



Dept. Of Correction Bridging Benefits Committee Formerly known as DOC Pilot Project

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Outline

- Acknowledgements and many thanks
- Quick background
- Pilot Initiative evaluation
- Limitations, and Future efforts
- Name Change
- Questions/Comments

Stakeholders

Multi-jurisdictional Workgroup convened consisting of:

DHS Staff

County Employees

Program Participants

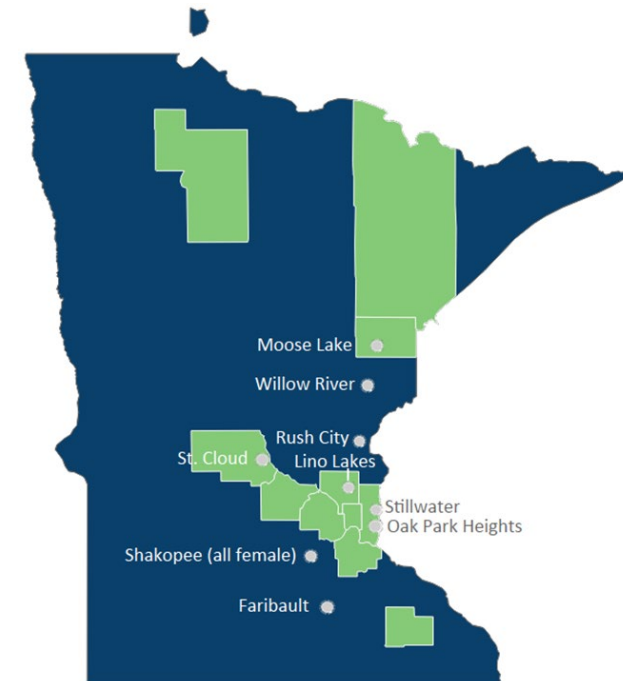
DOC Staff

Tribal

Community
Advocates

Background

- MN DOC was awarded a Minnesota Statewide Initiative to Reduce Recidivism (MNSIRR) grant, funded through the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Second Chance Grants for Planning and Implementing Statewide or Planning and Implementing Statewide Recidivism Reduction.
- DOC uses MNSTARR tool to identify people at a high or very high risk of recidivism
- DHS began its work assessing participants in September 2017
 - 11 counties participated in the project
 - Covering over half the state's "high risk" incarcerated population
- Key components of project intervention:
 - Integrated Case Management provided by DOC prior to release
 - Coordination between DOC and DHS to improve access to eligible benefits
 - Public assistance navigation and case management provided by DHS-based worker
 - DHS worker remains a resource after person's case is transferred to the county.



DHS-DOC Agreement

Effective August 2017, formal agreements were worked out between Minnesota Department of Human Services and Minnesota Department of Corrections to ensure individuals leaving Correctional Facilities Preventing From Recidivism



Integrated Case Management (ICM)

- **DOC provides all Pilot Initiative participants with Integrated Case Management,**
 - **More frequent meetings than traditional case management**
 - **Monthly vs at Yearly.**
 - **Individualized Case Plans with Action Steps reviewed every month.**
 - **Discuss release planning, goal setting, progress, and program referrals : Person Center Planning**
 - **This is where Employment Services and Bridging Benefits Team to work to gather with MFIP Policy Team**
 - **High Priority access to some types of programming meant to improve life skills and regulate emotions/behaviors**
 - **Thinking for a Change, treatment, job training and behavior plan.**
 - **Carey Guides (one-on-one quick interventions on any of 40 topics from Antisocial Thinking to Prosocial Leisure Activities).**
- **DHS – MNSURE / CAF applications with direct access to DHS staff to get set up prior to release.**
- **Direct Contact with Parole agents prior to release to go over conditions/questions.**
- **Case Management helps with setting up Mental Health / Health Services appointments post release if requested.**

DHS and DOC Coordinated Service Model

90-120 days
before release

Step 1: Corrections staff screen for Pilot Initiative eligibility
Step 2: Request applications/forms and contact Human Services

30-45 days
before release

Step 3: Complete the healthcare application (45 days before)
Step 4: Complete the application for food and cash assistance (30 days before)

Up to day of
release

Step 5: Pilot Initiative staff help process benefits and contact the county case worker regarding program approvals
Step 6: Approved programs will forward documents and benefits cards to the Correctional Facility so that they are ready upon a participant's release

After release /
ongoing work

After transferring participants' cases to counties Pilot Initiative staff continue to:

- Coordinate care and services across organizations and programs
- Address barriers to access and administrative errors
- Provide ongoing technical assistance where needed

Role Of DHS

Pre-release: DHS processes the initial application using CAF (DHS-5223, 3443, 6696) for all the following Programs (SNAP, MA, MFIP, GA).

Post-release: DHS uses the following forms to transfer the case to the County and Tribal Nation

- DHS Forms (DHS-5223, 3443, 6696)
- DHS-5223- Combined Application Form (CAF)
- DHS-6696- MNSure Application
- DHS-2114 (Medical Opinion Form) for SNAP, MFIP, GA
- DHS-3443- Individual Discharge Information Form

Recertification: County and Tribal uses HUF and MNbenefits to recertify

Case Management: County/Tribal Nation manages case; and, DHS monitors the case.

Medical Opinion Forms and MFIP Extensions For Dept. Of Corrections New Releases

DHS will use Medical Opinion Form to determine the exemption or extension basis based on the client's situation **after they have used 60 months of MFIP.**

County and Tribal Nation Eligibility Workers Responsibilities

Once DHS has processed the case and transfers the case to the county and tribal nations:

- 1) DHS will provide a copy of medical opinion form for the County and Tribal Nation for their record.
- 2) When DHS staff finalizes the determinations of benefits will transfer the case to the County and or Tribal Nations of residence
- 3) County/Tribal Nations will follow up with the case once the renewal or certifications is due.
- 4) County or Tribal Nations will contact DHS before taking any negative action, the first contact is Bridging Benefits Team and determination is made in consultation with the relevant policy team **(MFIP,SNAP,GA and MSA)**

County and Tribal Nation Eligibility workers Responsibilities

- HSR will follow up clients case when the renewal or recertification's is due.
- HSRs:
 1. Please do not ask the client to provide another Medical Opinion Form (MOF) once the County/Tribal Nation receives transfer from DHS Bridging Benefits case or cases
 2. If client is adding a child or children to their household, County/Tribal Nation will add the child/children to the case.
 3. The Transition Team Leader (TTL) Or MFIP Coordination Office can also contact us if you have further questions.
 4. Please contact DOC.BridgingBenefits.DHS@state.mn.us

Pilot Initiative Evaluation

- Described successes and lessons learned from new cross-agency collaborations
- Studied Pilot Initiative participants released Sept. 2017 – May 2018
- Compared public assistance accessed by Pilot Initiative participants (released Sept. 2017 – May 2018) to a random sample of people released in 2014-2016
- Found that Pilot Initiatives accessed health, food, and cash benefits at higher rates than the comparison group
 - Accessed food (SNAP) and healthcare benefits earlier than typical

Context for 2021 Follow-up Evaluation

- 3 years have passed since the cohort of participants was released
- Corrections measures recidivism based on 3 years after release
 - New felony conviction (37% as of FY 19)
 - New felony incarceration (25% as of FY 19)
 - These rates are even higher for the “high” and “very high” risk population
- DOC provided data on new incarcerations for both the Pilot Initiative participants and the comparison group
 - Changes in MN policy regarding revocations over the study period prevented that comparison
 - MN state policy regarding criteria for new release returns changed prior to the start of the Pilot Initiative
 - New incarcerations—while less common—may offer a more valid measure when comparing over time
- Estimate the effect of the Pilot Initiative on the likelihood of having a new incarceration
 - Other possible outcomes: homelessness, healthcare use, use of benefits

Estimating the likelihood of Recidivism

- Logistic regression models estimate how different factors increase or decrease the likelihood of a 1/0 (yes/no) outcome while holding “all other things equal”
 - Main outcome of interest: Whether someone had a new incarceration
 - Other outcome of interest: Whether someone became homeless after release
- The model controls for the following factors and estimates the effect each has on the likelihood of recidivism:
 - Pilot Initiative participation
 - Race
 - Education (high school graduate yes vs no)

Basic logistic regression formula

$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_i + \epsilon_i$$

Diagram illustrating the components of the basic logistic regression formula:

- Dependent Variable: Y_i
- Population Y intercept: β_0
- Population Slope Coefficient: β_1
- Independent Variable: X_i
- Random Error term: ϵ_i

The formula is broken down into two components:

- Linear component: $\beta_0 + \beta_1 X_i$
- Random Error component: ϵ_i

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Estimating the likelihood of Recidivism (Continued):

- U.S. citizenship
- Gender/sex
- Whether the person was released into a Twin Cities metro area county
- Mental and chemical health
- Disabled basis of eligibility for MA/Medicaid (certified by State Medical Review Team)
- Prior history of homelessness (yes vs no)
- Number of times previously incarcerated
- Offense type

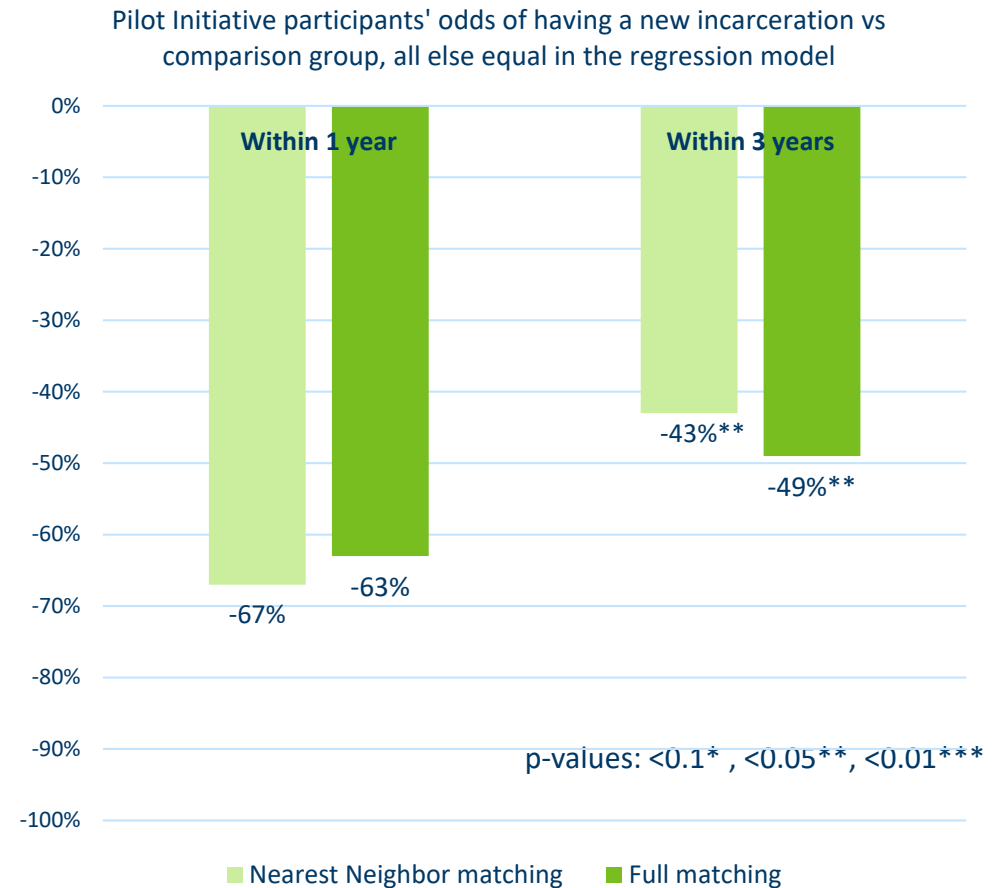
Basic logistic regression formula

$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_i + \varepsilon_i$$

The diagram shows the formula $Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_i + \varepsilon_i$ with several labels and brackets. On the left, 'Dependent Variable' points to Y_i . Above β_0 , 'Population Y intercept' points to it. Above β_1 , 'Population Slope Coefficient' points to it. Above X_i , 'Independent Variable' points to it. On the right, 'Random Error term' points to ε_i . A blue bracket under $\beta_0 + \beta_1 X_i$ is labeled 'Linear component'. Another blue bracket under ε_i is labeled 'Random component'.

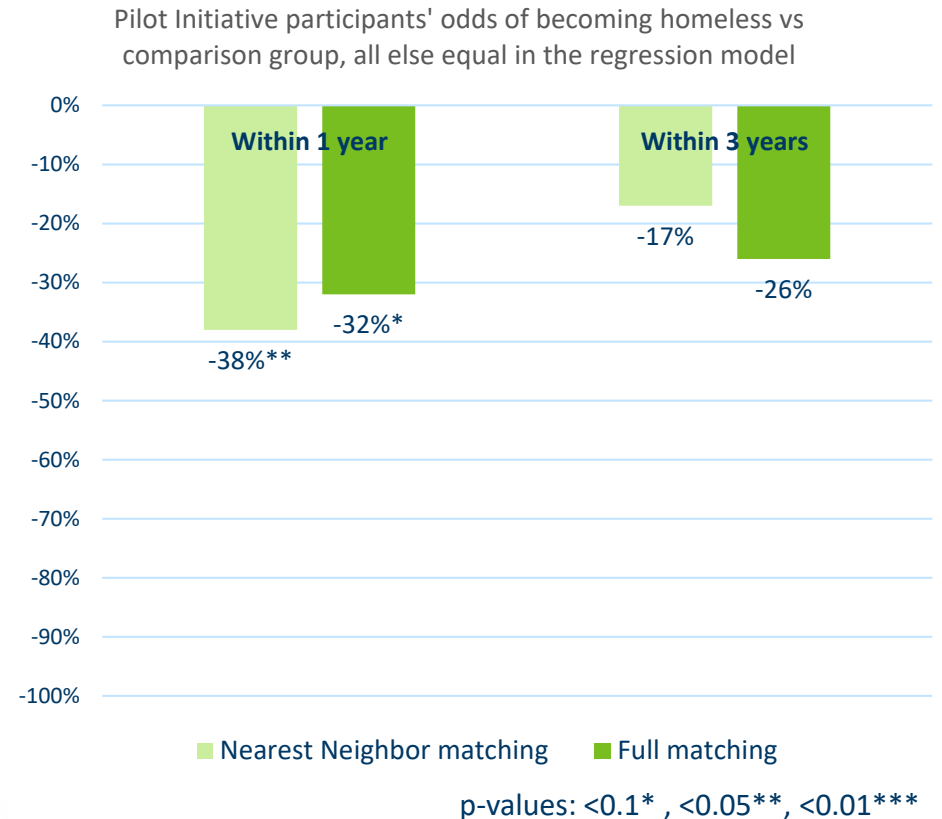
Pilot Initiative Evaluation

- The estimated effect of Pilot Initiative participation was largest in 1st year of release (about 2/3 less likely to have a new incarceration), but this was not statistically significant (possibly too few values)
- At 3 years after release both matching models estimated that Pilot Initiative participants were about half as likely to have a new incarceration than people in the comparison group (after controlling for observable characteristics)
 - 43% less likely (with over 95% confidence in the estimate) when using “nearest neighbor” matching
 - 49% less likely (with over 95% confidence in the estimate) when using “full” matching



Key Finding #2: Reduced likelihood of Homelessness

- The estimated effect of Pilot Initiative participation on the likelihood of homelessness was largest (about 1/3 less than comparison group) and most significantly significant in the first year after release.
 - 38% less likely than comparison group (with over 95% confidence in the estimate) when using “nearest neighbor” matching
 - 32% less likely than comparison group (with over 90% confidence in the estimate) when using “full” matching
- Pilot Initiative participants were also less likely than those in the comparison group to experience homelessness 3 years after release, but the difference was not as great.



Future Efforts

■ Program Operations:

- In addition to the one current FTE based at DHS, this year's state human services budget approved 2 more FTEs to help participants access food, cash, housing, and emergency assistance
- We are partnering with Dept. Of Corrections to expand the populations and expanding the steering committee membership
- Continue building capacity and efficiencies across Counties/Tribal Nations and Correctional Facilities

• Future evaluations may wish to:

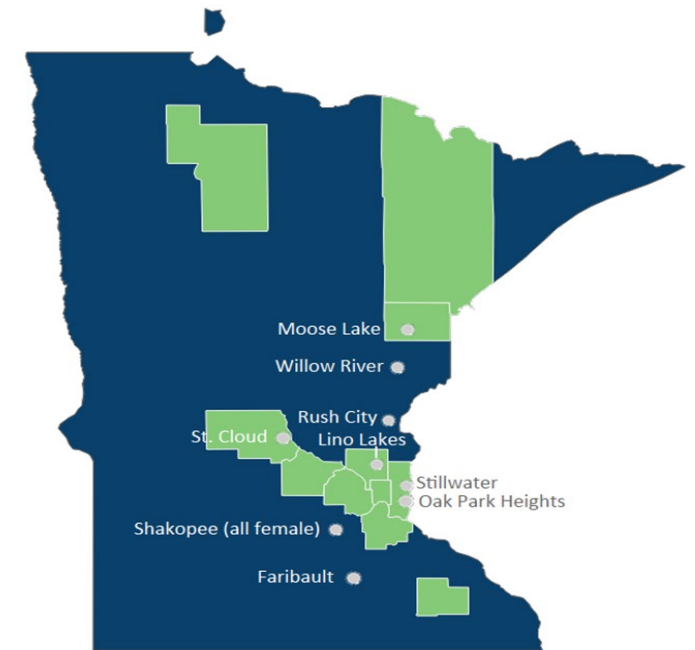
- Look at other outcome measures in addition to recidivism and homelessness
- Estimate cost savings related to reduced recidivism
- Evaluate people served by the Pilot Initiative since May 2018 (end of current evaluation cohort)

Name Change

- This is previously known as Depart. Of Corrections Pilot Project
- Name has changed to: **Bridging Benefits Committee**

- Future Contacts with DHS:

- DOC.BridgingBenefits.DHS@state.mn.us
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Thank you!

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Questions?



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