Update: Medicaid 1115 Waiver: Reentry Demonstration Initiative

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Law & Justice Committee

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Today's Presentation

King County Jail
Key departments and services

Reentry Initiative Overview
What is the Reentry Demonstration Initiative?

Capacity Building Funds
Budget overview and status update

Readiness Assessment
Status update

Next steps
What's been happening?

Q & A

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King County Jail

Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention (DAJD)

- DAJD is a department within King County
- Safety, security and day to day operations of the carceral facility
- **Two sites**
  - King County Correctional Facility (KCCF)
  - Maleng Regional Justice Center (MRJC)

Public Health Jail Health Services (JHS)

- **Public Health is a department in King County**
  - JHS is a division within Public Health
- **JHS provides health, including Behavioral Health and social services in King County Jail**
- **JHS Social Service Programs:**
  - Court Services: Therapeutic Courts
  - Diversion: Diverting from the legal system into services
  - Community Health Workers: Short term reentry support
  - Coordinated Discharge: Transition Planning including SUD
- **JHS funding: General Fund, MIDD and grants**

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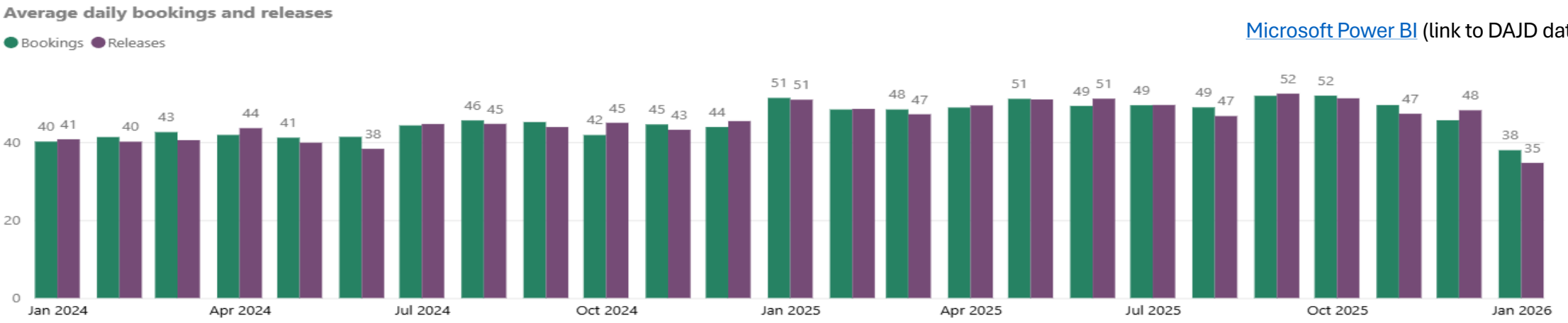
Average daily bookings and releases: KCCF & MRJC



Microsoft Power BI (link to DAJD data)

Scale of the Population:

- **Bookings & Releases** per day (1/2025-1/2026)
- **Average Length of Stay**
  - 55%+ release in 0-3 days
  - 14%+ release in 4-10 days
- **Average Daily Population** (ADP): ~1,400 in 2025

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Background: Federal Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy

- **Social Security Act of 1965: Amendments introducing Medicare & Medicaid**
  - The Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy (MIEP).
- **1975 Supreme Court Ruling: Medical care during incarceration requirement**
  - Medicaid cannot pay for services for incarcerated individuals (except for inpatient care in a medical institution for 24 hours or longer).
- **2016 Senate Bill 6430: Allowed HCA to suspend—and not terminate—Medicaid coverage for incarcerated individuals**
  - MCO Transition teams: Discharge planning requirement.
- **2023: Washington State received approval from the federal government to waive the MIEP. (1115 Waiver)**
  - Allows WA to provide a defined set of reentry services to Medicaid enrollees during a period of their incarceration. Paid for by Medicaid.
  - Waiver expires June 30, 2028.
  - Carceral Facilities still have a legal obligation to provide care beyond what is covered through the reentry services initiative.

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What is an 1115 waiver?

The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) grants 1115 Waivers to state Medicaid agencies to allow them to operate Medicaid differently than is outlined by Federal law.

- Waiver Authority grants states the ability to do things differently.
- Waivers are time-limited (usually 5 years).
  - States can apply for an extension.
  - CMS does not have to grant extensions if the program isn't demonstrating success or no longer meets the objectives of the current administration.

Washington's 1115 Demonstration Waiver is intended to demonstrate how different ways of operating Medicaid can lead to health improvements and lower cost.

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Reentry Initiative goals & benefits

Prepare	Prepare people for a successful transition from incarceration back into their community
Improve	Improve health outcomes by reducing return to incarceration, emergency department visits, overdoses, and death
Support	Support substance use disorder (SUD) and recovery
Target	Target infectious diseases like Hepatitis C prior to a person's release
Stabilize and treat	Stabilize and treat other conditions for people prior to release

Reentry from a carceral setting | Washington State Health Care Authority

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Services covered under the Reentry Waiver

Mandatory services:

1. **Reentry Targeted Case Management (rTCM)***
2. **Reentry SUD: Evaluation of and medication for substance use disorder (SUD), including opioid use disorder and alcohol use disorder**
3. **Reentry Pharmacy: Medications at release**
4. **Pre-adjudication CAA-eligible clients: Apple Health benefits***
5. **Post-adjudication CAA-eligible clients: Clinical assessment and evaluation***

Optional services:

6. Clinical assessment and evaluation for adults
7. Reentry Pharmacy: Pre-release medications (medications during the pre-release period)
8. Laboratory services
9. Radiology services
10. Services by providers with lived experience
11. Medical equipment and supplies at release

Reentry Initiative Policy and Operations Guide
Updated May 2025

3 ways a carceral facility can receive Medicaid funding

This infographic shows the three ways a carceral (incarceration) facility—that's participating in the Reentry Initiative—can receive funding from Medicaid.

Facility population	Capacity building funds	IT infrastructure funds	Reimbursement for covered health care services
1-49 people	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	Dollars for services provided based on pre-release benefit package
50-249 people	$1,250,000	$1,000,000	
250-1,000 people	$1,500,000	$1,000,000	
1,000+ people	$1,750,000	$1,000,000	

HCA 05-0004 (10/24)

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Status update: headlines

- HCA is reviewing King County's Readiness Assessment
- Capacity building investments are on track
- Once approved, go-live for King County is July '26 with plans to bring to scale once reimbursement streams begin
- Cross-sector partnership work is underway

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Capacity building budget investments

Project Team positions:

- Department of Public Health
  - Jail Health Services
  - Billing and Revenue Unit
- Department of Community and Human Services

Advisors

- Peer advisor compensation

Collaboration and Preparation

- Convenings
- Workshops
- Training

Space Readiness

- Private interview booths

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Washington State Reentry Initiative

Status Update

- Washington is the second state to be approved, *optional*
- Third-party administrator: Community Health Partnership Services (CHPW)
- 14 facilities went live July 2025-January 2026
- 6 facilities online March 1 2026
- 29 more facilities set to launch July 1 2026

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King County's cross-sector approach to the Reentry Demonstration Initiative

Project Collaboration (JHS & DAJD)

Steering Committee (Management Guidance team) includes Advisors

Workgroups (Design Teams), includes Advisors

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2026 work: completed and planned

COMPLETED since last presentation:

- Steering Committee Meeting (2/3/26)
- **Readiness Assessment submitted to the Health Care Authority (2/27/26)**
- Reentry Advisor Recruitment & selection (early March)
- rTCM Workgroup Orientations (3/25/26 & 3/26/26)
- Continued project work on position recruitments, system builds, partnership collaborations
- Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) Future State workshop (4/20/26 – 4/22/26)
- MOUD Management Guidance Team established to clarify needs, resources, decisions (late April 2026)

PLANNED through remainder of the year:

- rTCM Current & Future State Mapping Events (5/5/26 & June)
- Steering Committee Meetings (5/7/26, July, Sept.)
- System Build Testing & Readiness (ongoing through June)
- Workgroup meetings (continue through Q4)
- **Go-Live (7/1/26)**
- Go-Live Celebration (August)
- PDCA Cycles (Monthly through end of year)

In summary: Reentry Initiative planning work is underway, and we are gearing up for implementation

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Resources

- Reentry from a carceral setting | Washington State Health Care Authority
- Medicaid Basics for Correctional Leaders and Agencies
- Harp-MedicaidReentry-March2025.pdf
- HHS Releases New Guidance to Encourage States to Apply for New Medicaid Reentry Section 1115

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Contact Us

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