



**PLANNED PRISON
RELEASE, OR ...**

***HOW TO BE
RELEASED OF THE
STREETS!***

Plein de vies



Speakers

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Objective of today's exchange

Share with you our experiences and passion, so that you too may have the desire to implement a Planned Prison Release service in your town / city.



Agenda

- Brief overview of YMCA Homelessness assistance service
- Why plan a prison release ?
- What do we do and why ?
- How do we do it ?
- Participant profile
- Partners are key
- Support and accommodations from the detention center
- Key observations
- Results and impact : 2018-2019
- Challenges
- Success factors
- Questions
- Funders



Dialogue – Homelessness assistance

Since 1997, our objective has been to assist homeless individuals in their quest for stability, dignity and quality of life.

Three pillars:

- Street work and accompaniment
- Alternative gym (adults, youth, veterans)
- *Planned prison release*





Why plan a prison release ?

A number of studies demonstrate that the main points of entry of vulnerable people into a metropolis are ...



Hospitals



Detention centers



Lack of affordable housing



Youth protection services



Central bus stations

What do we do and why ?

Prepare and accompany chronically homeless men imprisoned at the Montreal Detention Center susceptible to returning to homelessness upon release in order to ...

Reduce homelessness and recidivism.



How do we do it ?

- Accompany
- Reinforce
- Structure



Prévention de l'itinérance DIALOGUE Homeless prevention

*Sortir sans être dans la rue,
c'est possible !*

- Tu étais en situation d'itinérance avant d'être incarcéré ?
- Tu aimerais avoir de l'aide pour planifier tes démarches pour éviter un retour à la rue ?
- Tu voudrais être accompagné vers les ressources dont tu as besoin lors de ta libération ?

Viens nous rencontrer !

Remplis le feuillet d'inscription bleu et dépose-le dans la boîte « École » de ton secteur.

Fais ta demande au moins 2 mois avant ta sortie sinon tu risques de ne pas avoir de réponse.

*When released, don't be
out on the street!*

- You were homeless before being incarcerated?
- You'd like help planning your next steps in order to avoid returning to the street?
- You'd like to be accompanied to resources that can assist you upon release?

Come meet us!

Fill out the blue registration form and drop it in the "School" box in your sector.

Requests must be made at least two months prior to your release otherwise you may not be contacted.

*Poursuis tes démarches à ta sortie !
Continue your search upon release!*

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Participant profile

- Men between 35 and 54 years of age
- Canadian origin
- Francophone
- Most are living a homelessness / prison cycle of many years.



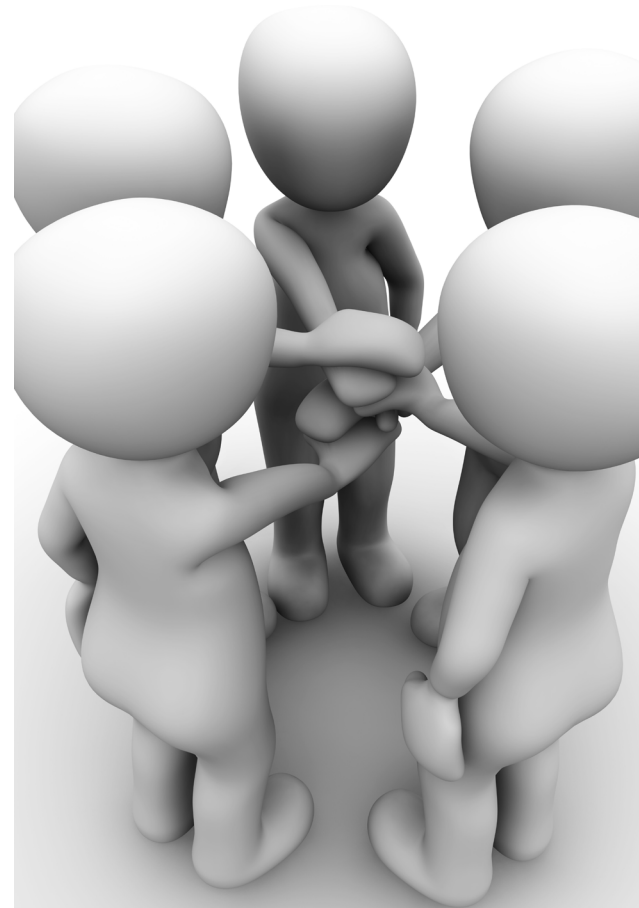


Participant profile (cont'd)

- Polymorphous criminal file (robbery, probation violations...)
- Drug and alcoholism
- Mental health issues
- Major social rupture (little or no family contact)
- Social network composed of individuals consuming drugs/alcohol and with criminal backgrounds

Partners are key!

- The Montreal detention center
- Front line community organizations and institutions (*Health, shelters, street workers, day centers, ...*)
- Housing organizations
- Financial aid (welfare)
- Doctors, psychiatrists and pharmacists





Accommodations of the Montreal Detention Center

- Permission to leave a day or two early if release falls on a weekend
- Permission to allow us to bring in clothing for winter release
- Prison staff lend us and provide access to their offices
- Possibility to meet almost all prospective detainees
- Possibility to confirm incarceration to community resources housing the individual





Positive observations

- Warm welcome by detention staff
- Favorable acceptance of service by targeted population
- Request for services comes primarily by targeted population
- Much assistance by community organizations and institutions serving the chronically homeless (external to the prison)



2018-2019 Results

- 197 men were met
- 113 of 188 individuals released are being 'followed' in the community
- 87 of the inmates were referred by detention staff.
- 97 accompaniments were done in the community including 25 directly from the prison doors
- 45 men (40%) have left the street since their release
- 23 other were provided a bed in an emergency shelter upon release





Challenges

- Demand outstrips our capacity
- Financing at 5 days per week
- Developing a human connection (short time frame)
- Lack of affordable, soluble housing
- Welfare access at liberation
- Depending issues
- Staying in touch

Success factors

- At least 3 meetings while in detention
- A solid network of partners providing supervised lodging
- Positive social network





Objective met ??

Do you believe such a service could be useful in your town / city ?

Questions / comments ??



Our funders

- The Montreal Detention Center Social Reinsertion Support Fund
- The Ministry of Public Security
- The Ministry of Health (CIUSSS - South Center of Montreal)

