Innovation Report

Washington Association for Community Health

CFHC
COWLITZ FAMILY HEALTH CENTER

Supporting Individuals Leaving Incarceration

Cowlitz Family Health Center (CFHC) is one of the community health centers participating in Cohort 1 of the Washington State Health Care Authority's Reentry Demonstration Initiative (Reentry Initiative) because they believe in the purpose and impact of this work.



CFHC's Wahkiakum Clinic

They currently have an established, cooperative relationship with the Wahkiakum County Jail, and participation is a natural progression of the services they have been providing. The program aligns with their mission to improve continuity of care, reduce avoidable differences in health outcomes and support individuals as they transition back into the community.

CFHC's Reentry Program focuses on care coordination, medical and behavioral health support, and connection to services for individuals transitioning from incarceration back into the community. The program is integrated across CFHC's service lines and in collaboration with community-based organizations aiming to reduce differences in health outcomes, stabilize care, and promote successful reentry.

For CFHC, their goals include:

- Reducing withdrawal complications while individuals are incarcerated.
- Improving continuity of care upon release, including connection to SUD, behavioral health, and primary care.
- Reducing unnecessary emergency department utilization by stabilizing care and mitigating crises.
- Providing adequate support for individuals reentering society, including navigation of medications, appointments, and essential resources.

Looking ahead, CFHC anticipates continued challenges operating as a border community, where individuals incarcerated are not Washington State residents. This impacts coordination, billing, and long-term continuity of care. They also recognize that sustaining the program will depend on funding stability and community needs. Despite these challenges, CFHC remains committed to supporting individuals during reentry and improving health outcomes for this population.

To learn more about CFHC's Reentry Program, read the full report.

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