



ERIE COUNTY, PA DAY REPORT CENTER

A Review of Fiscal Year 20.21 Program Participation



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First year analysis of Participants
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The Community Resource Center (CRC), located at 1631 Sassafras St. in center-city Erie PA, is home to the Erie County Day Report Center (DRC). Overseen by staff of the Erie County Department of Adult Probation, it is designed to assist individuals that are under court supervision by providing a blend of services, which are evidence-based and tailored to each individual's needs. While many of the services provided are also found in traditional probation offerings, addressing all needs under one roof creates a 'one stop shop' that theoretically will assist them in efficiently addressing their areas of concerns. Services available include employment assistance, GED preparation/adult education, anger management, cognitive behavioral groups, drug and alcohol testing and services, mental health services, offender supervision, and case management. Other services provided in the facility include a DUI program and adult probation/parole services.

The program is a minimum of 90 days. If eligibility requirements are met, participation in the Day Report Center can be a court-ordered special condition in lieu of incarceration. Those eligible for the program will have a special order by the judge, a minimum of a six-month sentence available in the community, need to obtain a GED and or obtain/maintain full-time employment, and be identified by the probation department to have further needs for the program based on program criteria, needs of defendants, and amenability to interviews. The probation department has the final say if an individual will be accepted into the program. Probation staff utilize an evidence-based assessment tool to gather information on prospective clients and guide the decision on acceptance.

Accepted clients would enter the program in one of three different tracts, each focused on a different population. They are as follow:

Track 1: Track is identified for those with a long criminal record, poor supervision history with multiple revocations and warrants, need to complete GED requirements, are facing a violent current offense, and have recently been paroled. Participants in Track 1 are required to:

- Report to the DRC four days per week, where they would engage in drug/alcohol treatment, cognitive behavior groups, GED prep classes, job readiness classes, or a brief check-in with their officer.
- Be prepared to submit to random breathalyzers and drug screens.
- Verify they have been searching for employment.
- Provide pay stubs, if applicable.
- Verify AA/NA attendance, if ordered to do so by the courts.

Track 2: Those identified for this track are in need of services, have a satisfactory history with supervision, and score moderate or high on the Community Screening Tool. Participants in Track 2 are required to:

- Report to the DRC three days per week, where they would engage in drug/alcohol treatment, cognitive behavior groups, GED prep classes, job readiness classes, or a brief check-in with their officer.
- Be prepared to submit to random breathalyzers and drug screens.
- Verify they have been searching for employment.
- Provide pay stubs, if applicable.
- Verify AA/NA attendance, if ordered to do so by the courts.

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Track 3: Identified clients should have steady employment, be involved with schooling, collect disability, be part of intensive programming (IOP, Grace House, Salvation Army, Mercy Center for Women, or New Life Program), and score moderate or high on the Community Screening Tool. Those who do not live within the city-proper area would also be considered for this track. Participants in Track 3 are required to:

- Report to the DRC one or two per week, based on the discretion of the DRC officer. They would engage in drug/alcohol treatment, cognitive behavior groups, GED prep classes, job readiness classes, or a brief check-in with their officer.
- Be prepared to submit to random breathalyzers and drug screens.
- Contact the CRC officer by email or phone two times per week for check-ins.
- Verify they have been searching for employment.
- Provide pay stubs, if applicable.
- Verify AA/NA attendance, if ordered to do so by the courts.

Additionally, clients are identified in one of four categories: High Need (HN), General Services (GS), Electronic Monitoring (EM), and Mental Health (MH). Assessment of the clients prior to intake allows for this determination in order to better provide the services beneficial to each.

The following report is a summary of activity of the Erie County Day Reporting Program for its first year of operations. The first-year data is important as it will set a baseline for future years' activities and comparisons. It should be pointed out, however, two important factors that have impacted the first year of programming at the DRC. First, while the fiscal year began July 1, 2020 the program did not gain full traction until August, as it took approximately one month to enroll clients. Second, the program operations were impacted significantly by the COVID pandemic, as in-person client interactions were limited with both adult probation and treatment provider services.

Client information is gathered via a process designed by a collaborative effort of DRC staff and the Mercyhurst University Civic Institute (MCI). The MCI is the third-party evaluator for the program and worked with Adult Probation staff prior to the program to research the benefits and potential issues attributed to day report centers. Throughout the operating year, staff members of the DRC would submit New Client, Client Update, and Discharge forms to the Mercyhurst University Civic Institute (MCI). MCI staff holds a database of the client information. Other pertinent information is forwarded to the MCI for data reporting purposes as well, including referral information, post-discharge surveys, and program updates.

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Program Participants 20.21 Fiscal Year

Table 1, below, offers an overview of general information regarding the clients that participated in the program during the 20.21 Fiscal Year.

Table 1: General Information

	#	%
<i>Total Number of Participants during 20.21FY</i>	98	
Active	47	48%
Discharged	51	52%
Discharged Successful	22	43%
Discharged Did Not Complete	29	57%
<i>*Discharged % are based on 51 clients discharge</i>		
<i>Age</i>		
Average	28	
Median	27	
<i>Race</i>		
White	47	48%
Black	43	44%
Hispanic	7	7%
Middle Eastern	1	1%
<i>Relationship Status</i>		
Engaged	3	3%
Married	5	5%
Separated	1	1%
Single – never married	46	47%
With significant other	43	44%

As shown in Table 1, there were 98 participants in the Erie County Day Report Center during the 20.21 Fiscal Year. At conclusion of the year, 48% were active and 52% had been discharged. Of those discharged, 43% successfully completed the program; 57% were discharged as did not complete. The average age of client upon entry is 28 years, and the median is 27 years. Regarding race, 48% were identified as White, 44% were Black, 7% Hispanic, and 1% reported as Middle Eastern. At date of entry, clients were asked to identify their relationship status. Forty-seven percent of the clients identified as being single – never married, and 44% were in a relationship with a ‘significant’ other. An additional 5% were married, 3% were engaged, and 1% separated.

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Table 2, below, offers an overview of the housing and employment status of the clients at admission that participated in the program during the 20.21 Fiscal Year.

Table 2: Housing and Employment

	#	%
<i>Living Situation</i>		
Homeless	1	1%
Living with Family	5	5%
Living with Others	52	53%
Living with Significant Other	2	2%
Rent	37	38%
Subsidized Housing	1	1%
Changed living situation during program	11	12%
<i>Employment at Admission</i>		
Full Time	8	8%
Part Time	8	8%
Not working	82	84%
Changed job	2	2%
Lost job	3	4%
Gained employment (from not working)	33	40%
Gained Employment % is based off those not working (82)		
Number of clients who had changed, lost, or gained employment twice	13	14%
Number of clients who had changed, lost, or gained employment 3x or more	6	6%

Table 2 pertains to the client’s housing situation and employment upon entry into the program. Fifty-three percent of clients identified as ‘Living with Others’ at entry. Thirty-eight percent were renters of their own apartments. The remaining 19% reported a mix of other housing situations. Twelve percent had notified their probation officer of a change in housing status during their 20.21FY involvement. At admission, 16% participants had some sort of employment (8% FT and 8% PT), while 84% were not working. Of the 82 that began in this status, 40% gained employment during the 20.21FY. Employment status can be viewed as fluid within this population. Of those that had begun the program with employment, 6% had changed or lost jobs. Of the clients that maintained employment during the year, 14% had changed/lost/gained employment twice. An additional 6% clients had changed/lost/gained employment 3 or more times during their participation.

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Table 3, below, offers an overview of program participation of the clients that participated in the program during the 20.21 Fiscal Year.

Table 3: Program Participation

	#	%
<i>Referred from:</i>		
Court	59	60%
Memo to Judge	10	10%
PO	29	30%
<i>Track entered</i>		
Track 1	1	1%
Track 2	50	51%
Track 3	47	48%
<i>Service Category</i>		
High Need	10	11%
General Services	71	72%
Electronic Monitoring	11	11%
Mental Health	6	6%
<i>Needs to address while in program</i>		
MH Eval/Tx	45	47%
DA Eval/Tx	81	83%
Anger Mgmt	21	22%
Employment	73	74%
Education/GED	62	63%
Community Service	37	38%
Housing	5	5%
Youth Reentry Program	23	24%
DUI Classes	9	9%
Other	16*	16%
<i>Average Number of Needs at Admission</i>	3.8	
<i>Median Number of Needs at Admission</i>	4	
<i>Total Violations</i>		
	243**	
Average number of violations in program	3.8	
Median number of violations in program	3	
<i>Most Common Violations</i>		
Drug/Alcohol use/possession violations	61	25%
No show for appointments of varying types	144	59%

*16 (8 Electronic Monitoring, 1 batterers group, 2 OCY, 3 retail theft classes, 2 unidentified)

**Of the 243, 14 clients committed new charges which led to arrests/warrants for arrest.

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Referrals into the program were largely court-ordered. Sixty percent were entered into the program via courts. An additional 30% were referred into the program by a probation officer. All but one began the program in either Track 2 (51%) or Track 3 (48%). Seventy-two percent were identified for General Services, while 11% were identified in both High Need and Electronic Monitoring. A significant part of the program is identifying various areas of need to address with each client. During the initial assessment, specific areas would be identified for the client to address. Each client identified needing to address an average of 3.8 (median of 4) areas during their program participation. The most common need to address was obtaining Drug/Alcohol Evaluation and Treatment (83% of clients), followed by addressing the need for Employment (74%), and obtaining further Education (64%). Clients also committed 243 violations while in the program during the 20.21FY, an average of 3.8 per (median of 3). By far, the most common violation was 'No Show for appointments of varying types (59%). Drug and Alcohol use/possession violations were committed 25% of the time, as well. Fourteen participants also committed New Charges, which led to arrests/warrants for arrest and subsequent program discharge.

Successful vs Did Not Complete

The next section of the report takes a closer look at participants that were discharged during the program year. This section is broken down to compare the total number of discharges, successful discharges, and unsuccessful discharges. Table 4 compares the general demographics of participants that had completed the program.

Table 4: General Demographics, Successful vs Did Not Complete

	TOTAL	Successful (#)	Successful (%)	Did Not Complete (#)	Did Not Complete (%)
Total Number of Participants	51	22	43%	29	57%
Average days in program	132	184		93	
Median days in program	139	188		77	
Reasons Did Not Complete*					
Discharged Unsuccessful				21	72%
Discharged Administratively**				1	28%
<i>*Percentages of reasons did not complete are based off of the 29 who were not successful</i>					
<i>**Administrative Discharges consist of those referred to Higher Levels of Care or those who did not complete for other reasons</i>					
Age (Average/Median)	28/27	29/26		28/28	
Race					
White	25	13	52%	12	48%
Black	22	7	32%	15	68%
Hispanic	4	2	50%	2	50%
Middle Eastern	-	-	-	-	-
Relationship Status					
Engaged					
Married	1	1	100%		0%
Separated					
Single – never married	25	14	56%	11	44%
With significant other	25	7	28%	18	72%

Of the 51 clients who were discharged during the 20.21 FY, 22 (43%) were discharged successfully, while 29 (57%) did not complete the program. Of those that did not complete the program, 21 were discharged unsuccessfully, and eight were discharged for other reasons including transportation issues, found employment, maxed out of supervision, referred to higher level of care, and mental health issues. The average days spent in the program was twice as long for those successful as unsuccessful (184 days compared to 93 days). The average age was almost identical for the two subgroups (29 successful and 28 unsuccessful). White clients were discharged successfully in 52% of the cases, while Black clients were discharged successfully in 32% of the cases. Regarding relationship status, those who entered the program Single – never married were successful at twice the rate of those who were with a significant other (56% compared to 28%).

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Table 5 compares the housing and employment status of those successful versus did not complete.

Table 5: Housing and Employment, Successful vs. Did Not Complete

	TOTAL	Successful (#)	Successful (%)	Did Not Complete (#)	Did Not Complete (%)
<i>Living Situation</i>					
Homeless	1	-	-	1	100%
Living with Family	4	1	25%	3	75%
Living with Others	26	11	42%	15	58%
Living with Significant Other	2	-	-	2	100%
Rent	17	9	53%	8	47%
Subsidized Housing	1	1	100%	-	-
Changed living situation during program	8	4	50%	4	50%
<i>Employment at Admission</i>					
Full Time	1	-	-	1	100%
Part Time	4	2	50%	2	50%
Not working	46	20	43%	26	57%
Changed job	2	1	50%	1	50%
Lost job					
Gained employment (from not working)	20	13	68%	7	37%
Number of clients who had changed/lost/gained employment twice		2		3	
Number of clients who had changed/lost/gained employment 3 or more times		4		1	

Those who reported renting had the highest rate of successful discharges at 53%. While 42%, of those who reported Living with Others were discharged successfully, an additional 58% in this category had been unsuccessful in their time in the program. The most notable data from the employment section was that 68% of participants that gained employment after beginning the program not working had successfully completed the program.

Table 6 compares various program participation aspects of successful versus did not complete discharges.

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Table 6: Program Participation, Successful vs. Unsuccessful

	TOTAL	Successful (#)	Successful (%)	Did Not Complete (#)	Did Not Complete (%)
<i>Referred from:</i>					
Court	27	10	37%	17	63%
Memo to Judge	-	-	-	-	-
PO	24	12	50%	12	50%
<i>Entered</i>					
Track 1	1		0%	1	100%
Track 2	29	5	17%	24	83%
Track 3	21	17	81%	4	19%
<i>Service Category</i>					
High Need	7	2	29%	5	71%
General Services	43	20	47%	23	53%
Electronic Monitoring	-	-	-	-	-
Mental Health	1	-	-	1	100%
<i>Needs to address while in Program</i>					
MH Eval/Tx	23	9	39%	14	61%
DA Eval/Tx	45	20	44%	25	56%
Anger Mgmt	14	8	57%	6	43%
Youth Reentry	11	6	55%	5	45%
Employment	39	16	41%	23	59%
Education/GED	31	13	42%	18	58%
Community Service	20	11	55%	9	45%
Housing	3	2	67%	1	33%
DUI Classes	4	1	25%	3	75%
Other	2	-	-	2	100%
Total Violations	159	42		117	
Average # of violations in program	3.8	3		4.3	
Median # of violations in program	4	1		4	
<i>Category of Charge/Violation</i>					
Drug/Alcohol use/possession	38	5	13%	33	87%
No show for appointments	96	34	35%	62	65%
New Charge	13	-	-	13	100%
Other	12	3	25%	9	75%
<i>Sanction for Violation</i>					
Verbal Warning		21		34	
Increased Reporting		6		4	
DA/MH Tx/Eval referral/scheduled		4		9	
Arrested/will be arrested		2		21	
Will address when seen				6	
Discharged from DRC				3	
Other/Not Reported		9		22	

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Fifty percent of those that entered the program on a referral from a probation officer were successful, compared to 37% that entered by court mandate. Clients that entered Track 3 were significantly more successful than those that entered in Track 2 (81% compared to 17% success rates). Those who entered under the service category of general services were successful 47% of the time, and did not complete 53%. Seven individuals entered in the high need category; two completed successfully and five did not complete. Regarding the program needs being addressed, there was a wide range of percentages that were successful. The highest need associated with success was 'Housing' with 67% successful; however, only 3 of the discharged clients had this need identified at intake. 'Anger Management' (57%) and 'Community Service' (55%) were both recognized by more than half of the discharged clients with the identified needs by those who completed the program successfully. Regarding violations while in the program, there were a total of 159 violations committed by those who were discharged in 20.21 FY. Successful clients committed an average of 3 violations (median 1), while unsuccessful clients committed 4.3 violations (median 4). Of those violations, 13 were New Charges – all leading to arrest and unsuccessful discharge from the program. The most telling predictor of participation was Drug/Alcohol use/possession violations; 87% of participants whose violations fell in this category were eventually discharged unsuccessfully. There were 96 'No show for Appointments of Varying Types', 62 (65%) of which were committed by unsuccessful participants. The sanctions for violations were wide-ranging. As reported on the client forms, the most common sanction towards clients of either discharge status was a Verbal Warning. Due to the nature of many of the violations, Arrests or Will be Arrested was the sanction 21 times for unsuccessful clients.

Discharge Survey Findings

At discharge, clients were given the opportunity to provide feedback via a short Program Discharge Survey. Six statements were presented and participants were asked to rate each using a Likert Scale (5 = Strongly Agree, 4 = Agree, 3 = Neutral/Unsure, 2 = Disagree, 1 = Strongly Disagree). Additionally, three open ended questions were asked for the clients to consider giving more feedback. The following table and bullet points were from the responses given on these surveys.

N = 18 surveys completed	Median Score
My Probation Officer was attentive and was effective in working with me.	4.94
I feel my time spent in the Day Report Center has helped in getting my life back on track.	4.83
The service and treatment providers were able to help meet my needs.	4.72
The Criminal Justice System treated me with respect.	4.72
Expectations set by the court were clear and consistent.	4.72
My involvement in the Day Report Center helped me and/or provided services that matched my needs.	4.50

What did you find the most beneficial aspect of being a client in the Day Report Center?

- Helped get everything back on track
- Everything was done smoothly
- Staying focused on what's important
- My PO and CareerLink
- All the help that Mrs. Angela and Mrs. Johnson offered
- It motivated me to find a job instead of running the streets
- Opening up that I had anger problems
- Finishing my anger management
- I finally got on the right track for my GED
- Keeping myself able to do class and prepare for the test
- All of my services were set up in house
- The actual help I received
- The GED Program
- My probation officer was extremely helpful
- They had the contacts to help me with my goals
- Helping me stay on track w/ stuff I needed
- Helped me find a job and helped me out with work clothes
- It motivated me to find a job instead of running the streets

What challenges did you face during your time in the Day Report Center?

- Just a way to get there with no car
- It took a couple months to find employment

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- Looking at searching for jobs
- Telling whole truth
- I didn't face any challenges - everything was smooth going
- I didn't face any challenges
- Time frames
- How to fight my anger
- I did not face any challenges
- Staying focused on boring class and working
- No challenges that couldn't be overcome
- Acquiring my GED

Any additional comment you have that may be helpful to the ongoing operations of the Erie County Day Report Center?

- It helped me out
- I was treated great
- Well respected
- Program was great
- Keep it up
- This service can be very beneficial to anyone who completes
- Very great service
- I have no comments - all resources were very helpful

Conclusion

As the first year of the Erie County Day Report Center has concluded, it is difficult to draw any definitive conclusions regarding the operations of the program. The past year has seen many obstacles that would prohibit maximizing the services needed by the clients. The nature of the COVID pandemic and subsequent shutdowns and restrictions greatly limited the needed interaction that the program is designed to stress. Despite these challenges, 43% of participants who were discharged did so successfully. The true test of the measuring the success of the program will be shown over the years as more clients are engaged in services offered and larger populations are used to identify areas that could be improved upon. Another gauge of program effectiveness would be to conduct follow-ups over a period of one to two years of those discharged successfully. Long-term effectiveness is notably a better predictor than the measurement of completing requirements. It's what the participant does with what they gained that matters most.