

TARRANT COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY PLAN

2014

Tarrant County Criminal Justice Community Planning Group

DRAFT

CRIME PREVENTION/REDUCTION—COMMUNITY JUSTICE

INTRODUCTION:

The goal of community justice is to **reduce recidivism**ⁱ by improving confidence in the justice system and prevent crime by strengthening community partnerships and other social services within the community to address crime and the underlying conditions that produce crime. Community justice normally addresses lower level offenders and requires law enforcement, prosecutors, courts and corrections officials to interact more closely and collaborate with community representatives and institutions in order to become more familiar with the social issues and conditions. Community justice engages the community as an active partner in the criminal justice and reintegration process. Community justice includes the principles of “problem-solving justice”ⁱⁱ that can be traced to community and problem oriented policing. These innovative policing strategies encouraged the use of similar approaches in community prosecution; problem-solving courts, problem-solving probation and reentry courts; reentry councils; and the use of prisons and jails as reintegration organizations working collaboratively. The intent of this section is to identify the gaps in the community justice initiative, address strategies that specifically address reintegration and recidivism, and call for more community-based coordination, **problem-solving justice**, and sentencing practices that will lead to the prevention and reduction of crime.

GAPS IN THE COMMUNITY JUSTICE STRATEGY:

Many community justice partnerships are decentralized where participants, such as community representatives, reentry officials, police officers, lawyers, social workers, probation officers and parole officers are co-located in one-stop type **community justice centers** in order to enhance the communication process and problem-solving efforts. Although Tarrant County participates in various types of community justice partnerships, **more decentralization and collaboration** is needed to develop a more holistic strategy to effectively address local crime and recidivism rates.ⁱⁱⁱ

More meetings are needed at the local and state levels of government that address this strategy. A 2007 Tarrant County Community Justice Survey suggested that there was broad support for this type of a strategy but that more community education and coordination are needed for the successful implementation of such a program. More community justice training and coordination are still needed leading to improvements in reentry planning and resource coordination with local communities. Overall, there is a need to develop a **comprehensive community justice strategy** that is more conducive to problem solving, reducing recidivism and effective reintegration.

The research suggests that the criminal justice system should be more committed in connecting with local communities and intentional about its impacts on neighborhoods. Based on this premise, there is a need for a seamless **community justice and reentry strategic plan** in Tarrant County (and the State of Texas) that includes a long-term reintegration strategy that is incorporated into each local jurisdictions criminal justice plan. The following is a summary of various community justice strategies that include reentry and reintegration strategies that attempt **to address this charge** and may be instrumental in identifying and/or filling some of the gaps:

- There is a need for more community engagement through the use of **community surveys** to measure public attitudes about their community and the justice system and the establishment of community-based criminal justice advisory committees. More collaboration is needed between the public, practitioners and researchers to understand the issues the community is facing.
- Community justice programs should address lower-level felonies and misdemeanors and “quality of life crimes” such as those associated with code violations, truancy, vandalism, prostitution and petty drug-offending. These programs should emphasize the use of **local advisory groups**, community-based

restorative justice for **low risk offenders** that include but are not limited to, community restitution programs and projects.

- Law enforcement agencies should become more engaged in community and **problem oriented policing** as well as ex-offender reentry efforts. These efforts should include, but not be limited to, serving as a source of information for community supervision officials and operating as a source of information for returning ex-offenders about local services, programs and employment opportunities.
- Prosecutor offices should consider **decentralizing and work closer with the community**, local law enforcement agencies, and defense teams in addressing and prioritizing community issues. It is important to ensure individuals are treated fairly and, when released from incarceration are closely monitored, held accountable for their actions and have appropriate resources that make recidivism less likely.
- The courts should become more **neighborhood-focused** and attempt to harness the power of the justice system to address local problems and focus on creative partnerships, problem-solving courts and restorative justice strategies to address juvenile and young adult crimes. These practices should assist in developing **risk reduction strategies**, which can be used as early as pretrial release, plea bargaining, and prior to sentencing.
- Community supervision organizations should build **closer partnerships** with law enforcement agencies and the community to enhance public safety. With help from these partnerships, improved communication will occur with active clients and those released from the criminal justice system. This strategy will enhance community safety and also connect these individuals to the community by being given an opportunity to succeed rather than recidivate.
- While care, custody and control of inmates have been the primary mission of prisons and jails, these responsibilities must be enhanced to include the more effective pre-release strategies to address behavioral changes and reintegration into the community. Corrections administrators must increase awareness and deal more effectively with **reentry planning** and connecting to **resources** and organizations in local communities such as employment, vocational training, therapeutic treatment services, and financial counseling.

Each component of the criminal justice system will be impacted under this strategy and traditional organizational cultures challenged. The traditional bureaucratic models of criminal justice will remain but will be **augmented by new “problem solving” justice approaches** that will enhance existing practices. These approaches will require enhanced training and educational curriculums for police, prosecution, courts and corrections officials. There will be a need for more hands-on training that focuses on problem- oriented approaches to assess community and public safety issues and crafting workable, practicable solutions to police officers, judges, attorneys, corrections officials and other criminal justice officials as needed, and other community and government organizations.

In order to measure the impacts of new procedures, there is a need to provide more rigorous **individual risk assessments and community evaluations**. Community issues such as poverty, educational deficiencies, inadequate housing, and unemployment may have an adverse impact on the individual and if these risk factors can be addressed properly, re-offending may be minimized. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Program entitled County Health Ranking and Road Maps <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/> has community wellness rankings that can be used for this purpose.

Better staff training is needed about complex issues such as domestic violence and drug addiction; combined with better information about complainants and victims, all within the community context of crime, can help improve the decision making of police officers, judges, attorneys, corrections officials, and other justice officials.

High-quality information gathered with the **assistance of technology and shared** in accordance with

confidentiality laws can assist criminal justice practitioners to make more nuanced decisions related to the **discovery and sentencing process**, treatment needs and the risks individual pose to public safety, ensuring offenders receive an **appropriate sentence** and adequate levels of supervision^{iv} and services.

There is a need for communities to have access to **case management software** that will facilitate cross-sector resource linking and communication. Integrated tools of this type allow work to be done in-concert via a network of all stakeholders including human services, non-profits, private industry, faith-based and neighborhood-centric organizations addressing social issues related to poverty, community revitalization, and ex-offender reintegration.

It is anticipated that there will be an immediate need for **additional personnel and equipment for the aforementioned strategies especially related** to the reentry and diversion program coordination associated with the community justice model. There are also long-term needs associated with staffing a local *one-stop community justice center* for parolees, which are yet to be specified.

THE PREVENTION AND REDUCTION OF CRIME

The following are a list of **crimes and violations** normally associated with community justice:

Person, property, and drug offenses: Felony offenses may include burglary of a building, theft, criminal mischief, and forgery and are tried in felony courts. Additional offenses may include domestic violence and delinquency. Misdemeanor offenses may include offenses such as prostitution, fraud, shopping, vandalism, truancy, and alcohol-related crimes that are tried in misdemeanor courts.

City code violations: The code enforcement officers and community city prosecutors coordinate their efforts to enforce city codes and prevent and abate nuisances on private property. These offenses are tried in municipal courts. Such nuisances include vacant and dangerous buildings, illegal dumping, weeded lots, graffiti, junk motor vehicles, and other problems that serve as breeding grounds for crime.

Building and fire code violations: These offenses are tried in municipal courts, do not carry any jail time, and usually result in a fine.

Specialized programs, staff: The aforementioned offenses and violations are normally processed through community prosecution programs, community courts and state jails.

There are important elements associated with **community prosecution** initiatives which can enhance crime prevention and reduction strategies. The Bureau of Justice Assistance delineates seven key dimensions: 1) the target problems, 2) the geographic target area, 3) the role of the community, 4) the content of the response to community problems, 5) organizational changes within the prosecutor's office, 6) case processing adaptations, and 7) interagency collaboration and partnerships relating to the initiative. Refer to the Bureau of Justice Assistance *Bulletin* <https://www.ncjrs.gov/html/bja/commpros/bja2.html>

Many **community courts** are decentralized and located closer to the communities they serve. Community courts use traditional and therapeutic approaches to justice that concentrates on the laws impact on emotional life and psychological well-being of the individual. Therapeutic jurisprudence strategies have emerged as the theoretical foundation for the increasing numbers of "**problem-solving courts**," Problem solving courts ensure that the same judges and prosecutors will be involved in the adjudication of cases. This approach has transformed the role of the judiciary. These include specialized courts such as drug courts, truancy courts, domestic violence courts, mental health courts, re-entry courts, and community courts. The punishment for many of these cases is community supervision/probation, a county jail term^v or a separate sentence to a state jail.^{vi}

While there is existing staff with the training and equipment to manage these various programs such as the drug court, domestic violence courts, mental health court, prostitution court and veterans court they are not identified exclusively within the community justice initiative. The training, staff and specialized community justice programs within law enforcement, prosecution and corrections remain undetermined and are not identified exclusively as a community justice initiative.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

A FORMAL COMMITMENT TO A COMMUNITY JUSTICE AND REINTEGRATION STRATEGY

There has been little progress at addressing recidivism rates throughout the years and the “revolving door” issues remain. State and **local recidivism rates are high** and Texas prisons are at capacity levels.^{vii} Criminal justice reform is needed that calls for **changes in the handling of certain offenders** and the introduction of more community-based problem-solving principles that support national trends and the more notable justice reforms in Texas.^{viii} This strategy does not replace “get tough” policies that remain an option for predatory recidivists that commit serious crimes.

There is a need to carefully address **individual culpability** factors and specialized sanctions for certain age groups. Better in-custody treatment, rehabilitation, reentry and aftercare programs are needed in all institutions so **all inmates can be released safely to the community** and under some form of community-based supervision. For example, Texas State Jail inmates complete their sentence and are released directly to the street without supervision and may be one of the variables contributing to the currently high recidivism rates for this group. A reform strategy that addresses **reintegration as a new sentencing goal** should be considered by adding reintegration to the four traditional goals of sentencing; incapacitation, deterrence, punishment and rehabilitation. This approach should **solidify a commitment** to the reintegration strategy and help reduce the chances of recidivism because *reintegration* becomes a shared responsibility with the community. The use of **more rigorous risk assessments**, other related risk and recidivism reduction strategies are also suggested.

There is a need for a **seamless community justice and reentry strategic plan** in Texas that includes a long-term reintegration strategy and should be incorporated into each jurisdiction's criminal justice plan. Reintegration is a shared responsibility between the community and the criminal justice system and is most successful when the offender has the benefit of being connected with resources and organizations in his or her own community. Many analysts believe that a **commitment** to a reintegration strategy drives the problem-solving and community justice strategy. This plan should address the need to establish **reintegration as a core goal** in the sentencing process, accompanied by more enhanced coordination of reentry services and resources. This plan should target each prisoner **from the time of arrest**, entry into the county jail, pretrial release, adjudication, the prison system, through parole and reintegration into the community. More **comprehensive risk assessments and presentence reports** should also be included in this process to assure the defendant's fair release, adjudication, and successful reentry and reintegration into society.

More research, training and staff are needed within the local communities, law enforcement, prosecution, courts and corrections exclusively related to community justice initiatives and programs. Community justice pilot programs should target certain zip code(s), **conduct community surveys** and track performance measures related to crime and recidivism rates. These studies should include problem identification, evaluation of existing resources, and outcome measures in order to compare the results to traditional programs.

Community justice is gaining support within criminal justice; however, efforts **will remain fragmented** unless reintegration is added to the four traditional goals of sentencing and, in turn, will establish a vision, mission and

values message that will strengthen each agency's **commitment** to the rehabilitation and reintegration process.

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TRAINING/SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS/STAFF/EQUIPMENT

Identify the types of crimes you want to prevent/reduce with training, specialized programs, staff or equipment

The following types of violations and crimes are associated with a community justice strategy:

Violations/Offenses Normally Associated with Community Justice

City Code violations: The code enforcement officers and community city prosecutors coordinate their efforts to enforce city codes and prevent and abate nuisances on private property. These offenses are tried in municipal courts. Such nuisances include vacant and dangerous buildings, illegal dumping, weeded lots, graffiti, junk motor vehicles, and other problems that serve as breeding grounds for crime.

Building and fire code violations: These offenses are tried in municipal courts, do not carry any jail time, and usually result in a fine.

Person, property, and drug offenses: Misdemeanor offenses such as prostitution, fraud, shopping, vandalism, truancy, and alcohol-related crimes that are tried in misdemeanor courts. Felony offenses may include burglary of a building, theft, criminal mischief, and forgery and are tried in felony courts. Additional offenses may include domestic violence and delinquency. **Describe the components you have versus those you do not have as related to crime prevention/reduction.**

EXISTING TRAINING, SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS, STAFF OR EQUIPMENT:

While there is existing staff that can operate this program, they are not collectively in one location nor approved for a community justice effort.

GAPS IN TRAINING, SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS, AND STAFF:

Specialized Programs: There is no formally established community justice planning partnership or forum at the local and state levels of government that addresses the community justice strategy. There is a need to develop a criminal justice strategy that is more conducive to reducing recidivism and enhancing community safety. More reentry planning and coordination with local communities on these types of offenders is essential in order to have a positive impact on recidivism rates.

There is also a need for decentralized community justice organizations where participants, such as community representatives, police officers, prosecutors, probation officers, parole officers, and related equipment used by these organizations are housed together.

Training/Staff: Hands-on training that focuses on assessing public safety problems and crafting workable, practicable solutions should be provided to judges, attorneys, criminal justice officials, and community organizations. In order to measure the impacts of new procedures, experts need to provide rigorous community needs assessment.

It is anticipated that there will be an immediate need for additional program coordinators to manage the reentry and diversion processes associated with the community justice model. The long-term needs that are associated with staffing the local community justice centers have yet to be determined.

IF YOU DON'T HAVE IT, WHAT IS THE REASON?

This concept has not been formally accepted or implemented. Additionally, lack of funding is the primary reason why these resources are not available.

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CRIME PREVENTION/REDUCTION—REENTRY AND REINTEGRATION

TRAINING/SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS/STAFF/EQUIPMENT

Identify the types of crimes you want to prevent/reduce with training, specialized programs, staff, or equipment.

In 2012, the average number of inmates released from the penitentiary and state jail into Tarrant County was approximately 5,494.⁹ Of the 5,494 inmates released from prison and state jail in 2012, 3,030 were released to finish out their sentences under supervision and 2,464 were released without supervision. In 2012, Tarrant County jail released 37,330 inmates. Of those inmates released by Tarrant County jail, an estimated 22,106 inmates were released into the community supervision.

INMATES RELEASED TO TARRANT COUNTY 2012					
Release Type	Tarrant County Jail	Penitentiary	State Jail	SAFP	Total
Total Released	37,330	3442	1795	257	48,824
Supervision After Release Community Supervision	22,106	2795	2	233	25,136
Released to Community without Supervision	15,224	647	1793	24	17,688

The TDCJ Fiscal Year 2005-2012 Statistical Reports revealed that TDCJ has received approximately the same number of inmates from local jails since 2005 even when crime rates have declined. Releases were steady until 2012 when there was a 9.0% increase; approximately 6,000 (77,316) more inmates than the previous seven years. In the 2013 the TDCJ Statistical Report revealed that TDCJ has continued to receive approximately the same number of inmates from local jails and total releases equated to 74,311 the 2nd highest in eight years. The 2013 Texas Legislative Budget Board recidivism study revealed that the prison 3-year re-arrest rates were 47.2 % and State Jail re-arrest rates equated to 62.7%. This study also suggested that that these rates have remained relatively the same since 2004 and that State Jail releases to counties may be on the rise. **For example, from 2011–2013 there was a 20% increase in State Jail Releases to Tarrant County, Texas (i.e., 62.7% recidivism rate).**¹⁰

Describe the components you have versus those you do not have as related to crime prevention/reduction.

EXISTING PROGRAMS FOR REENTRY AND REINTEGRATION

Tarrant County has the following resources to address recidivism:

Tarrant County Reentry Coalition - Formed in 2013, The Tarrant County Reentry Coalition is a county-wide coalition that has formed to enhance reentry collaboration. The goal of the Coalition is to develop and execute a long-range strategy aimed at breaking the devastating cycle of recidivism in tangible ways. The Coalition meets the third Friday of each month, from 9:30 am to 11:00 am, at Cornerstone Assistance Network in Fort Worth.

Tarrant County Reentry Resource Directory - This reentry-friendly website provides resources for individuals, their families, and the professionals assisting them to achieve successful reentry to Tarrant County. This website was first launched in February 2013 and will continue to add resources as they become available.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice – Parole Division: supervises offenders released from Texas state prisons who are serving out their sentences in the community. In 2012, 81% of those released from state prison served out their sentences under supervision in the community.¹¹

Temporary Housing Assistance Program (THAP): authorized under Texas Government Code § 508.157, is a program funded by Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) that provides temporary housing assistance at no cost to certain individuals who are awaiting release from TDCJ. The program applies only to individuals who are approaching their mandatory supervision release date and to those who have been approved for parole but who are awaiting a halfway house placement.

TDCJ Resource Center (DRC): provides classes for parolees in the following areas: GED certification, parenting, anger control, and substance abuse. Additional services include: case management and family services. Many parolees do not obtain services from the DRC because not all are required to do so. The DRC in Tarrant County is located at the parole office at 3628 McCart in Fort Worth, 76110.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice – Reentry and Integration Division: The Reentry and Integration Division combines the Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI), and an expanded reentry initiative, to better focus state resources to reduce recidivism and address the needs of juvenile and adult offenders. **Cheryl McDonald has been assigned as the Case Manager for Tarrant County.

Felony Alcohol Intervention Program (FAIP) - The Tarrant County Felony Alcohol Intervention Program (FAIP) is a post adjudication program for the high-risk repeat DWI offender. To reduce injuries and deaths resulting from alcohol related motor vehicle crashes, the Tarrant County Felony Alcohol Intervention Program requires convicted repeat DWI offenders to undergo a judicially supervised regimen of intensive supervision and treatment.

Project RAPP (Rehabilitation Alternatives for Parolees and Probationers): focuses on reducing the rate of reoffending for mentally impaired probationers and parolees through psychiatric and psychosocial rehabilitation. RAPP is a collaborative effort by Tarrant County Mental Health & Mental Retardation (MHMR), Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI), and TDCJ. RAPP provides mental health services to ex-offenders diagnosed with mental impairments. It currently serves 107 probationers and 122 parolees.

Reentry Courts: supervise the aftercare of defendants released from Substance Abuse Felony Punishment Facility (SAFPF), authorized by Texas Code of Criminal Procedure 42.12 § 14; or the Intensive Day Treatment (IDT) Facility. Judges donate their time to oversee these reentry courts. Judge George Gallagher and Judge Mollee Westfall oversee the reentry court for SAFPF participants. Judge Timmie White oversees the reentry court for IDT program participants.

Diversion Courts: Problem-solving courts designed to divert offenders out of the traditional criminal justice process and into appropriate rehabilitative alternatives. Reentry courts in Tarrant County include Veteran's Court, Mental Health Court, D.I.R.E.C.T Diversion Drug Court, Youth Offender Diversion Alternative, the HOPE Program, and the Reaching Independence through Successful Empowerment (RISE) Program.

Tarrant County Jail: Tarrant County Sheriff's Office offers voluntary classes to inmates housed in Tarrant County jail focusing on GED certification, mental health, substance abuse, batterer's intervention, and sexually-transmitted diseases and prevention. The Tarrant County Inmate Reintegration Program (TCJIRP) is designed to prevent adult offender re-arrests and establish successful reintegration into the community. The program worked with eligible men and women (pre- release) who were at a high risk of recidivism and who will return to Tarrant County.

Halfway facilities: The Fort Worth Transitional Center is a halfway house facility with 200 beds available offered through TDCJ. There are two transition treatment centers offered through SAFPF: Abode Treatment, Inc. with 200 beds available and Volunteers of America (VOA) with 65 beds available.

Faith-based programs (churches and religious institutions): There are a number of faith-based programs throughout Tarrant County that are dedicated to help offenders reentering the community. Please see the Tarrant County Reentry Resource Directory, <http://www.tcreentry.org> for a list of faith-based programs.

Non-profit agencies and organizations dedicated to assisting persons in reentry - can be found on the Tarrant County Reentry Coalition website, www.tcreentry.org which can also be accessed on the Tarrant Cares website, www.tarrantcares.com. This directory is designed to be useful to individuals who are reentering society from incarceration or supervision, their families, and the professionals assisting them to achieve successful reentry to Tarrant County.

GAPS IN PROGRAMS FOR REENTRY AND REINTEGRATION

Inmates released from Tarrant County Jail, like those discharged from the institutional division of TDCJ, typically lack necessary skills and/or resources for successful reintegration.

Training, specialized programs, staff, and equipment are necessary to supplement Tarrant County's **Existing Resources** to address the growing recidivism rate. A reentry program specific to individuals sentenced to Tarrant County jail for state felonies or misdemeanors should assist with the following needs:

Personal records, such as:

- Social Security cards
- Birth certificates
- Driver license
- Credit reports
- Citizenship records
- GED certification
- Employment
- Social development
- Community responsibility

Counseling programs, such as:

- Anger Management
- Drug and alcohol education
- Substance abuse disorders
- Mental health assessments

Additional gaps exist in housing, job training, mental healthcare resources, and family reunification:

Housing: Tarrant County's current capacity for affordable and stable housing falls short of its need as evidenced by the high percentage of homeless individuals who have a previous history of incarceration (state or local level).¹²

Job Training: These individuals with criminal history lack the marketable skills that are currently in demand by local industries (e.g. oil & gas drilling, wind energy industry, and green technologies).

Mental Healthcare Resources: Even though many individuals in the reentry population suffer from mental illnesses, they have not been diagnosed with a DSM axis-1 diagnosis. Proper diagnosis is essential to reducing recidivism because those with axis-1 disorders are more likely to commit future crimes.¹³ An increase in medical healthcare resources is necessary for those who are diagnosed with a mental disorder but stop taking their medication allowing for conditions that could lead to antisocial behavior.

Family Reunification: Many individuals lack the support system necessary to successfully reenter the community, especially from their family. This need can be met by encouraging family members to be involved with counseling, conflict resolution, and boundary setting.

Another GAP that we have is a Reentry Court is for individuals returning to Tarrant County who have been in a Community Correction Facility operated by other CSCDs across the State and the other GAP is not having a Reentry Court for individuals being released from one of the Residential Treatment programs within Tarrant County.

IF YOU DON'T HAVE IT, WHAT IS THE REASON?

Lack of funding is the primary reason why these programs and services have not been created.

¹ The January 2013 Texas Legislative Budget Board 3 year recidivism rates shows that the re-arrest results for the prison population analyzed from 2004-2008 remained relatively the same at approximately 48% and for State Jail 63%. This study does not include re-arrest for technical violations of probation and parole supervision conditions.

² *Principles of Problem-Solving Justice* (2007) by Robert Wolf, Director of Communications at the Center for Court Innovation, A Public/Private Partnership with the New York State Unified Court System pp. 1-9.

³ In 2008, the Tarrant County Criminal Justice Office conducted a recidivism rate study addressing 14,851 individual paroled to Tarrant County from 2000 through 2006. The study revealed that after eight years, based on the 2000 release cohort, 63.7% were re-arrested. Based on the 2005 release cohort after 3 years the re-arrest recidivism rate was 51.4%. This study includes *any re-arrest* by a law enforcement agency. A follow up study is that will begin in June 2014, and will be conducted by the Council of State Governments of which will provide recidivism rates beginning with a 2011 releases from local jails, probation, and those paroled from prison.

⁴ Ibid. Wolf pp. 1-9

⁵ As of April 24, 2014 there are 253 inmates housed in the Tarrant County Jail under the category of “court programs” with an average length of stay equating to 65 days. These inmates are serving time for various crimes related to substance abuse, family violence and mental health issues of which are associated with drug courts, family violence courts and mental health courts. There are only 61 sentenced to a State jail. Additionally, many mental health issues are related to substance abuse and petty crime and more community-based alternatives to jail such as community mental health centers or permanent supporting housing are needed for this population.

⁶ Texas State Jails are part of the prison system and house inmates charged with State Jail Felonies or those lower level crimes such as theft and drug violations. State jails were originally a part of the community supervision system and associated with time in a state jail, or as punishment for probation violation, however this practice was discontinued by the 1997 Texas Legislature. This concept was ahead of its time, as drug courts and other related problem solving courts such as the HOPE program currently employ swift and sure sanctions using ongoing oversight and the threat of jail time for offenders to comply with conditions and have seen significant reductions in recidivism. State jails as part of the community supervision system, and using the state jails as a punishment for probation violations while strongly emphasizing rehabilitation may be the solution to the community justice model.

⁷ On May 31, 2014 the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Daily Maximum Offender Population reported that the prison population was 150,461, the operating capacity 150,540 (99%) with only 79 available beds.

⁸ *Right on Crime* a project of the Texas Public Policy Foundation in Cooperation With Justice Fellowship <http://www.rightoncrime.com/reform-in-action/state-initiatives/texas/>.

⁹ Fiscal Year 2012 Statistical Report – Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Page 13.

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ Ibid

¹² 2004 Tarrant County Homeless Survey and 2009 Tarrant County Homeless Census, *available at* <http://www.ahomewithhope.org/media/20806/2004%20homeless%20survey.pdf>, *also available at* <http://www.ahomewithhope.org/media/20800/2009%20homeless%20count%20brief.pdf>.

¹³ According to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition, an Axis-1 diagnosis is defined as mental health symptoms that cause a severe disruption in multiple areas of an individual's life. Axis-1 includes all mental health conditions except for personality disorders and mental retardation.

ⁱ The January 2013 Texas Legislative Budget Board 3 year recidivism rates shows that the re-arrest results for the prison population analyzed from 2004-2008 remained relatively the same at approximately 48% and for State Jail 63%. This study does not include re-arrest for technical violations of probation and parole supervision conditions.

ⁱⁱ *Principles of Problem-Solving Justice* (2007) by Robert Wolf, Director of Communications at the Center for Court Innovation, A Public/Private Partnership with the New York State Unified Court System pp. 1-9.

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