

## **MISSION Community Re-Entry for Women (MISSION-CREW) Program Development and Implementation**



A study by faculty of the Center for Mental Health Services Research of Massachusetts on arrest patterns of individuals with serious mental illnesses receiving DMH services showed female DMH clients at greater risk of arrest than women in the general population.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, women with mental illness are more likely to violate probation and parole and be lost to follow-up within three months post-release.<sup>2</sup> To date, gaps in gender-sensitive programming are apparent with respect to women's unique employment challenges, health related issues, and housing needs related to their social relationships and family responsibilities.<sup>3,4</sup> Another critical need area among female offenders arises from trauma-related disorders associated with physical and sexual victimization.<sup>5</sup> Mental health and other services needed to help address these issues when re-entering the community after a period of incarceration are typically inadequate or underdeveloped. The goal of this study is to examine the impact of MISSION-CREW on criminal justice outcomes for women released from MCI-Framingham and South Middlesex Correctional Center (SMCC).

### **About MISSION-CREW**

Maintaining Independence and Sobriety through Systems Integration, Outreach, and Networking Community Re-Entry for Women (MISSION-CREW) model of care was adapted from the original MISSION program that helped formerly homeless veterans with Co-Occurring Disorders (COD) re-establish their lives in the community.<sup>6</sup> MISSION-CREW seeks to promote successful community reentry and care coordination among female inmates with CODs by employing a model of evidence-based practices that integrates trauma-sensitive treatment, COD treatment, care coordination and peer support.<sup>7</sup> In addition, MISSION-CREW addresses gender-specific re-entry treatment service needs together with comprehensive transition planning and linkages to community based care.

#### **Study Design and Methods:**

##### **Study Population**

- Women incarcerated at MCI Framingham or SMCC for a non-violent index offense who have an open mental health case and a substance use problem, who will be released to the greater Boston area within 45 days to 6 months

##### **Study Methods**

- Compare outcomes of experimental & comparison groups:
  - Experimental group: women enrolled in MISSION-CREW services who complete evaluations at baseline and at 6 months follow-up
  - Comparison group: women receiving treatment as usual

#### **Outcome Variables:**

##### **Primary Outcome Variable**

- Re-arrest rates will be compared one year post-release

##### **Secondary Outcome Variables (for the experimental group only):**

- Change in medical, substance abuse, and psychiatric symptoms
- Participants' perceptions of and satisfaction with MISSION-CREW services
- Completion of MISSION-CREW and referral to other community services

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## References

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