's court and probation services diverted 11,438 adults from prison—saving the State of Illinois millions of dollars, and creating opportunities for men and women to participate in treatment and begin their recovery while on probation.
- Clients participating in the Sheridan and Southwestern prison substance use disorder treatment programs—along with TASC's pre- and post-release reentry case management—were 44% less likely to return to prison within three years (Sheridan) and 48% less likely within 2 years (Southwestern) than comparable releasees who did not receive these services.

### Significantly greater treatment completion than other criminal justice clients in Illinois



#### Successful Treatment Completion Rates

- Adults Referred to Treatment by Illinois Criminal Justice Systems
- TASC Adult Criminal Justice Clients

**Criminal justice clients receiving TASC specialized case management are significantly more likely to successfully complete substance use treatment compared to other criminal justice clients in Illinois.**

*Based on latest data available from the Illinois Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS) compared with TASC data from the corresponding year (CY2014).*





## WE SERVE

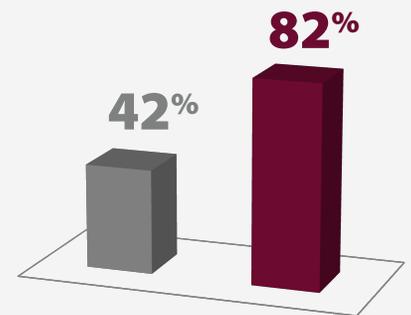
Youth in child welfare and juvenile justice systems

When young people are involved in the child welfare or juvenile justice system, it increases their likelihood of future involvement in the adult criminal justice system. We work with youth and their families to address key issues in order to create healthier and safer environments for youth, supporting them in making positive decisions, and improving their well-being at school, in their families, and in the community.

### Making a Difference

- There was a 53% lower re-arrest rate among adolescents whose parents were involved in TASC's Family Recovery and Reunification Program, thereby blocking a "pipeline" from the child welfare system to the juvenile justice system to the adult criminal justice system.

### Doubling treatment success for youth



#### Successful Treatment Completion Rates

- Youth Referred to Treatment by Illinois Juvenile Justice Systems
- TASC Juvenile Justice Clients

Juvenile justice clients receiving TASC specialized case management are nearly twice as likely to complete substance use treatment compared to other juvenile justice clients in Illinois.

*Based on latest data available from the Illinois Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS) compared with TASC data from the corresponding year (CY2014).*



## WE SERVE

### Parents of youth in the child welfare system

We work with mothers and fathers whose children have been taken into the child welfare system due to parental maltreatment related to substance use disorders. Our case managers work closely with parents over time in order to get them the treatment they need and increase the likelihood of family reunification.

Initiated in 2000, TASC's Family Recovery and Reunification Program (FRRP—previously known as the Recovery Coach Program) has been evaluated extensively as part of its design.

#### Making a Difference

- Families whose parents participated in FRRP were reunited faster—on

average, five months sooner. The research also shows that the FRRP program clients reunify with their children at a rate slightly higher than the control group.

- The program saved the State of Illinois more than \$11 million between 2002 and 2017.
- Studies have shown that most child welfare and juvenile justice programs have disproportionate outcomes, to the disadvantage of racial minorities. An added value that sets FRRP apart is that the program has been shown to eliminate racial disparity in family reunification. Regardless of race, families in this program are equally likely to reunify.

"I myself was a TASC client upon my release from the IDOC in July of 1996. I was given the support I needed to complete my parole and gain employment, and I was blessed to become the first chairperson of the Winners' Circle. Another miraculous thing happened when TASC hired me in 2001. As a case manager, I helped others just as TASC had helped me. TASC helped save my life. As a result of affiliation with TASC, I celebrated 23 years of sobriety on December 11, 2018."

— **Darryl Johnson**, first chair of the *Winners' Circle*, which offers peer-based recovery support for individuals facing the dual challenges and stigma of substance use disorder recovery and justice system involvement

"I ain't going to even lie. The [TASC social worker] is right on point. When she talks to you, you just feel so comfortable. Some people be weird kind of talking to you . . . they judge you before you walk in. She hasn't judged you. . . . She understands you."

— **Participant in deferred prosecution program**

"You can call the [TASC] social worker and say well, I'm not going to be able to make this appointment today or whatever. . . . She'll work with you. She's one of those people that will be like, well let me know. Don't play her though . . . call and let her know, don't just not call her. That's just getting yourself back in trouble."

— **Participant in deferred prosecution program**

"Staff at TASC were unanimously well-regarded. A nonjudgmental environment facilitated comfortable and honest discussions that helped to identify participants' needs for progress. Establishing mutual respect enhanced the program's credibility, in turn encouraging participants to work harder at staying out of trouble. This 'buy in' was crucial for developing integrity and positive perceptions of MDPEP."

— **Evaluation of the Cook County Misdemeanor Deferred Prosecution Enhancement Program (MDPEP), Center for Court Innovation, January 2018**

"The youth we serve, who are largely youth of color and economically disadvantaged, often feel targeted for arrest and detention. Research shows that disparities do exist. To these kids, it's not juvenile justice. They call it 'just us.'"

— **TASC Juvenile Justice Services Administrator**



## SPOTLIGHT

### TASC Supportive Release Center

Opened in the summer of 2017, TASC's Supportive Release Center (SRC) serves as a guiding resource for voluntary participants who face vulnerabilities following their release from jail. It is located just blocks from the Cook County Jail and offers a brief overnight stay and linkages to community-based services for men leaving the jail who are struggling with mental illness, substance use disorders, and/or physical health challenges, and who have no immediate place to go.

Our care coordinators listen and find out how we can help. We offer a place to sleep for a night, with showers and fresh clothing, and then we take people to services, whether it's treatment for a health condition or getting a state ID

card, legal aid, housing, or whatever else that first step may be toward rebuilding their lives. Connections to needed services are vital for individuals to become stabilized in the community, improve their health, and lessen their likelihood of returning to jail.

Winner of an Urban Labs Innovation Challenge grant, and with funding from an array of private foundations and donors, the SRC represents a collaboration between TASC, the Cook County Sheriff's Office, Heartland Alliance Health, and our research partner, the UChicago Urban Labs.

From the SRC's inception through 2018, nearly 1,000 men leaving the Cook County Jail received services at the SRC.



"What would it look like if we heard [people] before they ended up in our criminal justice system, before they ended up in our emergency rooms, and before they ended up on our 911 calls? Can you imagine what Chicago would look like? Our emergency rooms would be less crowded, our jails would have more beds than people, our kids would be able to play without having to hear gunshots. That's the world that we look forward to."

— **Dr. Nneka Jones Tapia**  
Chicago Beyond  
TASC 2018 Public Voice Leadership  
Award Recipient

"The people & staff at TASC were above and beyond helpful! It was a Godsend that they were outside the Cook County Jail to aid and assist me. All they cared about was me getting ahead in my life & help me get my I.D., SNAP & see the doc. All the next day! There was nothing that TASC wouldn't do to help me. Thank God for them and I know I stayed sober a day longer & hopefully a lifetime of sobriety just by the will and belief they had in me. Something I didn't believe to be true in myself. So thankful for TASC."

— SRC Participant

"During the bonding out experience I felt very nervous and anxious as Chicago is a big city and I don't know my way around the city. . . . When I bonded out I filled out a survey and the TASC Support Center was waiting outside the County Jail. They gave me a ride to the TASC office building and provided a great environment to assist with my release. I was provided a nice hot meal. The staff and support team were very nice and super respectful. They also provided hygiene products and a nice hot shower. I was able to shave and clean up. The supervisor, Pam [Ewing], asked questions and worked on the paperwork for me. I had no idea where to start with all that needed done: find out how to get my meds, where to go to get my personal property, how to get to [the recovery home], how to get my money from the county jail, and how to check in with the court clerk's office. Pam and the staff took care of everything. They even washed & dried all my laundry and gave me clothes to wear. Since it was late in the evening when I bonded out, TASC let me stay the night. . . . The TASC support center helped me not be so nervous and really assisted me in all aspects. Pam even helped me make a list of the next steps that I needed to take for the following day. I am truly grateful for all of the assistance. I truly feel that I have a decent chance to be successful while re-integrating back into society."

— SRC Participant

"I was in jail for 10 days consumed with worries about what to do after I got out. I was scared of going home because of the strong temptation of using drugs and alcohol, also facing the drug dealer that I owe money to...

Thankfully TASC was offering help for people that need a place to go and think things through for the night...

The timing was perfect because I did not know how I was going to survive that night if I would go home without safety. Finally I accepted that I needed to get real with myself and convince myself that I could not do it on my own so I stayed the night and was blessed with all that I needed to make it through another day. I thank the personnel of TASC for helping me sort out my thoughts and passionately care for me as I make hard decisions not to go back and steal to use drugs and end up in jail again. So today I start fresh and I don't have to do it alone. Thank you for caring and helping me take a deep breath and escorting me to safety.

— SRC Participant



"We need to move these initiatives forward, these collaborations forward. . . . This is a smart-on-crime approach. This is one of the greatest, proactive crime-fighting opportunities that we have."

— **Danny Langloss** (LEFT)  
Dixon City Manager and Past Police Chief  
TASC 2018 Justice Leadership Award Recipient

"Deflection makes sense for a number of reasons. Decreasing crime, incarceration, and recidivism rates, saving taxpayer dollars, lessening the burden on the criminal justice system. But probably most important, it reinforces for thousands of us why we said we wanted to be police officers: because we wanted to help people. Not some people. All people."

— **Eric Guenther** (RIGHT)  
Mundelein Police Chief  
TASC 2018 Justice Leadership Award Recipient

## SPOTLIGHT

### Deflection

As drug overdose deaths across the country have skyrocketed, law enforcement officers are increasingly deflecting people with substance use disorders into treatment in the community. "Deflection," also known as pre-booking or pre-arrest diversion, offers a new option for law enforcement officers rather than either arresting individuals or walking away from the situation.

Deflection is a formalized relationship between police and behavioral health services in a community, with a goal of helping people before they reach the front door of the justice system. Law enforcement plays the critical role of connecting people to community-based treatment partners and/or peer recovery partners who follow through to ensure the individual's access to services. The key is a "warm hand-off," an immediate connection with a treatment

provider who may meet an officer and an individual who wants help on the scene or at an emergency room.

As such initiatives are developing across the country, they are collectively generating a new field of deflection at the intersection of law enforcement and community-based treatment. Such programs may include referral to other services as well, such as for people experiencing symptoms of mental illness, housing challenges, and other crises.

Through collaborative partnerships, consulting, conferences, and public policy initiatives, TASC and our Center for Health and Justice are helping to launch deflection across the country.

### Key deflection highlights of 2018

#### Development and Passage of Illinois Senate Bill 3023

Sailing through the 2018 Illinois General Assembly with bipartisan support, and signed into law in August, SB 3023 provides a "roadmap" for partnerships between law enforcement, substance use treatment providers, and community members to guide the development of deflection programs in their communities. The first such legislation in the country, the bill was championed in the Illinois State Senate by Sen. Melinda Bush (*D-Grayslake*) and Sen. Tim Bivins (*R-Dixon*), and in the State House by Rep. Marcus Evans, Jr. (*D-Chicago*) and Rep. Tom Demmer (*R-Dixon*). Its initiation was a joint effort of the Dixon Police Department, the Mundelein Police Department, and TASC.

#### Leading Collaborative Efforts to Advance Deflection across the US

Since co-founding the Police, Treatment, and Community Collaborative (PTACC) in April 2017, TASC's Center for Health and Justice has been instrumental in advocating and supporting the expanded use of deflection nationwide. Working through PTACC, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and TASC came together in 2018 to promote alternative-to-arrest diversion programs for state, county, and local law enforcement agencies across the United States. This collaboration seeks to greatly improve the means, ease, and speed with which law enforcement can partner with substance use and mental health treatment providers so that police can help people access treatment.



# Consulting & Public Policy Highlights

## We actively work to advance

- **Deflection and diversion** out of the justice system, and into community-based services
- **Evidence-based strategies** in substance use and mental health disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery
- **Expanded community capacity** to treat substance use and mental health disorders
- **Fairness and equity** in justice outcomes and healthcare access for racial/ethnic minority and low-income individuals and communities
- **Reentry pathways** after jail and prison, and reducing barriers that inhibit success

At local, state, national, and international levels, we advocate for public policies, evidence-based practices, and system changes so that people and communities don't encounter unfair barriers as they pursue health and well-being. Our public policy and consulting work is informed by our on-the-ground experience working with thousands of people across Illinois, as well as by research and data on effective and equitable practices in justice and healthcare.

## Making a Difference

Through TASC's Center for Health and Justice, examples of our FY18 achievements in public policy, consultation, training, and technical assistance include:

### **Life-Saving Guidelines on Safe Withdrawal in Jail**

News coverage and lawsuits across the country point to an alarming issue faced by jails and detained individuals: people

are going into withdrawal from opioids, alcohol, or other substances while in jail and facing extreme discomfort and sometimes death. TASC has developed a brief paper for jail administrators, public safety leaders, and county and state policymakers with information about safe withdrawal management in jail and resources to aid in developing these procedures.

### **Co-Development of Opioid Screening Tool**

In conjunction with Texas Christian University, we developed a self-report screening tool to help justice and health professionals quickly gather key information about individuals' opioid use, allowing for more rapid referral to treatment services when appropriate. Questions specific to opioids appear in the screening tool, making it easier to identify people earlier who may be at high risk for opioid overdose.

Highlights *(continued on next page)*



# Consulting & Public Policy Highlights

(continued from previous page)

## Self-Study Courses on Addiction for Criminal Justice Practitioners

In the face of a national opioid crisis, and recognizing that most people entering the justice system have recently used illicit drugs and/or have a substance use disorder, TASC and the National Judicial College (NJC) co-developed three free, online self-study courses, led by top national researchers, to support justice leaders in implementing evidence-based responses to help stop cycles of drug use and crime. These courses were created as a result of TASC's and NJC's work in leading the Justice Leaders Systems Change Initiative (JLSCI), which helps jurisdictions create and implement collaborative responses to substance use disorders.

## Consultation on Justice Interventions, from Deflection to Reentry

In Albuquerque, New Mexico, a “one-stop” program opened in 2018 to assist people newly released from jail in accessing a place to stay, food, medicine, substance use treatment, and other social supports. The program—known as the Bernalillo County (NM) Resource Re-Entry Center—came about after local officials teamed up with the National Association of Counties and TASC. This is one example of how our consultation for other counties and jurisdictions helps lead to the implementation of interventions at all points in the justice system, from pre-arrest to post-release and all points in between.

“I got my credentials as an addiction professional and recovery coach from Colombo Plan. A journey I started with you [TASC]. Thank you. The organization I started, I Will Serve Foundation, went on to become an implementing partner of CPDAP (Colombo Plan Drug Advisory Programme) here in our part of the Philippines. Our programs include working with persons deprived of liberty, capacity building for communities, and many more. I just wanted to let you know that the work you did has affected so many, many lives and communities. So thank you very, very much.”

### — Emily Mora

Chairperson of the I Will Serve Foundation, Cagayan de Oro, Philippines

Participant in weeklong recovery training conducted by TASC in 2014, writing in 2018



# By The Numbers

July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018

TASC advances health and justice, increases public safety, and saves taxpayer dollars by diverting eligible individuals out of costly systems and into substance use treatment and other services in the community.

## CLIENTS REACHED

**13,710** people received in-depth services to help them achieve health and well-being in the community

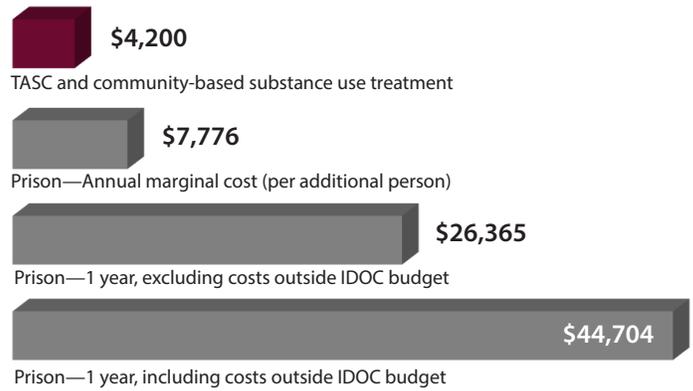
**31,072** people received initial screening, assessment, and other services that help inform decision-making related to service needs, diversion options, etc.

**44,782** TOTAL individuals and families reached in FY18 in justice, corrections, child welfare, and health systems across Illinois

## \$ SAVING MONEY

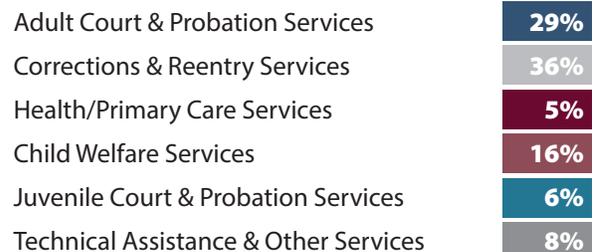
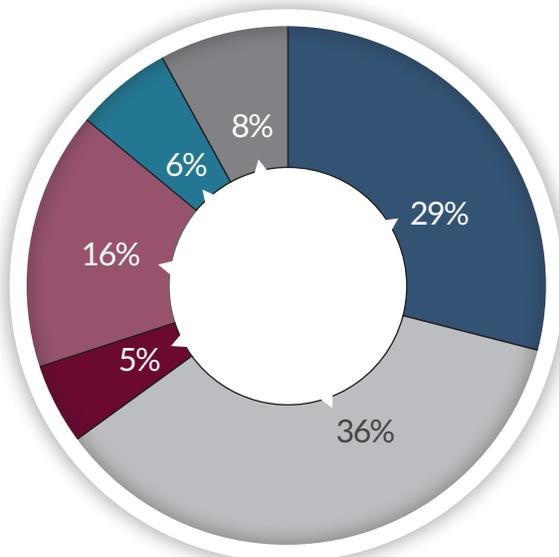
### TASC + TREATMENT COST LESS THAN PRISON

Average Per Capita Cost



## FUNDING MIX BY TYPE OF SERVICE

TASC's FY18 revenues totaled \$16,126,054.



# Thank You to Our FY18 Donors and Funders

July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018

## PRIVATE DONATIONS AND GRANTS

Access Community Health Network  
Addiction Policy Forum  
Advocates for Human Potential  
Carl J. Alaimo, Sr., PsyD  
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Eve Weinberg  
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George A. H. Williams  
Michele Worobiec  
Yes Lifecycle Marketing  
John and Barbara Zielinski

## PUBLIC GRANTS

Boone County, Illinois  
Cook County, Illinois  
Community Mental Health Board  
of Oak Park Township, Illinois  
Illinois Department of Children  
and Family Services  
Illinois Department of Corrections  
Illinois Department of Human Services  
Madison County, Illinois  
Montgomery County, Maryland  
St. Clair County Mental Health  
Board, Illinois  
U.S. Department of Health and Human  
Services, Substance Abuse and  
Mental Health Services  
Administration (SAMHSA)  
U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)  
Winnebago County, Illinois

## INTERNATIONAL GRANT

Drug Advisory Programme of the  
Colombo Plan Secretariat

## PHOTO CREDITS

Paul Meredith, cover, pp. 2, 3  
David Ormsby, p. 8  
Dan Rest, p. 10  
TASC Staff, pp. 1, 6, 9

*Photos of clients are general representations  
of TASC's work and do not necessarily indicate  
the specific TASC programs in which individuals  
were involved.*

## GRAPHIC DESIGN

Saul Rivera



# TASC

Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities

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[www.centerforhealthandjustice.org](http://www.centerforhealthandjustice.org)



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