

Helping the Ones We

We want our loved ones to receive treatment that works.

- ♥ Research shows that relapse rates for substance use disorders are similar to those for people with diabetes or hypertension. Drug addiction should be approached like other chronic illnesses.¹
- ♥ Treatment instead of state jail incarceration lowers recidivism and the demand for drugs, and it increases public safety and taxpayer savings.²

We want our loved ones to get meaningful community support.

- ♥ Drug addiction should be treated locally – close to family, church, and people our loved ones look up to. People with strong community ties are less likely to recidivate.³
- ♥ Those with a criminal history and a history of substance abuse achieve the best outcomes when they maintain social ties and receive services in the community.⁴

We want our loved ones to help contribute to safe, healthy communities.

- ♥ The community is a safer place when people with a history of substance abuse receive effective treatment.⁵
- ♥ For each dollar invested in addiction treatment programs, there is a return of at least \$4 to \$7 through diminished rates of crime and lower criminal justice costs.⁶

We want our loved ones to be able to succeed.

- ♥ Rewards for positive behavior are more effective than penalties for negative behavior alone in creating long-term change.⁷
- ♥ People with a history of substance abuse who receive effective treatment and positive reinforcement can maintain employment, contributing to the economy and decreasing crime rates.⁸

¹ McLellan AT, Lewis DC, O'Brien CP, Kleber HD, "Drug dependence, a chronic medical illness: implications for treatment, insurance, and outcomes evaluation." *JAMA* 284(13):1689-1695, 2000.

² RTI International, "Study: Replacing Prison Terms with Drug Abuse Treatment Could Save Billions in Criminal Justice Costs," January 8, 2013.

³ Visher, C., La Vigne, N. G., & Travis, J., *Understanding the challenges of prisoner reentry, Maryland pilot study: Findings from Baltimore*, Washington, DC: The Urban Institute, 2003.

⁴ Marlowe, Douglas. "Integrating Substance Abuse Treatment and Criminal Justice Supervision." *Science & Practice Perspectives* 2, no. 1, 2003, 4-14.

⁵ "Is drug addiction treatment worth its cost?" National Institute on Drug Abuse.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ "How can rewards and sanctions be used effectively with drug-involved offenders in treatment?" National Institute on Drug Abuse.

⁸ Mark Berg and Beth Huebner, "Reentry and the Ties that Bind: An Examination of Social Ties, Employment, and Recidivism," *Justice Quarterly* 28, no. 2, 2011, 397.

THE TEXAS SMART-ON-CRIME COALITION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

