

CaIAIM JI INITIATIVE **REENTRY PROGRAM**

Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office



OUR TEAM:



Staff located at Main Jail and Rountree
Offers services with bilingual support in English and Spanish

Sheriff's Lieutenant

Socorro Luna

Sr. Departmental Administrative Analyst

Gatisa Noble

CalAIM Program Coordinators:

Donia Merkel

Mirian Navarro

Anna Tobar



WHAT IS CalAIM?

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- First initiatives of CalAIM started in January 2022 and will be phased through 2027
- These initiatives include Behavioral Health, community supports, dental, Enhanced Care Management, incentive payment program, **Justice-Involved**, etc.



HOW TO DEFINE

JUSTICE-INVOLVED POPULATION?

The California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) defines a justice-involved individual as “**an individual** who is **currently** or was **formerly incarcerated** within the **past twelve months**”.

(CalAIM Justice-Involved Policy and Operations Guide,
updated October 2023, p. 10)



WHAT IS THE JUSTICE-INVOLVED (JI) INITIATIVE?

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- The Santa Cruz County Sherriff's Office (SCCSO) has received 3 rounds of funding in support of planning and implementation
- The Santa Cruz County Jails plan to go live with pre-release services on **October 1, 2026**
- Once live, services rendered can be **reimbursed by Medi-Cal**

GOALS OF JI INITIATIVE

01

To identify needs and provide comprehensive care and support for Incarcerated Persons while incarcerated and upon their release

02

To get Incarcerated Persons service-connected while in custody by streamlining linkage processes with County Behavioral Health and local Enhanced Care Managers (ECM) to reduce recidivism

WHO QUALIFIES?

1

Incarcerated Person

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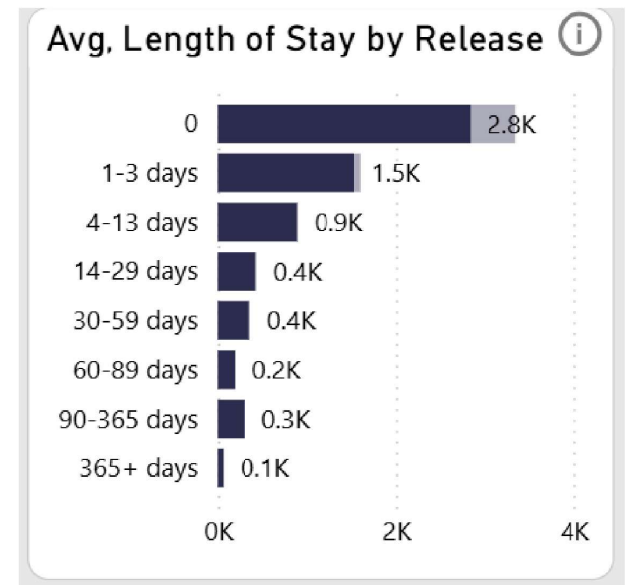
Has active Medi-Cal

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Meets a qualifying healthcare need—
extremely broad requirements

JAIL STATS

Current Jail Population	293
Average # Releases Per Day	19
Average # of Releases Per Year Staying 4 Days or More	1,800
Average Length of Stay	37 (Felonies) 5 (Misd)
% of Population with Active Medi-Cal	86%
3- year return to Custody Rate (2023 Releases)	44%



WHAT WILL THIS PROGRAM LOOK LIKE?

- Completely **voluntary** program
- The process **begins at intake** and **continues throughout an Incarcerated Person's time in custody** up until release
- Intent is to **provide comprehensive assessments of global functioning and service linkages** in the following domains: physical health, mental health, substance use disorder (SUD), housing, social determinants of health, functional needs, strengths and support resources
- **Upon release**, community supports will have already been established and connected to ensure **smooth continuity of care** when transitioning out of custody, and if prescribed, **medication in-hand and Durable Medical Equipment (DME)**

FOCUS AREAS



Health Risk Assessment

- 01** Physical health
- 02** Mental health
- 03** Substance use disorder
- 04** Housing
- 05** Social determinants of health
- 06** Functional needs
- 07** Strengths and support resources

Reentry Care Plan

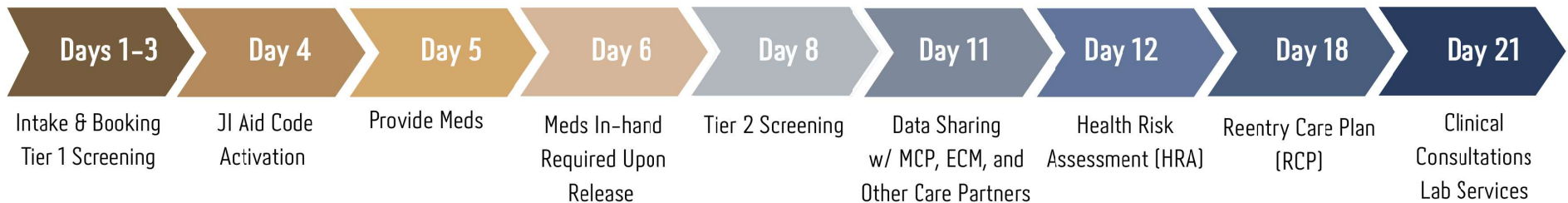
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CalAIM

REQUIREMENTS & MILESTONES

First 21 Days In Custody:



Hot Handoff:

Unplanned or Short Notice
Release



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90 Days Pre-Release Services:



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FROM CUSTODY TO COMMUNITY

• WHILE IN CUSTODY

CalAIM Reentry Team will support client while in custody by building out a Health Risk Assessment (HRA) & Reentry Care Plan (RCP) and submitting referrals to County Behavioral Health when applicable.

• WHEN RELEASED

The Reentry Team coordinates with the Managed Care Plan (MCP) to assign the Enhanced Care Manager (ECM) shortly before release. The ECM will support the client in carrying out the RCP and making additional referrals as needed.

MEET ASHLEY

Client Overview

- 36 years old
- Mother of two elementary school-aged children
- 11th incarceration
- Has been in custody for 4 months
- Planned release with 30 days' notice
- Prior work experience in retail
- Children currently living with her sister

Identified Needs

- Mental health diagnosis and screened positive for BH linkage
- Medi-Cal and CalFresh reinstatement
- Safe, stable housing
- Employment assistance
- Transportation to treatment and medical appointments

Strengths

- Strong support from her family
- Motivated to reunify with her children
- Actively participates in recovery meetings
- Participates in Farm to Table class at Blaine Street Women's facility
- Opportunity to establish behavioral health connections before release

**Ashley is a fictional client created to illustrate a typical participant's experience. Any resemblance to actual persons is coincidental.*

FROM CUSTODY TO COMMUNITY: Ashley's Story

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 - Locate temporary shelter resources
 - Locate employment resources
 - Apply for Social Security Card
 - Reinstate CalFresh benefits
 - Contact probation officer, lawyer, and PCP
 - Participate in meetings
- Referral to County BH and Access assessment scheduled
- ECM referral submitted
- Medications will leave with client



• WHEN RELEASED

- Medi-Cal reinstated upon release
- Request re-activation of CalFresh benefits
- Complete Social Security Card application
- Get connected with housing navigator
- Follow up with employment resources
- Participate in meetings
- Compliance with Release Terms
- Attend BH and medical appointments
- Transportation support through ECM

MEET ELENA

Client Overview

- 48 years old
- 28th incarceration
- No scheduled release date
- No children
- Has been in custody for 3 weeks
- No consistent work history
- Unhoused in Santa Cruz County
- Minimal social supports

Identified Needs

- Substance Use Disorder with need to continue Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)
- Diagnosed with Hypertension
- Safe and stable housing
- Establish care with PCP
- Transportation to medical appointments
- Birth Certificate replacement

Strengths

- Engages with staff and is willing to discuss her health needs
- Open to receiving SUD treatment and other medical support
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- Pick up medication
- Attend MAT appointment
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SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENTS & CROSS-SYSTEM COORDINATION

- **BRIDGE Project:** Countywide data-sharing initiative designed to improve access to information and coordination across departments and systems, with justice-involved individuals as an initial focus.
 - **MX Engage:** New care management platform being implemented through the BRIDGE Project to support Reentry Team workflows, information sharing, referrals, and coordination with County and community partners.
 - **Sequential Intercept Model:** Countywide planning effort to map how people move through the justice, behavioral health, and social service systems and identify gaps, priorities, and opportunities for better coordination.
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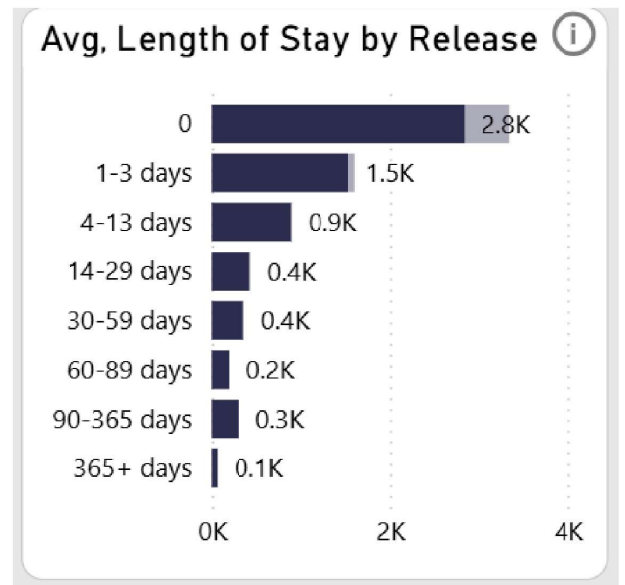
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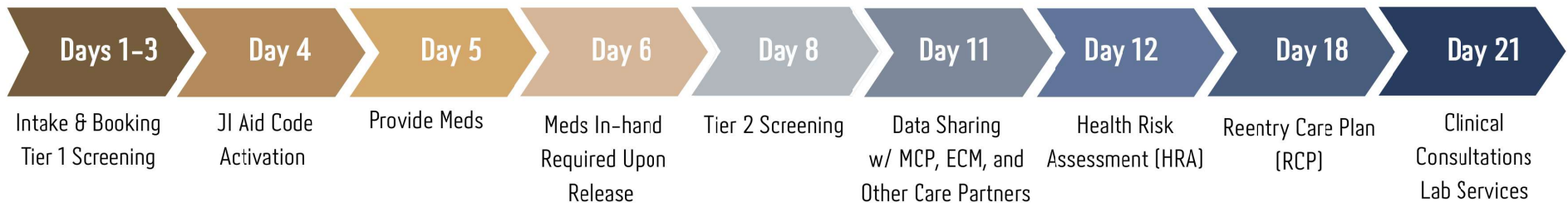
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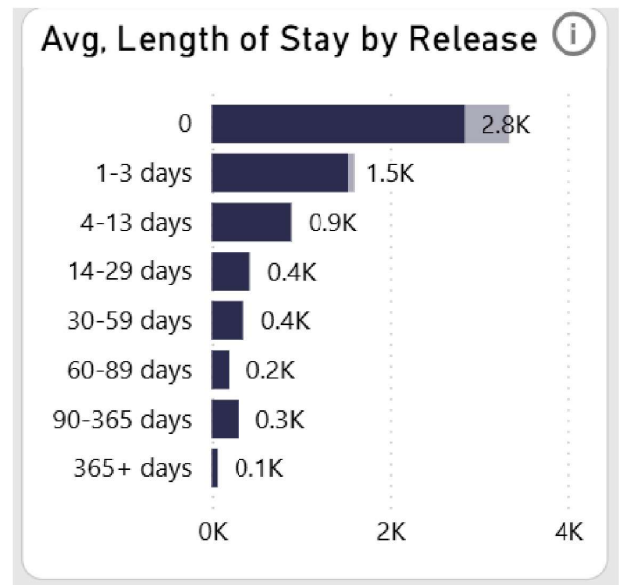
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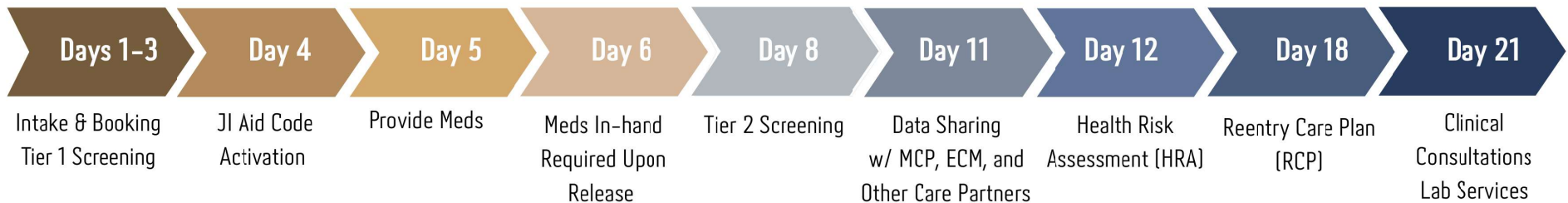
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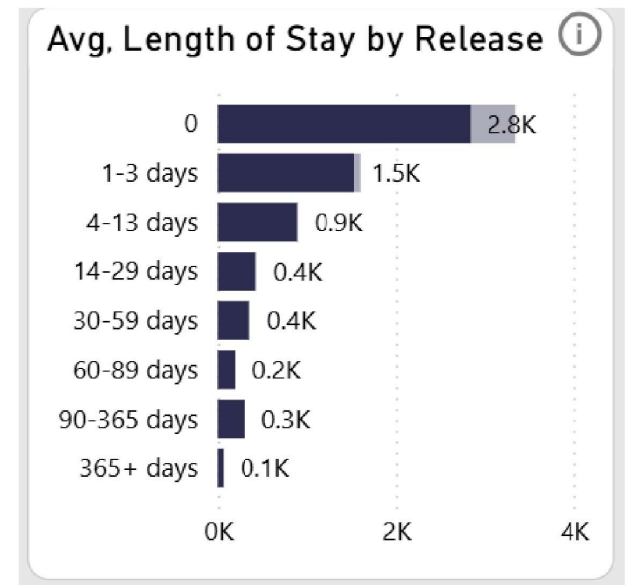
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- 07** Strengths and support resources

Reentry Care Plan

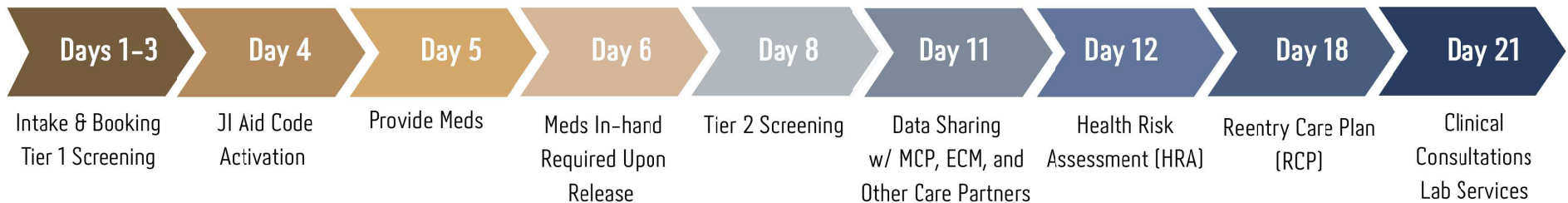
- 01** Care Team information
- 02** Upcoming appointments
- 03** Resources for food, shelter etc.
- 04** Resources for obtaining vital docs.
- 05** Release terms



CalAIM

REQUIREMENTS & MILESTONES

First 21 Days In Custody:



Hot Handoff:

Unplanned or Short Notice
Release



CalAIM

REQUIREMENTS & MILESTONES

90 Days Pre-Release Services:



Hot Handoff:

Unplanned or Short Notice Release



FROM CUSTODY TO COMMUNITY

• WHILE IN CUSTODY

CalAIM Reentry Team will support client while in custody by building out a Health Risk Assessment (HRA) & Reentry Care Plan (RCP) and submitting referrals to County Behavioral Health when applicable.

• WHEN RELEASED

The Reentry Team coordinates with the Managed Care Plan (MCP) to assign the Enhanced Care Manager (ECM) shortly before release. The ECM will support the client in carrying out the RCP and making additional referrals as needed.

MEET ASHLEY

Client Overview

- 36 years old
- Mother of two elementary school-aged children
- 11th incarceration
- Has been in custody for 4 months
- Planned release with 30 days' notice
- Prior work experience in retail
- Children currently living with her sister

Identified Needs

- Mental health diagnosis and screened positive for BH linkage
- Medi-Cal and CalFresh reinstatement
- Safe, stable housing
- Employment assistance
- Transportation to treatment and medical appointments

Strengths

- Strong support from her family
- Motivated to reunify with her children
- Actively participates in recovery meetings
- Participates in Farm to Table class at Blaine Street Women's facility
- Opportunity to establish behavioral health connections before release

**Ashley is a fictional client created to illustrate a typical participant's experience. Any resemblance to actual persons is coincidental.*

FROM CUSTODY TO COMMUNITY: Ashley's Story

• WHILE IN CUSTODY

- Completed HRA and RCP with information on how to:
 - Locate temporary shelter resources
 - Locate employment resources
 - Apply for Social Security Card
 - Reinstate CalFresh benefits
 - Contact probation officer, lawyer, and PCP
 - Participate in meetings
- Referral to County BH and Access assessment scheduled
- ECM referral submitted
- Medications will leave with client



• WHEN RELEASED

- Medi-Cal reinstated upon release
- Request re-activation of CalFresh benefits
- Complete Social Security Card application
- Get connected with housing navigator
- Follow up with employment resources
- Participate in meetings
- Compliance with Release Terms
- Attend BH and medical appointments
- Transportation support through ECM

MEET ELENA

Client Overview

- 48 years old
- 28th incarceration
- No scheduled release date
- No children
- Has been in custody for 3 weeks
- No consistent work history
- Unhoused in Santa Cruz County
- Minimal social supports

Identified Needs

- Substance Use Disorder with need to continue Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)
- Diagnosed with Hypertension
- Safe and stable housing
- Establish care with PCP
- Transportation to medical appointments
- Birth Certificate replacement

Strengths

- Engages with staff and is willing to discuss her health needs
- Open to receiving SUD treatment and other medical support
- Attends High School classes in custody
- Has active Medi-Cal

**Elena is a fictional client created to illustrate a typical participant's experience. Any resemblance to actual persons is coincidental.*

FROM CUSTODY TO COMMUNITY: Elena's Story

• WHILE IN CUSTODY

- Completed HRA and RCP with information on how to:
 - Locate temporary shelter resources
 - Locate education and employment resources
 - Apply for Birth Certificate
 - Contact Probation Officer, lawyer, and PCP
- Referral to ECM Submitted
- Medication prescriptions will leave with client
- MAT appointment scheduled

• WHEN RELEASED

- Pick up medication
- Attend MAT appointment
- Contact PCP
- Transportation support through ECM
- Get connected with housing navigator
- Follow up with education and employment resources
- Complete Birth Certificate application
- Compliance with Release Terms





SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENTS & CROSS-SYSTEM COORDINATION

- **BRIDGE Project:** Countywide data-sharing initiative designed to improve access to information and coordination across departments and systems, with justice-involved individuals as an initial focus.
 - **MX Engage:** New care management platform being implemented through the BRIDGE Project to support Reentry Team workflows, information sharing, referrals, and coordination with County and community partners.
 - **Sequential Intercept Model:** Countywide planning effort to map how people move through the justice, behavioral health, and social service systems and identify gaps, priorities, and opportunities for better coordination.
 - **System Mapping:** Updated map provides a broader view of programs and services across the justice continuum and helps identify where stronger connections can improve transitions and outcomes.
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QUESTIONS?

Contact us:

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Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office

