

## Back to Basics: What Is TASC Case Management?

### President's Corner

Pamela F. Rodriguez  
TASC President



Criminal justice reform is currently at the top of public policy agendas across the country. Over the past three decades, state corrections budgets have swelled alongside skyrocketing incarceration rates. Now, as states are looking to cut costs wherever they can, heavy corrections budgets are among the targets.

In this context, many states are looking for ways to divert more nonviolent, substance-involved offenders away from expensive prisons and into effective treatment and supervision.

The idea is far from new. In 1972, for example, the TASC model was created as a federal pilot project to assess and place nonviolent offenders into treatment as an alternative to incarceration. What is new today is the harmony with which alternatives to incarceration are being promoted across all levels of the political and ideological spectrum. The left and right agree: for certain nonviolent offenders, supervised drug treatment makes far more sense—

both clinically and fiscally—than incarceration.

What is also new is the scale of which such options are needed. With approximately 4.9 million adults on probation or parole across the United States, and more than half exhibiting a substance use disorder, the need for community-based treatment and supervision is vast. So too are the opportunities for cost savings and recidivism reductions if such options were maximized.

For a closer look at how treatment works as an alternative to incarceration, it is necessary to understand case

### Chapter Excerpt: Case Management for Substance-Abusing Offenders

Between 50 and 80 percent of arrestees test positive for drug use, while only 15 percent of those who need treatment actually have access to it. In addition, only half of those eligible for treatment are admitted to treatment and attend their first treatment session. While more than 40 percent of people in substance abuse treatment are involved in the justice system, only 41 percent of criminal justice participants complete treatment.

These data clearly demonstrate the need for substance abuse treatment. It is also clear that getting into and

*“Nonviolent offenders with substance use disorders are diverted from further penetration into the criminal justice system when TASC case management is used as the bridge to community provider systems.”*

management. Case management is the means by which the justice system connects to community-based treatment programs.

Following are excerpts of a chapter published recently in the *Handbook of Evidence-Based Substance Abuse Treatment in Criminal Justice Settings*. As the chapter author, I examined the origins of case management and its effectiveness for criminal justice populations.

completing treatment is not the norm. Consequently, our challenge is to ensure that substance abusing offenders have access to, enter, and complete treatment.

Case management is one of the approaches developed to improve the linkage between the justice system and the treatment system. People who need treatment are identified in jail or court, mandated to treatment and assigned a case manager who identifies a

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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](http://www.tasc.org).**







## Power of Recovery Uplifts TASC 35-Year Celebration



Juliana Stratton accepts the 2011 TASC Public Voice Leadership Award for Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle.

More than 270 people gathered in Chicago on December 6 to honor TASC's 2011 Leadership Award recipients and to celebrate 35 years of TASC service.

Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle was the recipient of TASC's 2011 Public Voice Leadership Award, which was accepted on her behalf by Juliana Stratton, director of the Cook County Judicial Advisory Council. President Preckwinkle was recognized for amplifying the discussion regarding economic and societal costs incurred when people with nonviolent,

drug-related charges cycle repeatedly through the justice system.

The Honorable Gino L. DiVito, chairman of the Illinois Sentencing Policy Advisory Council and retired justice of the Illinois Appellate Court, was presented with the 2011 Justice Leadership Award for his support of TASC and other alternatives to incarceration, his contributions in simplifying and strengthening state criminal codes and sentencing policies, and for his leadership in ensuring that effective evidence-based practices guide both policy and practice in Illinois.

The award presentations were accompanied by inspiring video messages from past TASC clients and family members across Illinois who shared their stories of recovery. Summarizing the themes that connected their journeys, TASC Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Peter Palanca said, "Friends, families, children, and neighbors are all affected by addiction. Thankfully, the same is true for recovery."



Left to right: TASC President Pamela F. Rodriguez, 2011 TASC Justice Leadership Award Recipient Gino L. DiVito, TASC Executive Vice President and COO Peter Palanca

### Thank You to Our Donors and Volunteers!

TASC thanks the many donors at every level whose contributions helped raise over \$102,000 to support programs and services across Illinois.

We would like to especially thank the following Patrons, Benefactors, and Friends of TASC's 2011 Leadership Awards Luncheon:

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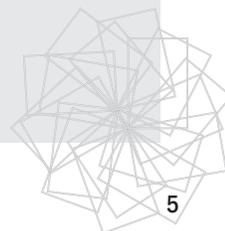
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Additional thanks to the following for contributing flowers, photography, and printing services to the event.

- Ashland Addison Florist,
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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR: TASC 2012 Leadership Awards Luncheon - Wednesday, December 12.**



# TASC

Administrative Offices  
1500 N. Halsted St.  
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## Philanthropy News... Introducing TASC's Philanthropy Committee

Over the past three years, TASC's board of directors has designated a philanthropy committee to help guide TASC's ongoing fundraising strategies and activities. Chaired by TASC board member Faustin "Frosty" Pipal, the committee comprises small business owners and corporate leaders who help invite other companies, foundations, and individuals to be part of TASC's work and mission.

Each member of the philanthropy committee has contributed unique and valuable feedback and expertise to TASC. TASC Philanthropy Committee member Susan Feibus has provided exceptional support in the past year, introducing both Blue Cross Blue

Shield of Illinois and Walgreens to TASC's work. We are deeply grateful for their support.

In addition to the efforts of TASC's philanthropy committee, there are countless organizations and individuals whose generosity strengthens TASC's work throughout the year. TASC extends special thanks to those who have consistently supported TASC over many years, including: John K. Greene, retired from William Blair in Chicago; Steven Pernick; American Airlines; and The Black Ensemble Theater.

*If you are interested in becoming involved in TASC's fundraising efforts, please call or email TASC Executive Vice President and*

*COO Peter Palanca at 312-573-8395 or [ppalanca@tasc-il.org](mailto:ppalanca@tasc-il.org). To make a contribution to TASC, please visit us at [www.tasc.org](http://www.tasc.org) and click on "Donate."*

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