

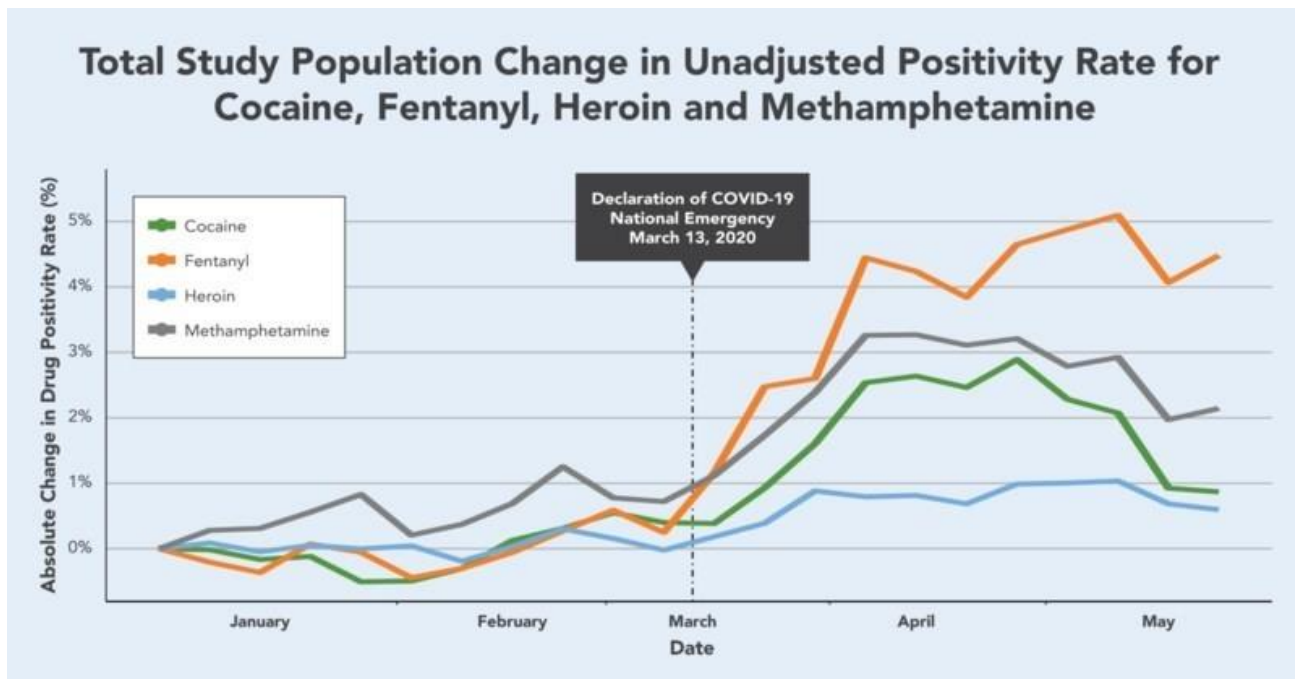


Pensacola's Pathways for Change Rising out of the COVID ashes *Creating a Safer Community*

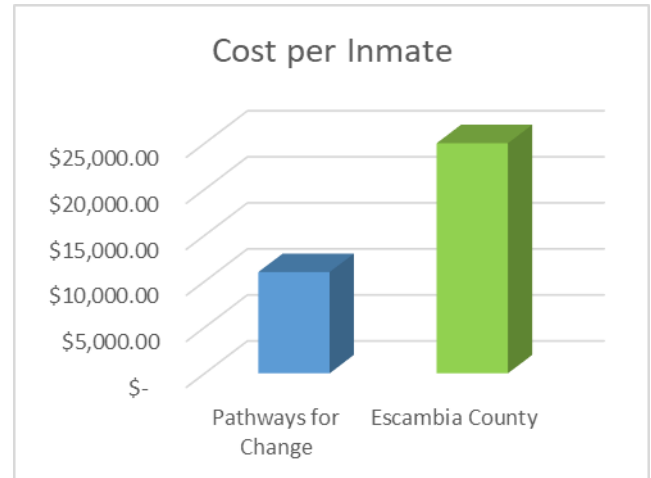
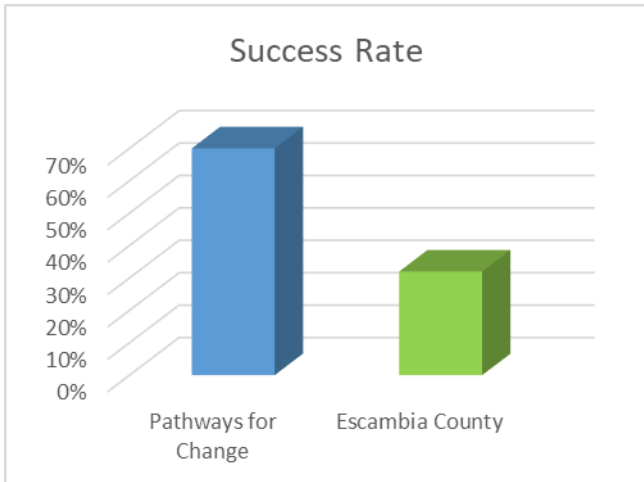
Pensacola, Fla.—July 29, 2020—A global pandemic brings Pathways For Change full circle, returning solely to our original mission of 2005, breaking the cycle of addiction for men caught in the criminal justice system. We are excited about continuing our Therapeutic Community mode of treatment locally, and by 2021, virtually on a national basis.

PFC will no longer be providing outpatient services at The Family Center. We are closing the doors on August 13, 2020. We will leave no Family Center client behind. We will continue counseling, case management and life skill classes via telehealth and will continue to coordinate referrals with our 20 partner agencies.

Due to COVID-19, three of the largest Pathways For Change fundraisers, which account for 45% of our total income or \$300,000 were cancelled or significantly downscaled. We choose to see this as a pathway for success, focusing on the treatment of escalating substance use and mental health concerns in our community and in our nation. ***Methamphetamine use is up approximately 130%, Fentanyl use is up approximately 146%, and alcohol abuse is up 55%. Even more disturbingly, the suicide hotline calls are up 338%.***



Since 2005, the Pathways for Change Men's Residential Treatment program has given men a 70% chance of never returning to a correctional facility (vs. 32% for a regular jail or prison sentence). To house and provide 512 days of transformative PFC services costs our county only \$11,000 vs. \$25,000 for a regular jail sentence. Half the cost, twice the success- a great return on investment in tax dollars and human capital!



We will be taking PFC virtually to any jail or prison that wants to reduce recidivism and make their community a safer place.

Connie Bookman, LCSW
Founder & CEO

More on Pathways For Change below....

Pensacola-based non-profit, Pathways for Change (PFC), provides solutions to America's crime problems by offering an alternative sentencing option for offenders that can be used by judges, prosecutors, public defenders and private attorneys.

"Currently, one in every 100 Americans will be incarcerated sometime within their life," said Connie Bookman, PFC Founder & CEO. "Sixty-eight percent of those who are incarcerated eventually will be arrested again and return to jail or prison. With the alternative of PFC, a 9-month, 12-month, or 18-month program is available to those convicted of misdemeanors or felonies with substance abuse problems, and with this population, we have proven that recidivism can be cut to only thirty percent."

PFC is successful because it's Men's Residential Treatment Center Program breaks the typical revolving-door pattern of arrest, sentencing, release, and re-arrest. PFC identifies how inmates will respond to a program of intensive instruction, behavior modification, and counseling. Research shows that 70 percent of inmates who successfully complete a PFC program are not re-arrested after release. The program is also less expensive than incarceration in a county jail or state prison. The cost of rehabilitating each inmate through PFC is \$11,000 annually, less than the \$25,000 it costs to house county jail and prison inmates. Half the cost, twice the success.

Though PFC does not discriminate based on age, race, national origin, religious or sexual orientation, not all inmates are eligible. Those entering the program must be approved by the judicial system, they must be non-violent, non-sex offender, male lawbreakers diagnosed as substance dependent and who are willing to attempt to restructure their lives through a faith-based therapeutic community.

Bookman attributes the success of PFC to a highly structured three-phase process involving individual and group therapy by clinical professionals, as well as instruction and guidance to assist offenders in gaining the skills necessary to function in society. "This is not a 'Get-Out-of-Jail-Free' card," said Bookman. Additionally, family members are required to be involved in the process and receive counseling as well.

"Pathways for Change makes a difference not only in the inmate who goes through the program, but it can have a far-reaching affect on families. Currently, 80 percent of children expelled from school have at least one parent who is incarcerated. That is the kind of destructive cycle this program can help break."

PFC accepts up to 30 offenders at once who live in a military-style, barracks atmosphere with bunk beds, classroom areas, and workout facilities. Funding comes from contributions from the Escambia Board of County Commissioners, Destin Charity Wine Auction Foundation, and a plethora of other local donations. Restricted by the amount of available funding, PFC remains the only court-ordered program within a 500-mile radius and is one of only five percent nationwide that are faith-based.

Additional Facts:

- Nearly 700,000 offenders are released from prison nationwide every year.
- Of those released, two-thirds who are sentenced by traditional means are re-arrested for serious and/or violent offenses within three years.
- Only 30 percent of inmates who graduate from PFC re-offend and are re-arrested, much less than the 68 percent recidivism rate of those released from county jails and state prisons.
- The cost of incarceration is \$25,000 annually in the county jail. The cost of rehabilitation through PFC is \$11,000 per inmate, annually.
- Graduates of the PFC program in Escambia County, saves taxpayers over \$1 million per year.
- Without programs such as PFC, recidivism is likely, as many offenders face challenges such as physical and mental health issues, addiction, lack of education and job skills, and return to the same environment.
- Currently, one out of 100 people are incarcerated some time during their life, and 80 percent of children who are expelled from school have a parent who is incarcerated.
- PFC remains the only court-ordered program within a 500-mile radius and is one of only five percent nationwide that are faith-based
- America has a higher percentage of its citizens in prison than any other advanced nation