Serial Inebriate Program
San Diego City/County
Collaborative Problem Solving Effort
A National Model
San Diego
Drunk in Public

http://youtu.be/ZoAgkizoVCk
Life’s a Beach?
Unable to care for own safety
Numerous Radio Calls
The Problem: A Revolving Door Syndrome

Sobering Center/Hospital

Arrest Jail
Who’s Problem Is It?
Who’s Problem Is It?

Society/Social Issues-
Alcohol/Drug Treatment Programs?
Mental Health Programs?
Emergency Rooms, Hospitals?

Criminal Justice Issues-
Drunk in Public, Disorderly Conduct,
Vandalism, Fighting, Etc.
Breaking the Law?
San Diego Police Department
(July 1997 – December 1998)

- 15 chronic inebriates
- 2 hospitals
- 417 Emergency Department visits

$1,476,000
Continue Doing The Same Thing…

The “Revolving Door System” continues and the issue continues to increase

OR TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT!
Serial Inebriate Program

- Intervention - a process not an event
  - Jail
  - Courts
  - Alcohol & Drug Services (ADS)

- Opportunity for change
- Drug Court as a model
California Penal Code 647 (f)

Every person who commits any of the following acts is guilty of disorderly conduct, a misdemeanor:

(647f) Who is found in any public place under the influence of intoxicating liquor.... in a condition that he or she is unable to exercise care for his or her own safety or the safety of others, or by reason of his or her being under the influence of intoxicating liquor... interferes with or obstructs or prevents the free use of any street, sidewalk, or other public way.
SIP Partners

San Diego Police Department
San Diego Emergency Medical Services
Mental Health Systems, Inc.
San Diego Sheriff’s Department
County Alcohol and Drug Services
San Diego City Attorney
Office of the Public Defender
Superior Courts
St. Vincent de Paul Village
SIP Program Goals

- Stop or slow the revolving door
- Provide treatment to this population
- Increase quality of life
Program Strategy

- Convict on criminal charge 647(f)PC
- Provide treatment in lieu of custody
- Case manage: wrap-around services
- Introduce positive support groups
Process

- **Rehab in lieu of Custody**
- **If Defendant accepts Rehab:**
  - Assessed in custody within 48 hours
  - Transported by SDPD from jail to treatment
  - Ordered to stay away from location of arrest
  - Ordered not to drink/possess alcohol in public
- **If Defendant fails to complete program, warrant is issued, and probation is revoked**
Program

SDPD transport from jail to St Vincent de Paul Medical Center

- From St Vincent de Paul to Mental Health Systems Inc.
- Placed in housing while attending treatment program
- Completion of program assist with permanent housing
“The state has a legitimate need to control public drunkenness when it creates a safety hazard. It would be neither safe nor humane to allow intoxicated persons to stumble into busy streets or to lie unchecked on sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, streets, and other such public areas where they could be trampled upon, tripped over, or run over by cars.”
Mental Health Systems
Serial Inebriates have been in treatment not once, not twice, but likely 10 times or more.

What this has taught us is that conventional drug and alcohol treatment is less effective with chronic homeless inebriates.
Clinical Concerns:

- SIP clients tend to be reluctant to enroll in programs with practices they do not understand or do not understand them.

- Most, if not all, have past experiences with conventional programs that did not sufficiently address their needs or stop them from becoming chronic homeless inebriates.
Clinical Concerns:

*Habilitation vs. Rehabilitation*

Merriam-Webster defines rehabilitation as “to restore to a former state”.

- Most SIP clients have lost their social skills. This includes hygiene, communication, interpersonal relationships, academic and employment endeavors, self-reliance, healthy boundaries, etc.

- The goal is teach rather than reinstate these skills.
Does it Work?
Methods

- Retrospective review EMS, ED and in-patient records
- 2 urban hospitals
- Impact of SIP on utilization of medical resources
### Demographics

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>n = 529</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≤ 50</td>
<td>73%</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>92%</td>
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<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
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<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>75%</td>
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## Resource utilization

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<th>Total</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paramedic Transports</td>
<td>2,335</td>
<td>1-52</td>
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<tr>
<td>ED Visits</td>
<td>3,318</td>
<td>1-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital Admits</td>
<td>652</td>
<td>1-21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Length of Stay (d)</td>
<td>3,361</td>
<td>0-181</td>
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# Financial impact

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Charges</th>
<th>Payment</th>
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<tr>
<td>EMS</td>
<td>$1,276,977</td>
<td>$176,725</td>
<td>13.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>ED</td>
<td>$2,530,398</td>
<td>$389,286</td>
<td>15.4</td>
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<td>In-pt.</td>
<td>$13,939,910</td>
<td>$2,742,850</td>
<td>19.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$17,747,245</td>
<td>$3,308,861</td>
<td>18.6</td>
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Who got the bill?

- No insurance: 27%
- AB 75: 7%
- MCR/MCL: 28%
- Private: 5%
- Custody: 3%
- CMS: 30%
Treatment acceptance vs. duration of sentence
Effect of SIP acceptance on monthly charges

\[ \Delta = - \$73,552/\text{mo.} \]
Effect of SIP acceptance on avg. monthly medical charges

\[ \Delta = 953\% \]
What is success?

- Police arrests down
- Paramedic/hospital visits reduced
- Community/businesses quality of life improved
- Population accessing alcohol treatment services
2000-2008 Statistics

887 people accounted for 3,483 SIP arrests

Of the 887 people, only 208 are currently on the Sobering Center’s SIP list, a 77% reduction

679 people no longer enter the Sobering Center or Jail
The Truth-

Change is Possible!
Questions?
SIP contact information

San Diego Police Department
Sergeant Richard Schnell
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(858) 490-3855

San Diego Police Department
Officer John Liening
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Mental Health Systems, Inc.
Deni McLagan, CATC
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(619) 523-8121

Emergency Medical Services
James Dunford, MD
jdunford@ucsd.edu
(619) 533-4359
SIP Publications

- “An Evaluation of the Impact of San Diego’s Serial Inebriate Program,” Institute for Public Health, Edward M Castillo, Ph.D., November 2005, (for copies of report contact rschnell@pd.sandiego.gov)
- “Million Dollar Murray,” The New Yorker, February 13-20, 2006, Malcomb Gladwell