Forensic and Diversion Programs	BHD	Grace Guerrero, x4846 Kelly Nieman, x4849

Program Purpose	• Divert individuals with serious behavioral health and substance-use disorders, who are involved with the criminal-justice system, into treatment in lieu of continued incarceration.

Program Information	• The Arlington County Forensic and Diversion team provides a comprehensive set of programs that seek to divert individuals from the criminal justice system into appropriate treatment modalities.
	• The programs offered include:
	  • Drug Court: This program targets individuals involved with the criminal justice system with a severe substance dependence or dually diagnosed. Clients participate in a five-phase program and must demonstrate progress to move from phase to phase. Phase one is the most intensive phase, and each additional phase becomes gradually less intensive. Phase five involves connecting successful clients with outpatient services and ensuring they have community supports in place.
	  • Behavioral Health Docket: This new program, which began in FY 2021, seeks to identify individuals arrested for either a misdemeanor or felony offense who suffer from a serious mental illness, developmental disability or are dually diagnosed. The docket offers those meeting program eligibility an opportunity to voluntarily participate in a court-supervised diversion program that provides intensive treatment and support in lieu of jail. The goal of the BHD is to improve both mental health and criminal justice outcomes.
	  • Other Forensic and Diversion Programs: These programs involve identifying individuals at different stages of the legal process and diverting them into ongoing treatment if appropriate. These include the Magistrate Post-booking Project (MPBP), the Bond Diversion Program, and the Court-based Diversion Program. The programs primarily serves individuals who commit low-level misdemeanors who are seriously mentally ill or dually diagnosed, and whose illness likely contributed to the offense.
	• The programs receive referrals from partners including the Office of the Magistrate, Arlington County courts, the Sheriff's Pre-trial Release Program, the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney and court-appointed attorneys. Approximately 30% of those incarcerated in Arlington are Arlington residents.
	• Not everyone assessed will be found eligible for diversion programs.
	• Forensic and diversion services are available seven days a week.

Service Delivery Model	• In FY 2023, most services were provided in-person. • In some situations, the court system opted to utilize virtual platforms for meetings. Program staff accessed those meetings remotely. • In FY 2024, it is anticipated that the program will continue to utilize the same service delivery model used in FY 2023.
PM1: How much did we do?	
Staff	• 6.45 FTEs ○ 0.6 FTE Supervisor

	o 0.6 FTE Assistant Supervisor o 1.25 FTE Drug Court therapist o 1.0 FTE Drug Court Case Manager o 3.0 FTE Forensic Staff	

Customers and Service Data		FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
	Total Clients Served in Forensic and Diversion Programs (unduplicated)	206	n/a*	201	240
	Drug Court: Assessment	n/a	n/a	n/a	7**
	Drug Court: Ongoing	28	32	28	22
	Behavioral Health Docket: Assessment	n/a	n/a*	35	24
	Behavioral Health Docket: Ongoing	n/a	n/a*	12	15
	Other Forensic and Diversion Programs: Assessment	149	n/a*	115	179
	Other Forensic and Diversion Programs: Ongoing	29	n/a*	11	50
	Total Hours of Service	n/a	n/a	2,749	3,619

* In FY 2021, data tracking issues led to under-reporting of clients served, as program staff recorded the number of diversion sessions rather than the individuals served during those sessions. This data issue was rectified for FY 2022.

**Clients in the assessment phase of drug court began being tracked in FY 2023

PM2: How well did we do it?

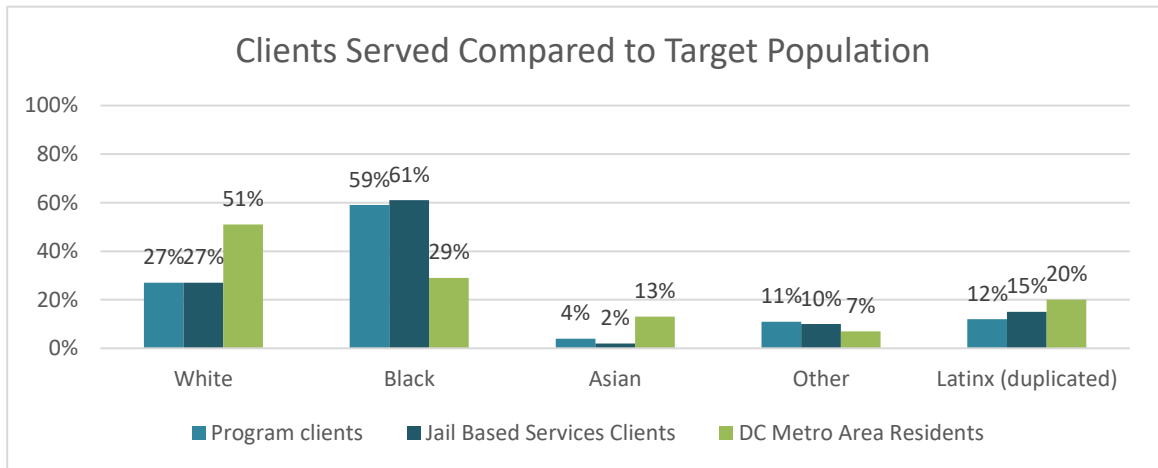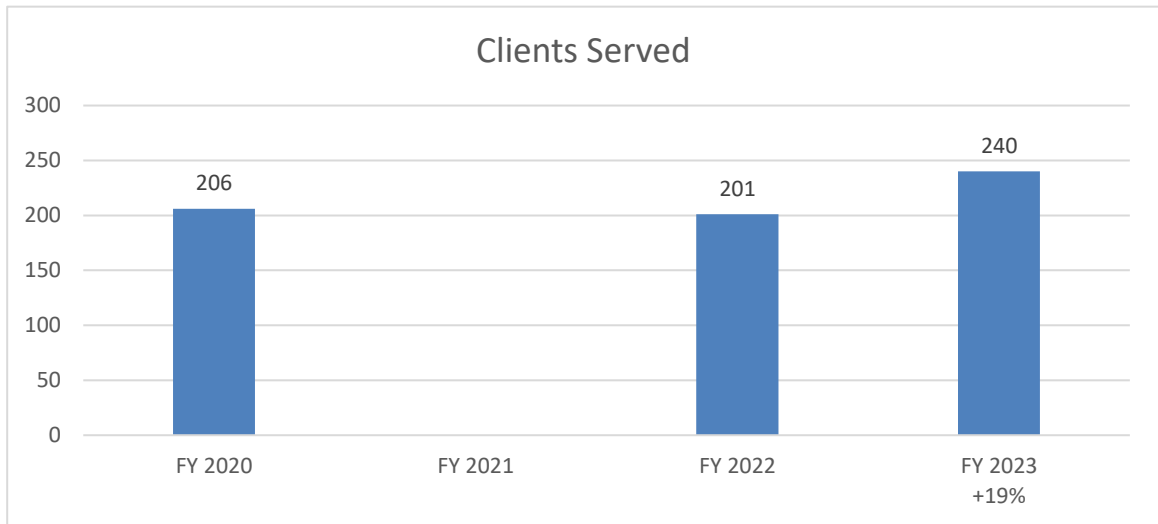| 2.1	Documentation Timeliness

PM3: Is anyone better off?

3.1	Improvement on RNR Assessment Score
3.2	Clients who successfully complete the program
3.3	Recidivism of clients who graduated from the program
3.4	Clients connected to ongoing services

Forensic and Diversion Programs		
Measure	1	Total Clients Served in Forensic and Diversion Programs (unduplicated)

Data	

Clients Served

(Bar chart)
- FY 2020: 206
- FY 2021: (no data)
- FY 2022: 201
- FY 2023: 240 (+19%)

Clients Served Compared to Target Population

(Bar chart with series: Program clients, Jail Based Services Clients, DC Metro Area Residents)
- White: 27%, 27%, 51%
- Black: 59%, 61%, 29%
- Asian: 4%, 2%, 13%
- Other: 11%, 10%, 7%
- Latinx (duplicated): 12%, 15%, 20%

Data Summary	• From FY 2020 to FY 2023, the number of clients served increased 17%.
	• The selected comparison population for the racial equity analysis is residents of the Washington DC metro area. This is because the majority (approximately 70%) of the individuals incarcerated in Arlington County Detention Facility are not county residents, but rather individuals who have been arrested in the jurisdiction.
	• Additionally, the Jail Based Services client demographics are charted above for comparison. Since both programs are CSB programs that serve justice system-involved clients, their demographics are expected to be similar.
	• Data for this measure is collected in the agency's electronic health record.
	• 10% of program clients (24) are missing data on race and 25% of program clients (61) are missing data on ethnicity. They have been excluded from the race and Latinx calculations.

What is the story behind the data?

- In FY 2023, the programs served an increased number of clients over the prior years. Intensive efforts were undertaken to divert all appropriate clients assessed by the program.
- In FY 2023, the programs developed the Intensive Forensic Program (IFP). This is an intensive group service modeled after Intensive Outpatient Program and provides a structured treatment environment following modern best practices. This intensive service will help expand overall capacity as well as improve outcomes for Forensics clients, and is open to clients in ongoing Forensic and Diversion programs.
- In FY 2023, the programs dealt with significant staffing challenges. To manage staff vacancies and resignations, the supervisor adjusted team responsibilities to ensure that all programs were able to operate effectively. Staff took on increased workloads to keep everything moving smoothly, leading to a 32% increase in hours of service provided.
- In FY 2023, the Forensics and Diversion team helped launch the new Mobile Outreach Support Team, which collaborates with Arlington County Police Department to provide assessment and crisis planning to provide care in the community.
- In FY 2023, the program helped a record number of clients through the restoration to competency process. This process is provided to individuals who have been deemed incompetent to stand trial by the court, and it includes significant education on the legal system and rehabilitation services. To meet this need, staff who are normally assigned to other programs within the Forensic and Diversion umbrella were deployed to assist clients who needed restoration.
- A high proportion of program clients are Black. This is likely due to complex systemic factors that have led to more Black individuals being involved in the criminal justice system. The demographics of Jail Diversion and Jail Based Services clients are similar, indicating that clients are being diverted at an equitable rate.
- 76% of program clients are male, which also aligns with the demographics of individuals involved with Arlington's criminal justice system.
- 53% of clients across all programs have an identified substance use issue, which may have contributed to their involvement in the criminal justice system.
- When working with each client, the program looks for natural supports when available to help the individual through their journey. These can include family members as well as local community and faith-based leaders. When looking for supports, the program considers the client's background and demographic identities. The program takes a trauma-informed approach to client care, which includes considering systemic-based traumas like structural racism.

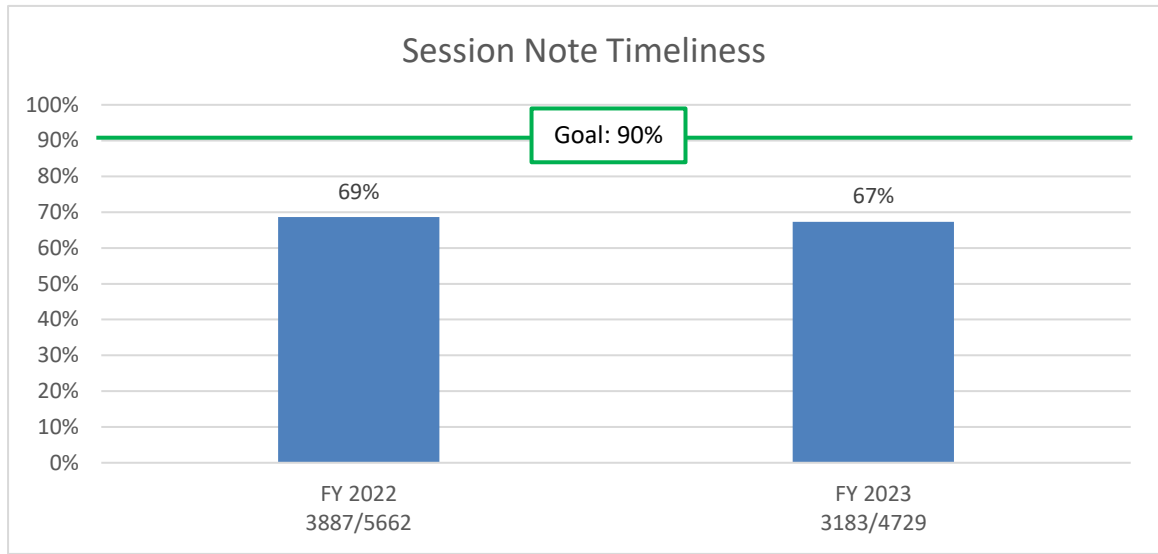| Recommendations	Target Dates
- Consider ways to integrate the Mobile Outreach Support Team into this performance measurement plan or develop a new one to cover the program.	- FY 2024 Q3
- Pilot a diversion program for clients who are involved in circuit court cases.	- FY 2024 Q1
- Train staff on the importance of demographic data collection and collection strategies, such as reviewing and updating data for all clients when they come into services.	- FY 2024 Q2

Forecast
- In FY 2024, the program anticipates serving 300 clients, due to the addition of new programs and initiatives.

Forensic and Diversion Programs		
Measure	2.1	Documentation Timeliness

Data

Session Note Timeliness

- FY 2022: 69% (3887/5662)
- FY 2023: 67% (3183/4729)
- Goal: 90%

Data Summary

- Timeliness of progress-note entry was 67% in FY 2023, a slight decrease from the prior year.
- All session notes are due within one business day of the service.
- Data is reported from the electronic health record.

What is the story behind the data?

- Session note timeliness remained below the goal of 90% in FY 2023 due to staffing challenges. As staff worked to cover the many Forensic and Diversion programs offered, session notes were occasionally completed late.
- Over 40% of Forensic and Diversion services were provided in-person in the community in FY 2023. Providing community services requires significant preparation and travel time, which can interfere with timely note completion.
- Program managers instituted documentation office hours in FY 2023, in order to give staff a scheduled time that they could come in and ask questions or seek assistance.
- Each Forensic and Diversion program has its own documentation requirements, and learning these requirements can be tricky for staff. For the new staff members in FY 2023, documentation took additional time as they had to make sure they were completing it correctly.

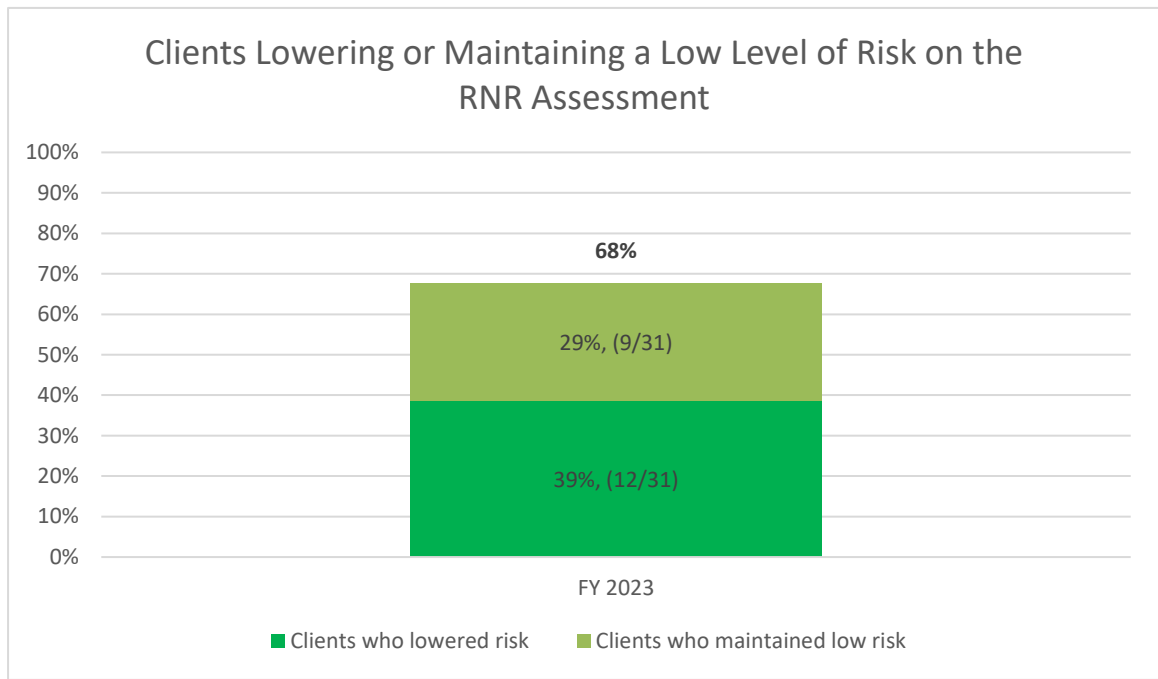| Recommendations	Target Dates
• At team meetings, encourage staff to document services as soon as possible to ensure timely completion of session notes.	• Ongoing
• Continue hosting documentation office hours to give staff a forum to ask documentation questions.	• Ongoing

Forecast

- In FY 2023, the program anticipates the timeliness rate increasing to 75%.

Forensic and Diversion Programs		
Measure	3.1	Improvement on RNR Assessment Score

Data	
	Clients Lowering or Maintaining a Low Level of Risk on the RNR Assessment

Bar chart titled "Clients Lowering or Maintaining a Low Level of Risk on the RNR Assessment" showing FY 2023 total of 68%, with "Clients who maintained low risk" at 29%, (9/31) and "Clients who lowered risk" at 39%, (12/31).

Data Summary	• Data is gathered from the Risk Needs Responsivity (RNR) tool from George Mason University's Center for Advancing Correctional Excellence. It measures the criminal justice, behavioral health, and criminogenic needs of individuals to achieve positive results.
	• The Risk Needs Responsibility tool is intended to be administered to all clients every six months in specific programs, including drug court and the behavioral health docket.
	• This measure reflects ongoing who were assessed with the RNR tool at least twice during the fiscal year. As clients progress through their program, their estimated success rate calculated by the tool should increase.
	• In FY 2023, 68% of clients lowered or maintained their risk on the RNR tool.

What is the story behind the data?

- In FY 2023, the majority of clients either lowered their risk for recidivism (38%, 12/31) or kept it at a low level (29%, 9/31).
- 70% of the clients who were assessed at high risk of recidivism at the beginning of the year lowered their risk by the end of the year.
- Multiple initiatives were undertaken in FY 2023 to help clients progress in their respective programs. The Intensive Forensic Program was launched to provide a highly structured group service offering to clients who were diverted from the jails. The Drug Court program began offering mental health treatment as well as substance use treatment to provide comprehensive care to clients who were dually diagnosed.
- An additional seven clients received one RNR tool but had not been in the program long enough to receive a second one by the end of the fiscal year.

Recommendations	Target Dates

• Continue providing the RNR assessment to clients twice a year, and track their progress through the year.	• Ongoing

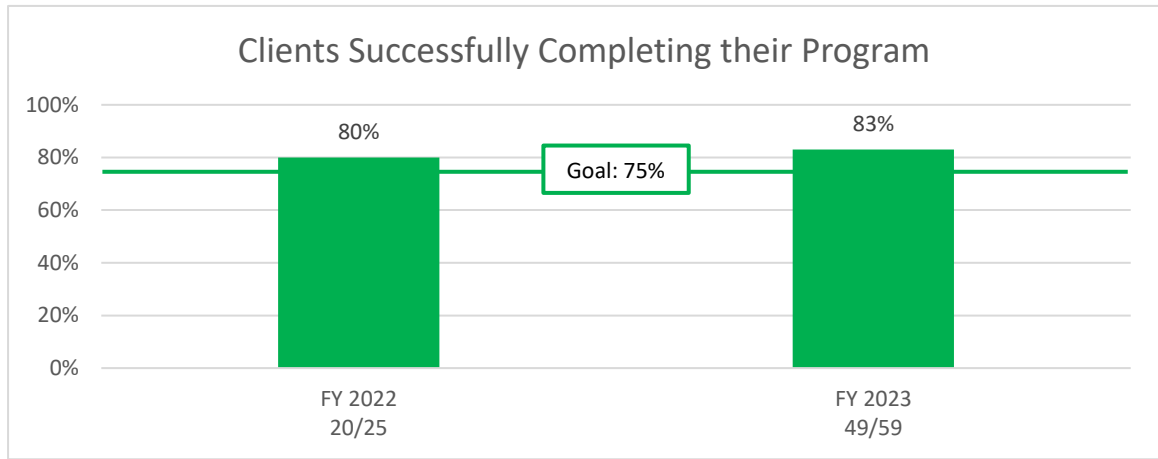| **Forecast** |
|---|
| • In FY 2024, 75% of clients are expected to maintain low risk or lower their risk of recidivism. |

Forensic and Diversion Programs		
Measure	3.2	Clients who successfully complete their program

Data

Clients Successfully Completing their Program

- FY 2022: 80% (20/25)
- Goal: 75%
- FY 2023: 83% (49/59)

Data Summary	• In FY 2023, 83% of clients (49/59) successfully completed their program. • Data for this measure is collected from discharge reasons entered into the electronic health record. Only clients who are discharged from an ongoing program during the current fiscal year are included.

What is the story behind the data?

- In FY 2023, most clients (83%, 49/59) who discharged from ongoing treatment were able to successfully complete it.
- The program utilizes graduation ceremonies to celebrate client program completions. Clients report that these celebrations help motivate them as they work through treatment programs that are often long, intensive, and challenging.
- In FY 2023, a new drug court handbook was rolled out. This document outlined updated program guidelines and was significantly more client focused than the previous iteration. This has helped staff improve the quality of the program and focus more on care than on supervision.
- In FY 2023, it was determined that several clients had been discharged without a clear discharge reason entered in the electronic health record. The program manager was able to enter in the missing data, and a plan has been made to ensure that discharge reasons are accurately captured going forward.

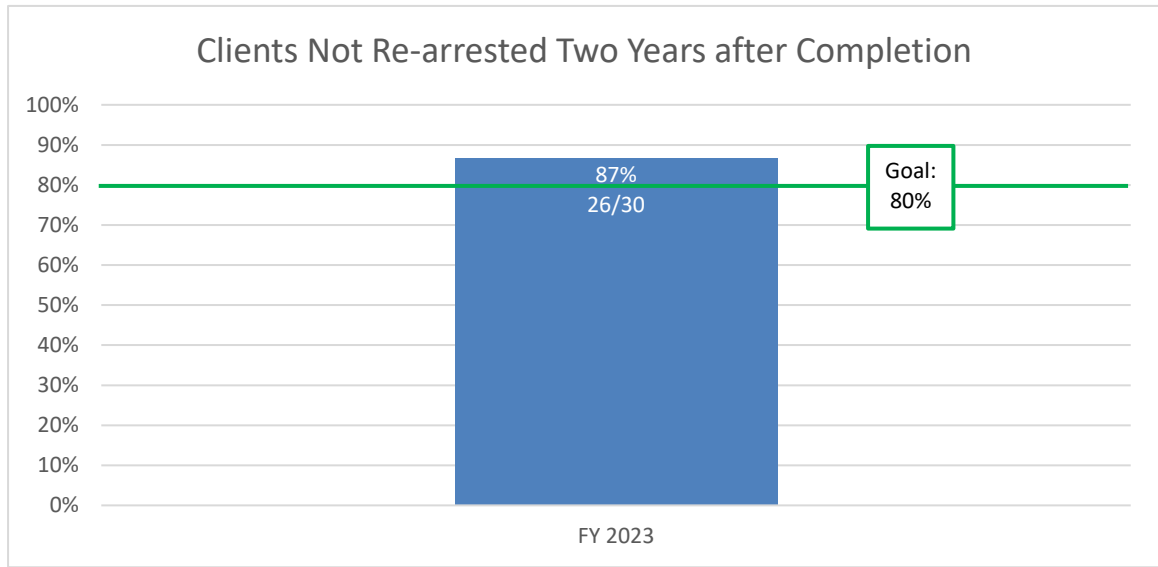| Recommendations	Target Dates
• Continue to work with clients to encourage adherence with established rules.	• Ongoing
• Ensure that completion data is accurately entered into the electronic health record.	• FY 2024 Q2
• Review available data to determine if a national benchmark exists for the measure.	• FY 2024 Q3

Forecast

- In FY 2024, it is anticipated that 83% of clients will successfully complete their program.

Forensic and Diversion Programs		
Measure	3.3	Recidivism of clients who graduated from the program

Data

Clients Not Re-arrested Two Years after Completion

Data Summary	• The percentage of individuals not re-arrested two years after completion was very high, with 87% (26/30) of clients who completed the program in FY 2021 avoiding rearrest in FY 2022 and 2023.

What is the story behind the data?

- In FY 2023, the vast majority of clients who completed their program in FY 2021 (26/30) were not rearrested in Arlington in FY 2022 or 2023.
- The presence of a mental health diagnosis is significantly linked to recidivism rates. A study of 20,112 inmates by Wilson et al. (2003) found much higher recidivism rates for individuals with behavioral health challenges, with 54% of seriously mentally ill inmates re-arrested. A study of 200,889 inmates completed by Bales et al. (2017) found that those with a mental health diagnosis were 14.2% more likely to re-offend than those individuals without a mental health diagnosis. Additionally, the likelihood that individuals would re-offend with a diagnosis of a serious mental illness was 4% higher than those with a non-serious mental health diagnosis.
- Rearrests have remained low over the years. This is due to a community approach involving stakeholders such as the criminal-justice system, community partners, and the CSB.
- The intensity of the model of service used also contributes to low rates of recidivism. Individuals receive intensive case management and supportive services as they are transitioning out of the jail and are linked to community providers on an expedited basis.
- Continued meetings with criminal justice partners has continued to improve collaborative discussions regarding treatment compliance to reduce violations of probation or pretrial conditions.

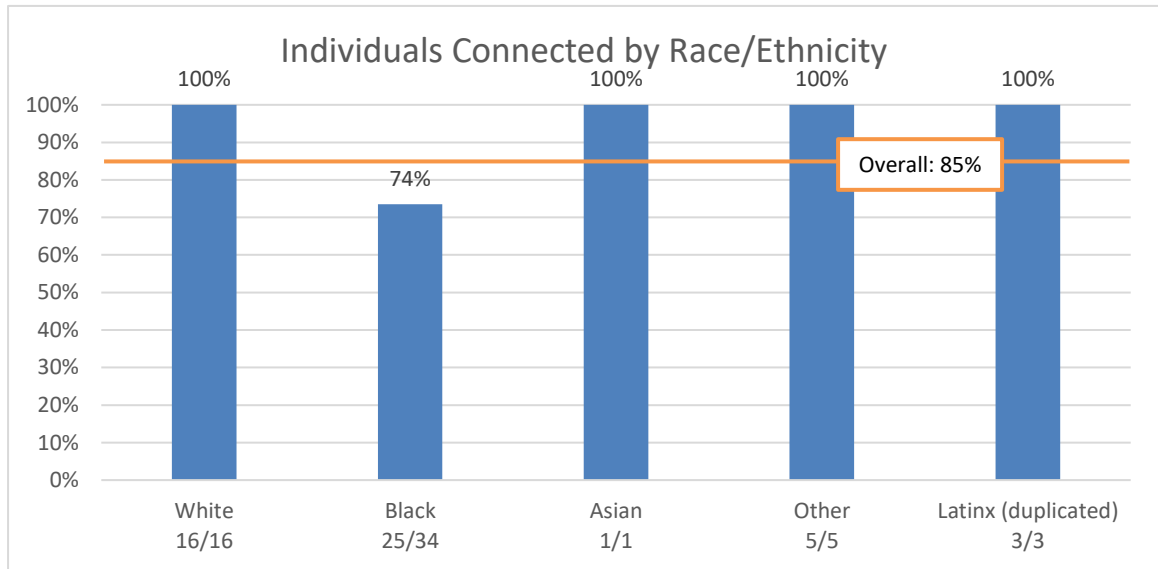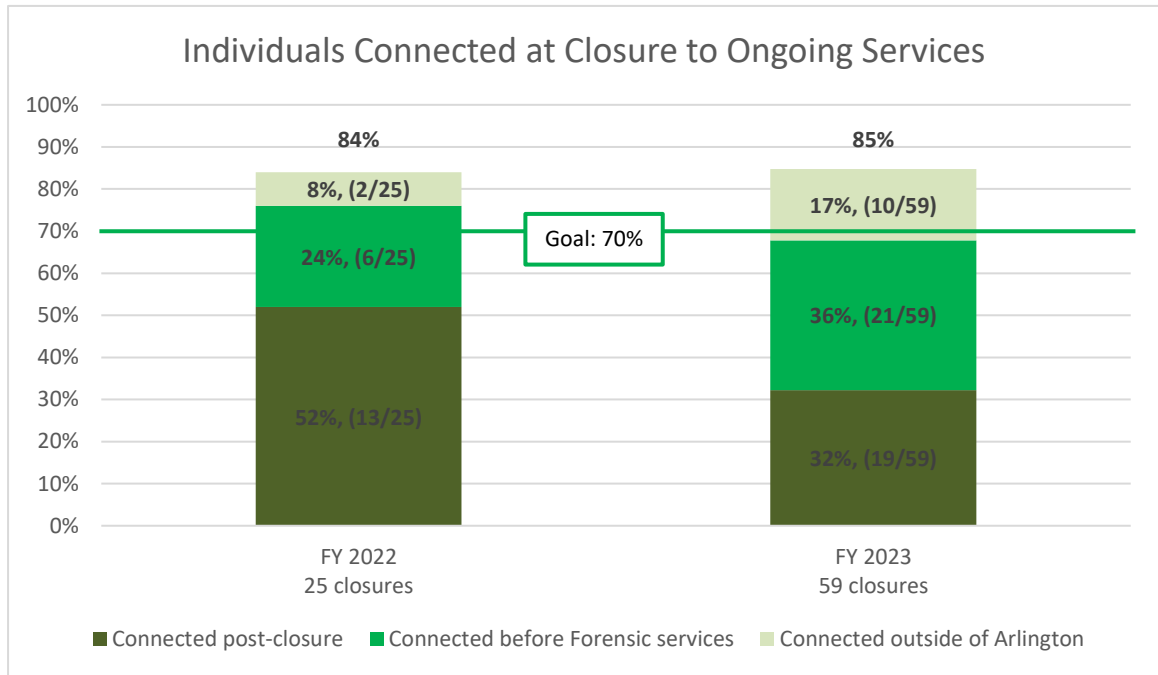| Recommendations	Target Dates
• Continue to effectively collaborate with stakeholders and the CSB to foster communication and appropriate therapeutic outcomes.	• Ongoing

• Continue using the RNR simulator tool to reduce the risk of recidivism.	• Ongoing
• Review available data to determine if a national benchmark exists for the measure.	• FY 2024 Q3

Forecast
• In FY 2024, it is estimated that re-arrest rates will remain low and that 87% of individuals will not be re-arrested two years after completion.

Forensic and Diversion Programs		
Measure	3.4	Individuals connected to ongoing services

Data

Individuals Connected at Closure to Ongoing Services

- FY 2022: 25 closures — 84% total (Connected post-closure 52% (13/25), Connected before Forensic services 24% (6/25), Connected outside of Arlington 8% (2/25))
- FY 2023: 59 closures — 85% total (Connected post-closure 32% (19/59), Connected before Forensic services 36% (21/59), Connected outside of Arlington 17% (10/59))
- Goal: 70%

Legend: Connected post-closure, Connected before Forensic services, Connected outside of Arlington

Individuals Connected by Race/Ethnicity
- White 16/16: 100%
- Black 25/34: 74%
- Asian 1/1: 100%
- Other 5/5: 100%
- Latinx (duplicated) 3/3: 100%
- Overall: 85%

Data Summary

- In FY 2023, 85% of individuals were connected to ongoing services at discharge, a similar percentage to those connected the prior year.
- This measure is based on individuals closed in each fiscal year, regardless of the year initial diversion occurred.
- Data is compiled from the electronic health record and by program staff. Only clients who are discharged from an ongoing program during the current fiscal year are included.
- Race and ethnicity data was missing for 9% (5/59) clients. Those clients are excluded from the race equity chart.

What is the story behind the data?

- Connections to ongoing services continued to exceed program goals in FY 2023.
- Clients connected to treatment in Arlington County are paired with the treatment team best equipped to meet their needs. In FY 2023, clients were connected to the mental health outpatient team, the substance use outpatient team, and the program for assertive community treatment.
- Some clients come to the program from outside of Arlington. In FY 2023, the program was able to connect clients to public and private providers in Washington D.C., Alexandria, Fairfax County, and Prince William County.
- An initial equity analysis conducted in FY 2023 indicated that clients who identify as Black connected to ongoing services at lower rates than those of other racial and ethnic identities. For the clients who did not connect, they primarily fell into two categories. Clients in one category were rearrested and were thus not eligible for ongoing outpatient services. Clients in the other category did not respond to contact after program completion. The majority of the clients who did not respond to contact were homeless prior to incarceration, and may have faced communication barriers.

Recommendations	Target Dates
- Continue reviewing ongoing service connection rates by race, to determine if there are ongoing trends.	- FY 2024 Q4
- Discuss possible ways to help Black clients overcome the barriers to ongoing service connection.	- FY 2024 Q3

Forecast

- In FY 2024, anticipate that 85% of clients will be connected to ongoing services.