



**Aurora Research
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Arapahoe Diverts the Mentally Ill to Treatment (ADMIT)

Evaluation Spotlight

Arapahoe Diverts the Mentally Ill for Treatment (ADMIT)

“So many good things are happening to me and it’s all due to my sobriety and the fact that you gave me this opportunity”

For several years Aurora Mental Health Center has been working in conjunction with the Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Office (ACSO) on the Arapahoe Diverts the Mentally Ill for Treatment (ADMIT). The project is funded the Office of Behavioral Health and ACSO. This project targets individuals sentenced to the Arapahoe County Detention Facility and dually diagnosed with a mental and substance use illness. The program removes the individuals from the Detention Facility and places them in a supervised community setting, where they receive basic needs, counseling, and case management. Clients are supervised by AuMHC and ACSO staff.

Basic Needs: *“Home is my safety net.”* While in the program, ADMIT provides clients housing. Additionally, clients receive assistance to obtain transportation, I.D.’s, food assistance, insurance, medication, and basic medical care.

Counseling: *“It turns everything you know as an addict down.”* ADMIT provides intensive therapy. Clients are initially scheduled to meet with a therapist once a week and attend a minimum of five groups a week. Examples of groups include drug and alcohol, understanding mental illness, interpersonal skills, relapse prevention, and independent living skills. As clients advance through the program, the amount of therapy can decrease depending on the client’s needs.

Case Management: *“It’s just given me a chance!”* Beyond assisting with basic needs, program case managers assist with employment, housing, education, and after program care.

Cost Benefit: *“Much thanks for all you’ve done and for giving parents like me hope.”* A key component for both the Office of Behavioral Health and ACSO is cost savings of the program. An initial cost savings occurs in the cost for someone to stay in the detention facility vs. being in the ADMIT program. The program saves approximately \$400,000 each year by clients being in the program. The cost savings continues through decreased recidivism rates, saving approximately \$100,000 each year. Additionally, by assisting clients in obtaining income and housing, the program is generating an additional \$500,000 each year. This means that the program is potentially adding one million dollars back into the economic and social service system.

Decreased Recidivism: *“I would like to let you know it’s been 8 years today sober.”* Over the last two years ADMIT has had a recidivism rate of 8% compared to 42% of the comparison group provided by ACSO. The comparison group is matched based on original crime, gender, and age. ADMIT clients are charged with lesser crimes compared to the matching group.

Saving lives: *“Without the ADMIT program, I was gone. 44 years old and they were going to give me 16 years in the penitentiary. I would have been 60 years old when I got home and that was pretty much my life for me. So, it’s been beneficial, major.”* Over the years, participants and families have the same message *“ADMIT saves lives.”* Whether it be the clients discussing that they



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would likely be in prison, homeless or dead, or families talking about how they were given-up hope, ADMIT gives clients and their families a new life. The sheriff who works with the program consistently gets messages from previous clients and their families about how ADMIT gave them their family back or it saved their life.

“ADMIT gave me my life back!”