

Rebuilding lives.
Strengthening communities.
Restoring hope.

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TASC, Inc. (Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities) is an independent, statewide, nonprofit agency that advocates for people in need of health and other rehabilitative services. We work in partnership with Illinois courts, prisons, child welfare programs, and community-based service providers to help adults and youth get the help they need to rebuild their lives. Please visit us online at www.tasc.org.

The Public Dividends of Medicaid Expansion

The potential for cost savings, improved community health, and public safety is coming from a new place—jail.

In 2013, as a result of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Cook County began to provide Medicaid application assistance to people detained in jail. By taking steps to leverage new resources to improve the health of a population which had been a primary user of emergency public health services, Cook County leaders—including the Cook County Sheriff's Office and the Cook County Health and Hospitals System—also helped improve public safety and free up county funds.

Consider this: more than half of individuals in jails and prisons have a mental health problem¹ and two thirds have a substance use disorder,² but large majorities have never received treatment.³ When one considers that the jails of Cook County, Los Angeles County, and New York City are the largest mental health facilities in the country,⁴ access to treatment through Medicaid expansion creates an unprecedented opportunity.

"For many people who come in contact with the justice system, incarceration is too often the first place where they get any treatment for chronic health problems such as substance use

and mental health disorders," said Maureen McDonnell, director for business and health care strategy development at TASC.

And since more than 75 percent of our health care spending, nationally, is on people with chronic diseases,⁵ linking this population to ongoing care can yield dramatic cost savings. In Ohio, savings on inpatient care to people in prison were estimated at \$15 million in FY14.⁶ In Michigan, estimated savings in corrections health care costs were \$32.3 million in the 2013-2014 budget year.⁷

Another opportunity relates to probation budgets. Medicaid now covers treatments for individuals under probation supervision that previously had been paid out of county probation budgets.

But real systems change has to do with diversion and reductions in recidivism as a result of health coverage and treatment.⁸ In the state of Washington, expanding coverage to low-income adults resulted in 17-33 percent fewer re-arrests among those who received treatment.⁹

In March 2015, leaders from some of the country's largest counties gathered in Chicago for a forum on Medicaid expansion. Cook

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March 2015 forum on Medicaid expansion (left to right): TASC President **Pam Rodriguez**; Cook County Board President **Toni Preckwinkle**; Cook County Health and Hospitals System CEO **Dr. John Jay Shannon**; and Cook County Sheriff **Thomas Dart**. (Photo by Dan Rest)

President's Corner

Leveraging Innovation

by Pamela F. Rodriguez

In this issue of *TASC News & Views*, we focus on successful innovations that are being expanded for even broader impact.

When it comes to funding substance use and mental health treatment for people who come in contact with the justice system, few innovations have been more significant in TASC's 40-year history than the reform of

enrolled in coverage. In this way, we are taking a crucial first step toward broadly addressing the underlying issues—substance use and mental health disorders—that often bring people in contact with the justice system.

Brought to scale, this innovation is a game changer. Our front-page article discusses how, through our direct services in Illinois

to incarceration. Our article on page 4 discusses our sustainability consulting services to support these programs.

Our mission in these efforts is to shrink the numbers of people coming into and through the justice system. We do not do this work alone. Since our inception, we have partnered with other service providers and leaders in the criminal justice system and in federal, state, and county governments to connect justice systems to health services in the community.

Our more recent work with foundations—including The Chicago Community Trust, the Healthcare Foundation of Northern Lake County, the Michael Reese Health Trust, the Open Society Foundations, the Polk Bros. Foundation, and the Public Welfare Foundation—is accelerating innovation in new ways and in new spheres. Through these public-private partnerships, we can bring innovative policies and successful practices to scale, and ultimately we can reshape the landscape of justice and health in this country. ❖

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– TASC President Pam Rodriguez

health care financing. We are committed to ensuring that correctional institutions are no longer the default health care system for people in poverty.

Before the expansion of Medicaid, nine out of ten people coming through our nation's jails lacked health care coverage. We are changing that.

Since 2013, TASC has been working with local criminal justice partners and state and county governments to help people get

and our consulting services nationally, we are assisting counties and jurisdictions in leveraging the benefits of Medicaid expansion.

Additionally, in ongoing times of economic uncertainty, sustaining proven programs is a concern for all. Through our Center for Health and Justice, we offer consultation for customers across the country who are seeking to sustain successful criminal justice diversion programs and alternatives

Administrative Office

700 S. Clinton St. • Chicago, IL 60607

Phone: 312-787-0208

Fax: 312-787-9663

Comments may be sent to the above address

c/o: Sharon Sheridan

Communications Coordinator

Via email: ssheridan@tasc.org

For more information on TASC services, locations, and program administrators across the state, please visit: www.tasc.org.

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TASC receives funding from the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (DASA); the Illinois Department of Corrections (DOC); the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ); and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

TASC is licensed by DASA and DCFS, and is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

The Public Dividends of Medicaid Expansion

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Participants from across the country at March 2015 forum on Medicaid expansion. (Photo by Dan Rest)

County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, Sheriff Thomas Dart, Health and Hospitals System CEO Dr. John Jay Shannon, and TASC President Pam Rodriguez shared lessons from the successful enrollment assistance efforts at the Cook County Jail.

From the collaborative efforts to provide enrollment assistance at the jail came another

and Medicaid-managed care; before ACA Medicaid expansion, lack of coverage meant that linkages to care were lacking too.

"Cook County has been out in front," said McDonnell. "If you think of an innovation curve, we were out in the pioneering and innovating space. Several others followed within a year of Cook County."

...access to treatment through Medicaid expansion creates an unprecedented opportunity.

successful initiative: a prison diversion program known as a healthcare-reform-ready court, which leverages new Medicaid resources for people with heroin dependence who otherwise would go to prison. Part of the value is how this model links Medicaid

Another Illinois leader was Winnebago County, where early planning from Chief Judge Joseph G. McGraw (also chair of the Illinois Conference of Chief Judges) helped the county leverage resources from Medicaid expansion. As a result of increased

enrollment activities, now approximately 90 percent of people coming into the Winnebago County Jail have coverage. Robust enrollment programs around the country include San Diego, Seattle, Portland, and Louisville, among others.

For McDonnell, who has spent 25 years working at the intersection of public health and criminal justice, Medicaid expansion offers opportunity for broader change. "We're now focused on moving from test projects to helping courts and jails take these opportunities to scale."

Drawing on its 40-year history of working closely with criminal justice systems, TASC is in a unique position to help make these changes lasting and real. ❖

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THE PUBLIC DIVIDENDS OF MEDICAID EXPANSION: SNAPSHOT

By leveraging new resources to improve the health of justice-involved populations and linking them to ongoing care, leaders can yield dramatic cost savings and improve public safety.



In Ohio, **savings** on inpatient care to people in prison were **estimated at \$15 million** in FY14.



In Michigan, **estimated savings** in corrections health care costs were **\$32.3 million** in the 2013-2014 budget year.



In Washington, expanding coverage to low-income adults resulted in **17-33 percent fewer re-arrests** among those who received treatment.

TASC's Center for Health and Justice Offers Consultation on Program Sustainability

The “resource squeeze” is the top trend facing nonprofits in 2015, according to the National Council of Nonprofits. While charitable giving has been rising, it is still below pre-recession levels. One reason is because local, state, and federal budget cuts affect not only the programs they fund, but others too, since eliminating one funding source increases competition for funds from other sources.

“With the current funding situation that nonprofits and programs face, combined with a ‘more bang for your buck’ mentality, this is about surviving in an environment where you must continuously demonstrate the value-add of your work,” said Jac Charlier, director of consulting and training for the Center for Health and Justice (CHJ) at TASC.

In this environment, sustaining effective programs is critical. CHJ, a division of TASC, helps nonprofit, government, and community programs develop strategies to financially sustain their efforts. CHJ’s consulting team helps entities understand and create their value proposition and then utilize it to develop both their conceptual and practical sustainability efforts. CHJ also produces sustainability resource materials (available for free from CHJ) for nonprofits and programs.

CHJ’s expertise is derived from the decades-long direct service experience of TASC, and from its people whose expertise was developed through field work and policy in criminal justice and public health.

“Our consulting is built from peer-learning—what we know to be true,” said Maureen McDonnell, who leads health care strategy at CHJ and is a national expert in the practical implications of Medicaid expansion for criminal justice systems. Charlier adds his credentials and knowledge from years working at the State Parole Division of the Illinois Department of Corrections, along with more than 20 years of civic engagement.

Growing community need and government financial pressures have increased demand for CHJ expertise in sustainability as well as other topics, ranging from alternatives to incarceration to health care access for justice populations. The combined goals of these efforts include increased health, improved public safety, reduced recidivism, and increased cost efficiencies for governments and jurisdictions—goals that can be achieved by applying evidence-based practices across systems and bringing them to scale.

Established in 2006, CHJ is essentially a social enterprise within TASC. According to the Aspen Institute, “the social enterprise utilizes earned income to generate



Jac Charlier, Director of Consulting and Training, Center for Health and Justice at TASC.
(Photo by Dan Rest)

a sustainable operating model. At the same time, the business prioritizes its socially motivated mission.” This shared, socially driven mission is one of the reasons consulting customers rely on CHJ.

“CHJ is about ideas and innovations uniquely customized for every customer we work with,” said Charlier. “Because of our direct service experience at TASC, our customers know that our organizational mission is aligned with theirs.” ♦



Maureen McDonnell, Director for Business and Health Care Strategy Development, Center for Health and Justice at TASC.
(Photo by Dan Rest)



TASC's Center for Health and Justice provides consulting across the U.S. on program and organizational sustainability, systems change, Medicaid expansion, and more. For information, please email Jac Charlier at jcharlier@tasc.org or call 312-573-8302.

TASC's Board Officers Elected

Officers for TASC's board of directors were elected at the group's annual meeting in Chicago on June 18.

Cecil Curtwright, who previously served as vice chair of the board, was elected board chairman. Mr. Curtwright also serves as associate vice provost for academic and enrollment services at the University of Illinois-Chicago. Michelle Montgomery, an attorney with James D. Montgomery & Associates, was elected vice chair and secretary of TASC's board. Lance Foster was re-confirmed as treasurer of the board. Mr. Foster is vice president of Ralph G. Moore & Associates.

TASC board members generously donate their time, expertise, and leadership to TASC for two-year terms. ❖



TASC Board Officers (left to right): **Cecil V. Curtwright**, Board Chair; **Michelle M. Montgomery**, Board Vice Chair/Secretary; **Lancert A. Foster**, Treasurer. (Photo by Dan Rest)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

Celebrate National Recovery Month this September.

September is National Recovery Month, observed each year to increase awareness and understanding of substance use and mental health disorders, and to recognize and celebrate recovery. Visit www.recoverymonth.gov to learn about or promote events in your area.

Saturday, September 12, 2015—University Park, IL.

The Governors State University Alumni Association and Addiction Studies Alumni Club will host their annual Walk for Recovery, featuring music, entertainment, door prizes, and a resource fair, with TASC Executive Vice President Peter Palanca serving as Master of Ceremonies. Registration for this free event begins at 8AM, with the program at 9AM, and 2-mile walk beginning at 10AM. Register online at www.govst.edu/alumniwalk or call Alumni Relations at 708-534-4128 for more information.

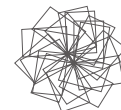


Sunday, October 4, 2015—Washington, DC.

UNITE to Face Addiction is a grassroots advocacy effort bringing people, communities, and organizations together to face addiction and stand up for recovery. To get involved in this unifying rally, visit www.facingaddiction.org.

Thursday, December 10, 2015—Chicago, IL.

TASC's 2015 Leadership Awards Luncheon will take place at the Westin Michigan Avenue in Chicago. Please check www.tasc.org this fall for more information.



Help TASC Go Green!

To receive paperless versions of TASC News & Views, send your email address to Sharon Sheridan at ssheridan@tasc.org. Please include your name, address, and organization to help us reduce duplication.

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Administrative Offices
700 S. Clinton St.
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Rebuilding Lives, Strengthening Communities, Restoring Hope

John began using drugs and getting in trouble when he was young, and his problems spiraled until he eventually spent time in prison. With TASC's support, John began his journey to recovery while incarcerated. After he was released, and with the guidance of TASC and other mentors, John found a job, secured a stable place to live, and established a positive social network to support him in his recovery. He now has a mission to live his life in recovery and help others. In 2013 he helped launch a community agency that offers daily hot meals, a food pantry, and GED classes for people in poverty.

Each year, TASC serves tens of thousands of people whose substance use and mental health disorders put them at risk for chronic involvement with the criminal justice system. We help people like John get the treatment and support they need to become contributing members of our communities. ♦



John has a mission to live his life in recovery and help others.

Please consider investing in TASC's work.

Donate to TASC by visiting us at www.tasc.org, or by mailing your contribution to TASC, Inc., Attn: Philanthropy Dept., 700 S. Clinton St., Chicago, IL 60607.

Contributions support TASC's services across Illinois and are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Thank you!