

## TASC Programs in Cook County

TASC advocates for people in courts, jails, prisons, and child welfare systems who need treatment for alcohol/drug and mental health problems.

### **ADULT COURT & PROBATION SERVICES**

TASC works with men and women whose alcohol and drug problems have contributed to their involvement in nonviolent criminal behavior. Judges, attorneys, and probation officers refer potential clients to TASC. As a liaison between the courts and community-based treatment, TASC services slow the cycle of addiction, crime, and incarceration and reduce the pressure that large numbers of offenders place on public systems.

#### **Adult Criminal Justice Services (ACJS): Supervised Treatment via Designated Program**

In Illinois, the legislature has provided for access to treatment as an alternative to prison for nonviolent offenders with substance abuse or dependence disorders. If clients meet eligibility criteria under the statute, TASC conducts an in-depth assessment of their criminal justice history, the nature and extent of addiction, readiness for treatment, and likelihood of treatment success.

Individuals who meet legal and clinical criteria, may receive probation with TASC supervision. TASC case managers develop individualized service plans that include linkages to community-based substance abuse treatment, medical/mental health services, vocational/educational programs, and other needed social services.

TASC monitors client progress, reevaluates client needs, and provides reports to the court. Client compliance is monitored through ongoing case management and toxicology screening using TASC's certified clinical laboratories.

#### **Cook County Drug Court**

TASC works with drug courts across Illinois to help reduce recidivism among offenders and to reduce court backlogs and jail crowding. TASC offers assessment and advocacy services to clients involved in the Cook County Drug Courts, and serves as a clinical resource on addiction for criminal justice professionals.

#### **Cook County Mental Health Court (MHC)**

The Cook County Mental Health Court (MHC) is an innovative program aimed at successful probation and community reentry for felony probationers living with chronic mental illness, most of whom have co-occurring substance abuse problems.

As a member of the MHC, TASC serves two important roles. As a systems leader, TASC provides ongoing management by convening the planning process and facilitating the steering committee, and routinely heads funding development efforts to expand MHC capabilities. To ensure that each client's specific needs are met, TASC provides clinical case management, client outreach, and care coordination, court and treatment advocacy, and service planning for community stabilization that addresses mental health, substance abuse, public benefits, and housing needs.

Cook County's MHC goes beyond traditional mental health courts toward the establishment of system-wide interventions for felony offenders with mental illness.

#### **IMPACT (Integrated Multiphase Program of Assessment & Comprehensive Treatment)**

IMPACT is designed to deliver a comprehensive model of substance abuse treatment to offenders and detainees in the Cook County Department of Corrections. Most program clients are cocaine and/or heroin users, usually young adults who are under-educated, unemployed and poor. The project responds to these and ancillary needs through on-

*TASC saves money,  
reduces rearrest, and lays  
the foundation for positive  
and lasting change.*

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TASC, Inc. is a statewide, independent, not-for-profit agency that provides clinical case management and other services to men, women and adolescents with a variety of social and health-related needs.

site educational, vocational, mental health, social, HIV-related and health services. TASC is responsible for the screening and assessment of all individuals referred to the project.

#### **State's Attorney's Drug Abuse Program (SADAP)**

SADAP targets works with drug offenders, providing drug education and understanding of factors that may contribute to substance abuse and addiction. TASC provides clinical assessment services while community-based treatment providers deliver drug education.

### **CORRECTIONS & COMMUNITY REENTRY SERVICES**

TASC works with drug-involved men and women in the Illinois prison system to help provide the treatment and other services needed to reduce recidivism, maintain public safety, and restore productive citizenship.

#### **IDOC Clinical Reentry Case Management for Men, Women, and Youth**

Under the leadership of the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) , TASC provides reentry case management services across Illinois that help parolees successfully transition to their communities. TASC provides comprehensive assessments and linkages to community-based substance abuse treatment, mental health services, housing support, education, job training, emergency shelter, emergency food, primary healthcare, and transportation. These clinical case management services are designed to reduce recidivism, support recovery, and facilitate client movement toward self-sufficiency.

#### **Reception and Classification (R&C)**

TASC conducts substance abuse screenings in the reception and classification centers of the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) of all adult males who enter the system. TASC identifies and refers inmates to appropriate substance abuse treatment programs within IDOC.

#### **Parole Readjustment Program (PRP)**

This TASC program provides a second chance for youth released from Joliet and Chicago IYCs who commit a technical parole violation or who may have a propensity to re-offend once they return to their community. Youth referred to this program by parole agents live in very structured communal homes for 14 to 90 days as an alternative to re-incarceration.

#### **Winners' Circle and Inner Circle**

The Winners' Circle and Inner Circle programs are professionally facilitated self-help forums that address the challenges experienced by individuals facing the dual stigma of being formerly incarcerated and in substance abuse recovery.

Winners' Circle is a peer-led and driven support group designed to address the special needs of formerly incarcerated men and women in recovery. Events enable participants to interact in a positive, social setting where they can feel relaxed and free to investigate and develop new life skills without judgement. Membership is open to individuals as well as their families, friends, and allies in Chicago and throughout Illinois. The only criterion is a desire to participate in one's own healing and recovery and to help others by providing encouragement and support.

Modeled to work in tandem with Winners' Circle, Inner Circle is a weekly, peer-led support group for individuals who are incarcerated or in other closed communities (such as recovery or transitional housing) who desire to stay crime- and drug-free after release. Events provide opportunities for individuals to share concerns and to help and support others develop plans for returning to the community.

## **JUVENILE JUSTICE SERVICES**

TASC works with youth in the juvenile justice system who may be abusing drugs or alcohol. TASC juvenile justice services are specifically tailored to young people and their unique needs. Family members or guardians are involved to help identify additional services that may be necessary to provide support during the recovery process and to prevent relapse.

### **Juvenile Court Drug Program**

TASC offers comprehensive assessments and toxicology services to youth in Chicago's Austin and Lawndale communities who have been referred to juvenile court for drug-related charges. This program is funded by the Cook County Board of Commissioners.

### **Juvenile Evening Reporting Center (ERC)**

Located in Chicago's Englewood community, the Juvenile Evening Reporting Center (ERC) was developed as an alternative youth supervision strategy for youth. The ERC cultivates participation, personal responsibility and pro-social skills in at-risk youth while diverting them from substance abuse and other potentially destructive behaviors and influences. This program receives support from the Cook County Board of Commissioners.

## **HEALTH SERVICES**

TASC offers specialized services for individuals who have substance use disorders, HIV, and/or related health issues. TASC staff serve as clinical coaches and advocates to help improve the quality of life of our clients.

### **Health Services Case Management**

TASC provides case management services for clients who may have already had contact with HIV. TASC educates individuals about the transmission of the virus and offers risk assessments, pre- and post-test counseling, and on-on-one consultation with those who request further information. Case managers support clients in accessing appropriate medical care, housing, and support services.

## **YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES**

TASC works in partnership with child welfare and other social service systems across Illinois, to help youth and families get the services they need to become healthy and productive.

### **Recovery Coach Program**

Under leadership of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), TASC provides intensive case management services to parents whose children have been placed in foster care because of charges related to substance abuse. TASC Recovery Coaches work within the community to help involved parents access a full continuum of services including substance abuse or mental health treatment, parenting classes, individual or family counseling, and assistance with stable housing and employment. Proactive case management methods are utilized to engage, retain, promote, monitor, and report client progress. TASC makes recommendations regarding family permanency, and continues case management services post-permanency.

### **System of Care**

Support from the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) allows TASC to provide intensive case management services to children involved in the foster care/child welfare system who have emotional and behavioral disorders. TASC works with families, schools, communities and others to help youth achieve a stable living

situation. TASC directly provides or connects youth to services ranging from clinical care and family counseling to life skills training and vocational programs.

### **TASC *LABS***

TASC operates a drug testing facility in its North Halsted Street office. *TASC Labs* provides testing for the common drugs of abuse for individuals in TASC programs, as well as for outside agencies and individuals. *TASCLabs* is fully licensed and certified under Illinois and the Federal Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act guidelines. In addition to TASC's internal quality control system, the labs participate in the College of American Pathology (CAP) Survey Sample Testing program to ensure accurate results.

*TASC receives funding from a variety of federal, state, and county sources, as well as several private foundations, organizations, and individuals.*