

VCJR

Vermonters *for*  
Criminal Justice Reform


## Who We Work With

- **Justice-involved people living with substance use disorders and co-occurring mental health disorders**
- **Particularly vulnerable**
- **Particularly hard to reach**
- **Particularly high community impact**



# **We reach high-risk people with complex needs**

## **Intake Data:**

- **283 unique clients since August 2022**
  - **64% were recently released from incarceration**
  - **90% were unhoused or insecurely housed**
  - **81% tested positive for both stimulants and opioids**
  - **80% reported current injection drug use**
  - **99.4% reported extremely low or very low income (based on HUD income guidelines)**
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# **We reach high-risk people with complex needs**

## **Intake Data:**

- **86% reported a history of serious wounds, blood infections or endocarditis**
- **34% had current wounds or infections (likely due to Xylazine contamination)**
- **57% experienced serious mental health symptoms related to methamphetamine use**
- **94% reported a history of overdose**
- **54% of participants had overdosed in the last 6 months**

# Request: Outreach Position for Chittenden & Addison Counties

- Please consider recommending assignment of one outreach position to VCJR for deployment in Chittenden and Addison Counties
- 26 outreach/case management positions currently part of ongoing funding (one or more of these positions are reportedly currently going unused)
- Opportunity to make sure already allocated funds are fully and optimally utilized
- VCJR is well positioned to make very good use of one of these unused positions
- Will significantly improve the outreach capacity of our small organization –an organization with a proven track record of success in reaching high-risk individuals otherwise not connected to care



# **Expanding our Outreach Capacity**

- **Build on our proven ability to reach those at highest risk and engage in services**
- **Expand capacity to find people in the community and link to treatment and services**
- **Regularly connect and collaborate with other community providers and street outreach services**
- **Expand efforts to reconnect with high-risk people lost to contact and re-engage in services**
- **We are a small staff and could greatly expand our outreach capacity with an additional staff member focused specifically on outreach**



# **Community Benefits**

- **Prevent overdose deaths**
- **Reduce unnecessary incarceration**
- **Keep parents and children together**
- **Reduce crime**
- **Reduce interpersonal violence**
- **Reduce health disparities and improve health outcomes**
- **Increase community connection during the high-risk period following incarceration**
- **Long standing and trusted relationships with justice involved people provides realistic opportunities for people to get support before things reach a point of desperation and reduces likelihood of violence and crime**

# Some of our direct supports and services

- **Walk-in case management that is not dependent on recovery status**
  - **Clients drop in daily with serious medical and treatment needs**
- **Treatment options counseling, referral and linkages to care**
- **Transportation from the correctional facility, to inpatient treatment, to medical appointments, etc.**
- **Support in filling critical gaps in care in the moment of need (MOUD, housing, basic needs)**
- **Medical clinic and medical case management**
- **Crisis support and referral**
- **Systems advocacy**
- **Accompaniment and visits to the emergency room and hospital, post hospital discharge planning and support**
- **Parenting and DCF support**



# Overdose Prevention Services

- **Naloxone distribution and training**
- **Fentanyl and Xylazine test strip distribution and education**
- **Harm reduction education**
- **Drug treatment options counseling and referral**
- **Picking people up directly from the facility upon release**
- **Address gaps to medication during a very high-risk time**
- **Overdose prevention focused contingency management**
- **Drug checking clinic (in collaboration with Vermont CARES)**
- **Low barrier and on demand access to MOUD**
- **Treatment coordination and treatment retention support**

Thank you  
for considering our  
request!