

Transitional Case Management (Text of Video)

Daniel, TCM Participant:

“I’ve been going to prison all my life, you know. While we in prison, everybody wants to go home, you know. We all love going home, but there’s a big gap in between going home and then being able to function in society, so that’s where TCM comes in. All I can say is that I came home with nothing...I came home with nothing...I went into the shelter, I had nothing. The same sweatpants that I wore in the jail, that’s what I was wearing for the first few days. I see guys in the streets. I see ‘em with the sweatpants, a sweatshirt, or the T-shirt. I see ‘em in the morning, walking downtown, ‘cause they drop you off right there.”

James, TCM Participant:

“They drop you off at a core house. They give you a bus ticket, and you’re on your own. And I’m not allowed to leave the state, because I’m on probation, so I had no place. I couldn’t even go back home.”

Daniel, TCM Participant:

“When you finish your time – I don’t care if you did 18 years – Get out! Right there on the street, and if you don’t have a network or something to go to, what are you going to do?”

Erin Leavitt, TCM Program Manager:

“The TCM Program started as a grant-funded program through the federal government, and how we envisioned the program working here in Connecticut was to really target the transition period when an inmate left prison and the first 3-4 months after leaving prison which typically are the most difficult time for inmates leaving.”

Daniel, TCM Participant:

“So the TCM Program is what was the bridge, like, you know, it was just, you know, a support in between, you know, being released from prison and then trying to get a little bit of a foothold in society.”

James, TCM Participant:

“Being involved with TCM is, it was just one less thing I had to worry about when I got out of jail.”

Erin Leavitt, TCM Program Manager:

“We really wanted to target that period of time and really load services in those first 3-4 months to really help men leaving the prison system. What would most be needed? Housing! And one of the options that we envisioned with the staff was paying for people to be in a sober environment, like a sober house.”

James, TCM Participant:

“The guys at the house are great. I don’t have a negative thing to say about anybody. And there’s 13 of us living in one house. But, it’s great. We are all in the same boat. Everybody has got addiction problems. Everybody has got, you know, just-getting-out-of-jail problems.”

Erin Leavitt, TCM Program Manager:

“We also thought it was important to have food and clothing and bus passes for people to be able to get to probation appointments, parole appointments, to be able to look for work and not have to worry about money for the bus.”

Daniel, TCM Participant:

“The bus pass allows me to go, like, 5 or 6 places in one day. The vouchers – I purposely made sure that I used the vouchers for what they supposed to be for – I bought like underwear, deodorant, toothpaste – I bought like three of each.”

Erin Leavitt, TCM Program Manager:

“We also wanted to be able to develop relationships with staff prior to release from prison, so that by the staff going in 3-4 months, sitting with the inmate and really understanding what strengths the inmate has, and how those strengths are going to help him during that transition and how to set up goals, based on those strengths.

James, TCM Participant:

“The counselors, they followed me every week until I got out. They came. They saw me once a week. It was great. I looked forward to having that visit in jail. Every Thursday I’d get my call. I’d have to go down to the visiting room.

Daniel, TCM Participant:

“And they were there every step of the way. It was like...there was no arguing, ‘cause sometimes you’d get a case manager, you’re like, ‘aw .. screw him!’ It was not of that, you know; it was the opposite. It was supportive, encouraging or everything.”

Erin Leavitt, TCM Program Manager:

“One of the things that we collect is data on recidivism. With people that have completed the program, we have been able to reduce your chance of going back to prison from about 60-70% to about 10%, so to me that shows that the program is effective if people are willing to work the program and utilize the services that we offer.

James, TCM Participant:

“I’m guilty of driving drunk...why I went to jail, for DUI. I have lost a lot of big money jobs. I’ve lost my kids. I drank myself out of my first marriage. Lost my fiancée to this disease, and it’s time to start over, and if it wasn’t for TCM, I don’t know where I’d be.”

Daniel, TCM Participant:

“I’m grateful that when they brought it to me that I stayed in the chair, you know, because I didn’t want to be there. I didn’t know, what the heck, what are you talking about, TCM? What the heck is that and why would you ask me for it? I’m discharged. Where I’m at right now, I’m at a beautiful place – spiritually, physically, emotionally, mentally, financially – I’m in a beautiful place. I’m telling you. Take my word.”