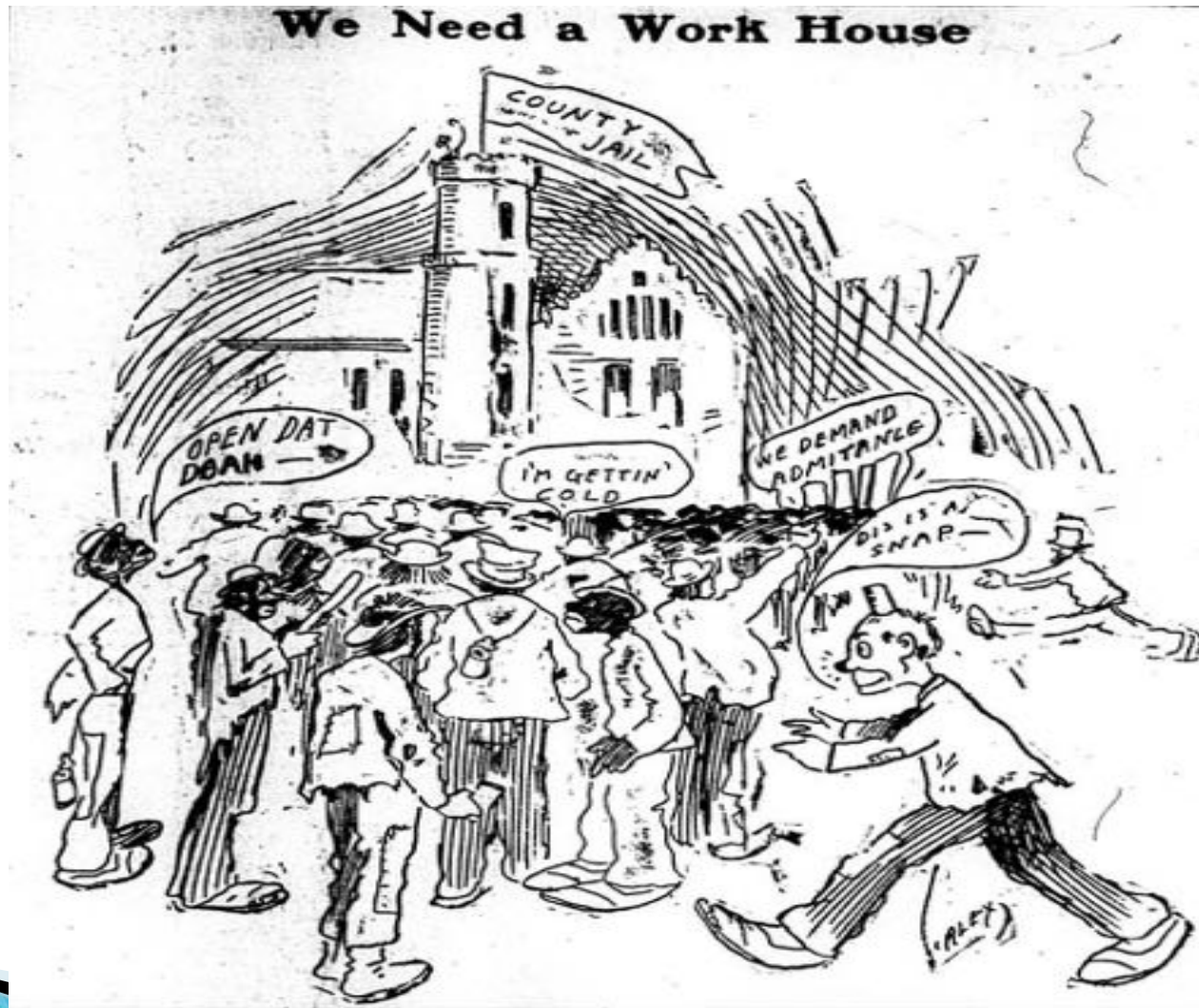


Empowering County Behavioral Health Authorities to Decarcerate County Jails

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View from 1904



View from 2015




Tonight

- ▶ 750,000 persons in county jails:
 - 187,500 (25%) persons with mental illness
 - 375,000 (50%) persons with substance use disorder
 - Major overlap between the two groups
- ▶ *The two groups (562,500) actually equal the total number in state mental hospitals in 1955 before deinstitutionalization (559,000)*



What went wrong?

- ▶ **Deinstitutionalization** never really worked
 - ▶ **Trans-institutionalization** never really worked
 - ▶ The US has **defaulted to jails** as health care institutions
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Why?

- ▶ ***We never fully developed the capacity of our county behavioral healthcare authorities.***
- ▶ Some impediments:
 - Reagan Era changes and cuts
 - Great Recession
 - Philosophical differences in behavioral healthcare

Responses Today

- ▶ **NACo/CSG Stepping Up Initiative**, has been described earlier in this Dialogue.


NACBHDD Response

- ▶ *New NACBHDD initiative to improve the capacity and functioning of county behavioral health authorities.*


Key Principle Underlying Initiative

- ▶ *If we want to keep persons with mental illness and substance use conditions out of jail, then we need to provide essential behavioral health and health services to these populations.*


Steps in the NACBHDD Initiative

- ▶ **Identify Key Issues through Focus Groups**
 - ▶ **Provide Individual and Group Consults, Webinars, etc.**
 - ▶ **Build a Library of County Best Practices**
- 

Some Considerations

- ▶ *Counties differ!*
 - ▶ Rural – Intermediate – Urban
 - ▶ By
 - ▶ Operate – Contract for Behavioral Health Services
 - ▶ By
 - ▶ Funding Sources (Medicaid, State General Revenue, County Tax Assessments, etc.)
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Some Foci – 1

- ▶ **Crisis Response Systems**
 - Peer-operated warm lines
 - Awareness and Action Training; Crisis Intervention Training (CIT)
 - Restoration Center; Sobering Center
 - Supports, including short-term Housing
 - ▶ **Care Coordination and Case Management**
 - ▶ **Building Key Partnerships**
 - Long-term Housing, Work, Social Support
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Some Foci – 2

- ▶ Information Technology
 - Links between behavioral health and jails
 - Capacity to track case management services
 - Capacity to link health and social services

If You are Interested

- ▶ Please express interest to me at:
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