

TASC Model Promoted in National Drug Control Strategy

The 2010 National Drug Control Strategy promotes TASC as a model to help break the cycle of drug use, crime, delinquency, and incarceration.

Released in May by the White House, the strategy establishes five-year goals for reducing drug use and its consequences. It was developed by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) with input from federal, state, and local partners.

The strategy reports that half of the 7 million adult offenders in the U.S.

states, “TASC initiates and motivates positive behavior change and long-term recovery for individuals in criminal justice, corrections, juvenile justice, child welfare, and public aid systems.

“TASC case managers develop individualized service plans that include links to community-based substance abuse treatment, medical/mental health services, vocational/educational programs, and other needed social services. This approach has translated into substantial cost-savings through referrals to treatment and services.”

“TASC initiates and motivates positive behavior change and long-term recovery...”

-2010 National Drug Control Strategy

are classified as drug-dependent, and it advises that the infrastructure be developed to promote alternatives to incarceration when appropriate. Among its recommendations is “Promote TASC Model of Intensive Case Management.”

"Through a specialized system of clinical case management," the report



Help TASC Go Green!

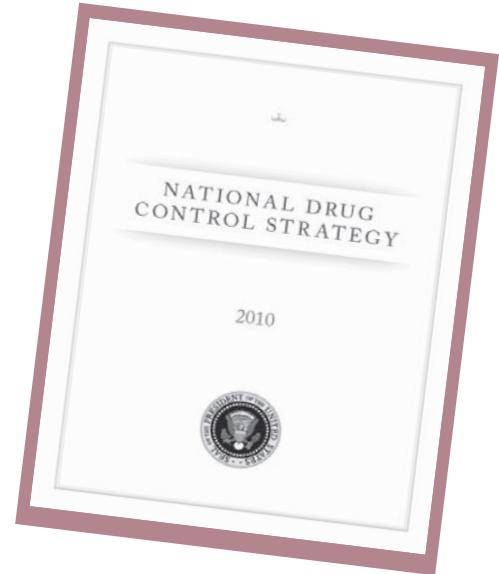
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Please include your name, address, and organization to help us reduce duplication.

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TASC, Inc. (Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities) is an independent, statewide, nonprofit agency that advocates for people in need of drug treatment 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.



leverages the public dollar to reduce drug use and crime,” says TASC President Pamela F. Rodriguez. “Men and women who go through TASC are significantly less likely to return to drugs and crime than those who don’t get TASC. It’s a win-win-win for clients, communities, and taxpayers.”

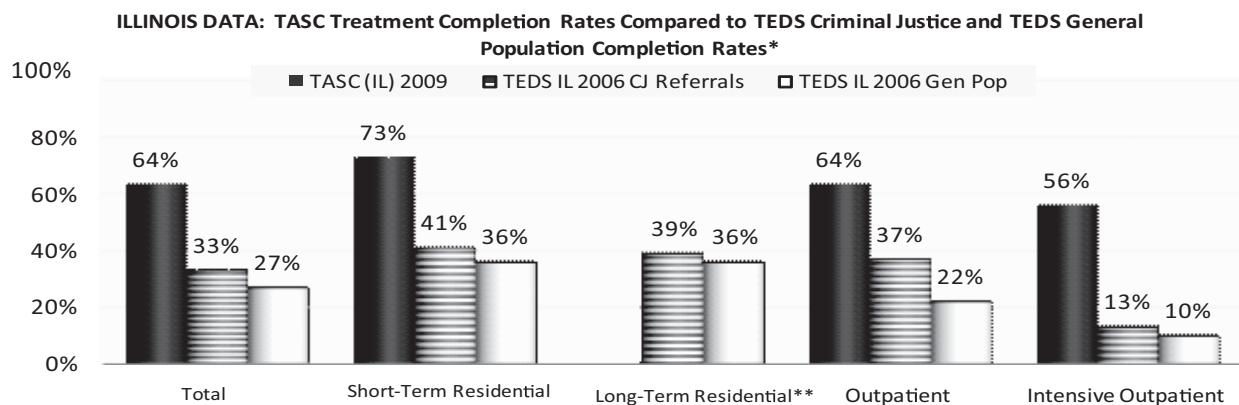
TASC Clients Twice as Successful as Others in Treatment in Illinois

Offenders who receive Illinois TASC's adult court and probation case management services are twice as successful in treatment as other treatment clients in Illinois. Two thirds (64%) of TASC clients complete treatment successfully, compared to only one third (33%) of all criminal justice-

referred clients in Illinois, and only a quarter (27%) of non-criminal justice participants in treatment.

"While individuals progress through drug abuse treatment at different rates, one of the most reliable findings in treatment research is that lasting

reductions in criminal activity and drug abuse are related to length of treatment," according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse. (*Principles of Drug Abuse Treatment for Criminal Justice Populations*, 2007).



* United States Department of Health and Human Services. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Office of Applied Studies. Treatment Episode Data Set -- Discharges (TEDS-D), 2006 [Computer file]. ICPSR24461-v1. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], 2009-06-22. doi:10.3886/ICPSR24461. Data retrieved 11/04/09.

**TASC does not differentiate between long-term and short-term residential treatment in its administrative data systems.

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

TASC receives significant funding from the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (DASA); the Illinois Department of Corrections (DOC), 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).

TASC Helps Caregiver Get Help, Regain Freedom, and Thrive

RaeLynn Costa is a caregiver. She dotes on her children, helps friends in need, and considers it her life's calling to care for animals. But she wasn't always able to tend to others.

"I'd been on drugs since I was 17," says RaeLynn, whose drug use worsened to addiction and incarceration by the time she was 27. "I was doing drugs, selling drugs, and doing all the things that come with it. My daughter was delivered in the county jail in Florida."

Surrendering custody of her newborn daughter to her sister, she spent the next decade in and out of prison. "I was clean for a year and then I met a guy and started all over again."

On September 19, 2008, RaeLynn was released from Decatur Correctional Center, and she hasn't seen the inside of a jail since. Extended drug treatment and job training while in prison, followed by more treatment and services after her release, made the difference.

In Decatur and in other Illinois prisons, TASC caseworkers place offenders into treatment programs, connect them to



“I don’t know where I’d be if I didn’t have TASC and all the other programs that helped me.”
-RaeLynn Costa

other rehabilitative services, and provide ongoing support after release.

One of RaeLynn's goals was to establish her own business as a dog groomer, a trade she learned while incarcerated. She now owns a business. "I'm the most inexpensive dog groomer in

Springfield," she smiles.

She's also a devoted mother, reunited with her now teenaged daughter. "She loves me and I love her. She knows I didn't have it right then and I do now."

OPINION: Drug Treatment as Budget Cutter, Community Safeguard

Expanded versions of the following commentary by TASC President Pamela F. Rodriguez and Safer Foundation President B. Diane Williams were printed in the Chicago Sun-Times (March 28, 2010) and the Daily Herald (March 29, 2010).

In 2010, a great deal has been written regarding the early release of Illinois prisoners. To be clear, the vast majority of prisoners don't receive life sentences. They will be released. In fact, the Illinois Department of Corrections has been an unparalleled leader in prisoner rehabilitation programs that focus on what happens after prison. For example, inmates released from the Sheridan Correctional Center, which combines prison drug treatment with intensive community reintegration services after release, have a 44% lower risk of

returning to prison than those who did not receive such services. In Illinois, there was a .7% dip in the prison population from the end of 2008 to the beginning of 2010, from 45,474 to 45,161. At a cost of \$23,400 per inmate per year, reducing the prisoner count by even 313 saves Illinois taxpayers more than \$7.3 million.

As Illinois struggles year after year to grapple with ballooning billion dollar budget deficits—this year it's \$13 billion—the state legislature and

the Governor must cut costs while preserving programs that help reduce the state's expenses, such as prisoner drug treatment. Prisoner drug treatment should, in fact, be expanded. Let's ignore campaign rhetoric in the months ahead. Instead, elected leaders must focus on policies that save money and make our communities safer.

Thank You to Our Donors and Volunteers!

We would like to thank the many individuals, organizations, foundations, and corporations who have donated to TASC over the past year. We'd also like to thank our board members, volunteers, and interns who have donated time to TASC's services.

Now more than ever, your contributions are making a difference. To make an online donation to TASC, please go to www.tasc.org and, on the menu bar on the left, click on "Donate to TASC."

A Special Thank You to our 2009 Luncheon Sponsors...

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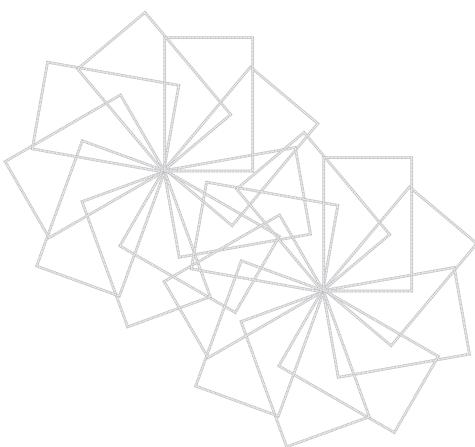
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Thanks to all the donors who made our 2009 Leadership Awards Luncheon raffle possible.

A special thanks to American Airlines for donating our grand prize of two pairs of round-trip airline tickets.



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SAVE THE DATE: TASC 2010 Leadership Awards Luncheon Celebrating Leaders of Vision

2010 Justice Leadership Award Recipient:
Melody M. Heaps, TASC Founder and President Emeritus

2010 Public Voice Leadership Award Recipient:
The Honorable George W. Timberlake, former Chief Judge of the Second Judicial Circuit

For information or to reserve a table,
please call 312-573-8201.

Wednesday, December 1, 2010

Same Time

11:30 AM—Seating and Reception
Noon to 1:30 PM—Luncheon and Program

New Place

The Westin Michigan Avenue
909 North Michigan Ave.
Chicago, Illinois

