The Osborne Association

Incorporated in 1933 and named for founder Thomas Mott Osborne (industrialist and former prison warden), Osborne works at every stage of the justice system, from arrest through reentry, seeking to reduce reliance on incarceration and increase public health and safety.

We have 5 offices throughout NY State and work in in 9 NYC jails and in 27 New York State prisons.
Incarcerated Population by Country: 2017

- USA: 2,145,100
- China: 1,649,804
- Brazil: 672,722
- Russia: 600,262
- India: 419,623
- Thailand: 330,774
- USA (Only People Aged 50+): 274,000
- Indonesia: 236,812
- Turkey: 229,790
- Iran: 225,624
- Mexico: 208,689
The U.S. Prison Population is Aging

Older people are 1 of 5 people in the NYS prison population.

Older people are the fastest growing demographic in prison.

By 2030, 1/3 of all incarcerated people will be older people, representing a 4400% increase over 50 years.

The increase within most US prison systems is driven by lengthy sentences and minimal release opportunities.
Recidivism Rates in NYS Prisons by Age: 2012-2015

Recidivism Rates in NYS for People of All Ages
- 33.4% Remain at Liberty
- 57.4%
- 9.2% Return to Prison on New Commitment

Recidivism Rates in NYS for People 65+
- 13.1% Return to Prison on New Commitment
- 82.7%
- 4.2% Return to Prison on Parole Violation
The Impact on the Inside

More than 2x as much to incarcerate than younger folks, some older people cost 5x more

The long-term use of prisons as makeshift nursing homes/shelters/detox/MH facilities is financially unsustainable.

Accelerated aging: coming in & going out

Mental health and cognitive health suffers

Loss of loved one(s)

Greater risk of injury, victimization, ailing health, and death

Higher rates of depression, anxiety, trauma, and stress

Institutionalization, isolation, hopelessness, general disconnection from society
What challenges would you anticipate for someone 50+ and recently released from prison?
Elder Reentry Initiative: ERI

Prison/Jail

Release

Community

Assist with Immediate Needs:

- Liberation Day
- Care Management
- Basic Needs
- Parole Liaison

Coordinate:

- Financial Assistance
- Employment Training
- Medical Services
- In-Home Services
- Housing Placement
- Transportation
- Legal Services
Supporting Older Adults with Criminal Convictions and Other Justice Involvement

M Missler/M Daniels
Smart Justice is at the intersection of Public Safety, Economic Development, and Social Justice
THE JAIL ISSUES

- Jail is *de facto* mental health treatment facility
- Jail is *de facto* detox and AOD treatment facility
  - Jail is *de facto* homeless shelter
  - Many underserved Veterans
- Disproportionate impact to communities of color, communities of poverty, immigrants, and marginalized groups
  - Women are fastest growing population
  - Many are pre-trial and not yet convicted of any crime

BUT JUST HOW BIG ARE THE PROBLEMS?

- What resources are needed to address them?
- Who will pay for it and how much will it cost?
  - What happens if we do nothing?
How Did We Get Here?

Tough on Crime
Truth in Sentencing
Three Strikes & You’re Out
Disparate Time for the Same Crime

TIME, 7 Feb 1994
Who’s Behind Bars?

Prison: 20% over 50, 9 over 88; Franklin Co gets back 400/year over 50

Jail: 11% over 50, oldest is 78. Meet Mr Russell …
Aging In Cells or Committing New Crimes?

BOTH

Prison population aging, released inmates have lesser understanding of technology, longer gaps in familial support, chronic medical conditions …

Jail population continues to see older adults entering the system due to poverty, pressures, and loneliness. Some estimates have people over age 65 slated to triple by 2050.
Aging - So Cool, Everyone is Doing It

Challenges for a population Aging in Place

What resources exist as we age?
Aging with a criminal conviction
What solutions exist?
Challenges for a population Aging in Place

• Changing population needs
• Access to services
• Societal challenges
• Social Isolation
What resources exist as we age?

• Societal shift for aging preference
• Aging in Place vs. Long Term Care
• Federal, State, County funding
Aging with a Criminal Conviction

Unless you’re Martha…

• Barriers to services
• Integration back into society
• Family and Social Changes
• Stigma
What solutions exist?

• In considering the re-entry population and their aging needs what resources are needed?

• How can we work collaboratively to dispel the social stigma around aging individuals who have a criminal conviction?
Thank You

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