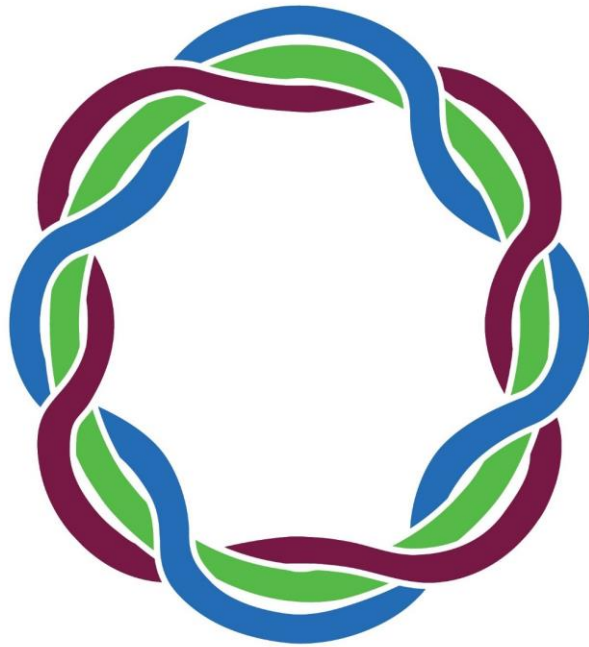




Evolution of CT's Potential IDD/ASD Diversionary Program: Themes and Observations at a Glance

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Topic Overview Relevant to an IDD/ASD Diversion Program in CT

- Ongoing review of observations, trends, concerns and considerations that could impact a potential IDD/ASD Diversionary program referenced in PA 23-137
- Report based upon this review including recommendations by DRCT (Expected by end of 2025)
- Topics covered in the review and report:
 - Current laws and loopholes
 - Best practices
 - Prevalence of IDD/ASD
 - Assessment/Screening tools
 - Program cost considerations
 - Considerations/barriers from individuals with IDD/ASD or those who interact with them
 - Benefits/Challenges of a Diversionary Program
 - Comparison with similar program in other states



Wealth of Information in Interviews

- Who we have interviewed so far
 - Defense attorneys
 - Prosecutors
 - Probate attorneys/judges
 - Educators
 - Former probation officers
 - Police officers
 - Social Workers
 - Experts in IDD/ASD
 - State agency professionals
 - Parents of individuals with IDD/ASD
 - Individuals with IDD/ASD who have been incarcerated



Key Trends and Observations



- ASD/IDD training
- Better data collection
- Common crimes charged
- Loss of necessary support
- Access to Justice
- Non-existent programs and transition assistance for incarcerated individuals



LACK OF TRAINING FROM ARREST TO CASE RESOLUTION

Law
Enforcement/EMS

Judicial Staff

CSSD (Pretrial
Services)

DOC

Prosecutors and
Defense
Counsel/OCPD

Judges



What type of training is helpful?

- Identification of IDD/ASD
 - Traits, self-reporting
 - Knowing what questions to ask
- Sensitivity
 - Simple language – how you ask the questions
 - Tone
 - Patience – minimize escalation
- Impactful snippets of information
 - Short videos and messages
- Competency based



NEED FOR IMPROVED DATA COLLECTION



- Agencies currently collecting IDD/ASD data
 - DDS
 - DSS
 - DCF
 - DOC – does not collect its own
 - DD Council
 - CSDE
- Does not include
 - DMHAS – pending?
 - CSSD
 - OCPD
 - Agencies who assist elderly IDD/ASD populations
- Concerns
 - Inaccurate numbers
 - Lack of complete assessments to include self-reporting data and IDD/ASD traits



Common crimes associated with IDD/ASD

- Arson
- Domestic violence related
- VOP/VCD
- Sex Assault
- Felony-level obstacles



Crimes and the impact on critical IDD/ASD Supports

- Individuals with IDD/ASD often handle stress differently
- Familiarity helps
- Family/caregiver supports
- Supports may be non-existent for an IDD/ASD individual
 - Dysregulation
 - Misunderstood non-compliance
- Support removal with a protective order in place



Access to Justice Barriers

- Expert evaluations are expensive and available to few
- When someone cannot afford an expert, attorneys have few options
 - Order Competency – WFH not equipped for specific needs
 - Advocate for SDP – resources unsuitable for IDD/ASD even with dual diagnosis
 - AR – not always available or charge ineligible
- Lack of specific individualized assistance for IDD/ASD
 - Harm to individual with lifelong disability
 - Specialized assistance would reduce recidivism



Lack of Assistance If Incarcerated

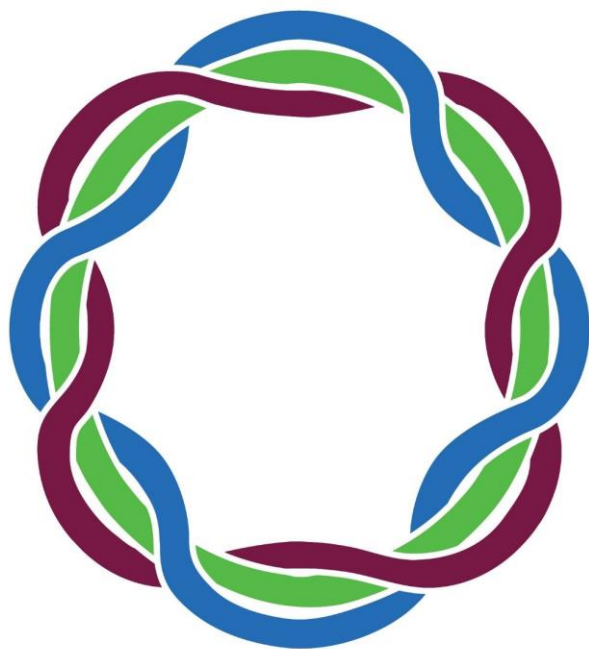
- Jail/prison as a warehouse
- No IDD/ASD specific assessments
- NO IDD/ASD specific programs including job training
- No IDD/ASD specific transitional assistance
- Common IDD/ASD behaviors
 - Unknown
 - Misunderstood
- Leads to
 - Interpreting IDD/ASD behavior as defiance
 - Defiance = punishing IDD/ASD for behavior the person cannot control



SEEKING VOLUNTEERS TO SHARE REAL STORIES

- Would you be willing to share your experience confidentially?
 - You or a family member/friend was diagnosed with IDD/ASD
 - You are an IDD/ASD service provider
 - You work with an IDD/ASD non-profit or agency
 - You are an educator
 - You know someone with a diagnoses and a personal criminal justice interaction as adult or juvenile





QUESTIONS? HAVE AN
EXPERIENCE TO SHARE?

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