IMAGINE THE FUTURE:

When Impaired Driving is Eliminated
I am an addiction psychiatrist.

Just a little bit about me...
I worked in the emergency department. It led to my interest in addiction studies. Which led to more school...
I was CEO at Phoenix House

I am excited to lead Responsibility.org
Current State of Impaired Driving
Drunk Driving Deaths Decreased in 2017

Since 1982: 48%
Since 1991: 31%
Since 2008: 7%

Data Source: NHTSA, FARS, 10/18
Despite progress, drunk driving persists
Drug-Impaired Driving Is Increasing

2017: 46% of fatally-injured drivers with known test results tested positive for drugs, up from 28% in 2007. (NHTSA, 2019)
“In Colorado there has been a 300 percent spike in polysubstance-impaired driving cases between 2013-2016 with alcohol and THC being the most common combination.”

-Sgt. Alan Ma, Denver Police Department

“In 2016, there were more than twice as many poly-drug drivers than alcohol-only drivers and five times more than THC-only drivers.”

– Dr. Darrin Grondel, WA Traffic Safety Commission
Polysubstance use

- Drug use combined with alcohol use exponentially increases traffic crash risk:
  - Low amounts of marijuana combined with low amounts of alcohol cause severe impairment.
  - Research has shown that combining substances has a multiplicative effect on collision risk.
  - Combining alcohol and marijuana is common among seriously and fatally injured drivers.
Highest-Risk Impaired Drivers: Who are they? The ones who pose the greatest fatal crash risk

Repeat offenders

High BAC Drivers

Polysubstance-Impaired Drivers

16% The number of alcohol-positive drivers* killed in crashes who also tested positive for drugs increased more than 16% from 2006 to 2016.

*With known test results for both drugs and alcohol.
What’s the Best Solution for These Offenders?

*If only we could reach the future right now*

“Automated vehicles hold tremendous promise, but both driver-operated and highly automated vehicles will be sharing the roadways for a long time – maybe forever,” - GHSA Executive Director Jonathan Adkins.

**About DADSS**

Ready to stop drunk driving in vehicles by 2024/2025
In the meantime, how do we stop them?
Identify Underlying Issues of Offenders

- Failure to Diagnose
- Failure to Treat
- Failure to Change Behavior
Sentencing: Everyone is different!

• Assessment is a GPS for sentencing.
• Individual approaches are best.
• Supervision plans based on risk.
• Treatment plans based on need.
• Some programs/practices do not work for both genders.
Improve the System – Fill the Gaps

- Collaborate
- Break down silos
- Communicate
- Improve Offender Accountability

Break down silos
Improve Offender Accountability
Communicate
Collaborate
Restrictions and Recovery

RECOVERY
Recovery is possible, but relapse is likely

RESTRICTIONS
Important to put safeguards in place to ensure public safety

OPTIONS
Interlocks
24/7 Accountability courts
DWI courts
Employ a Comprehensive Approach:

- Screen/Assess
- Supervision
- Accountability
- Treatment
Benjamin Nordstrom
Executive Director
Responsibility.org
ben.nordstrom@responsibility.org
(202) 637-0499