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U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)
Office on Women's Health (OWH)

Meeting the Reentry Needs of Women: Policies, Programs and Practices

Initiatives that are Building the Knowledge Base to Improve Reentry Outcomes for Women

Thursday, March 15th, 10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Becki Ney, Principal Center for Effective Public Policy

A project of the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the National Institute of Corrections

BUILDING THE KNOWLEDGE BASE

What do we know about women?

- Their numbers are growing
 - On June 30, 2009, there were 201,200 adult women held in custody in federal, state and local facilities (West, 2010)
- Pathways to crime are different than men
- Typically low risk, but have multiple needs
- Significant histories of trauma and abuse
- Significant drug and alcohol use often coupled with mental health issues
- Many are mothers and single parents
- Relational
- Poverty and economic marginalization
- Likely to require a lot of community support to succeed

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BUILDING THE KNOWLEDGE BASE

What works?

- Approaches that are relational, strength-based, trauma informed, holistic, and culturally competent (Benedict, 2008)
 - Assessment and classification tools
 - WRNA, Trailer, SPIn-W, COMPAS for women
 - Supervision, case management, and reentry
 - Gender specific caseloads, WOCMM, WPA
 - Trauma informed programs and interventions
 - Seeking Safety, Beyond Trauma, Moving On
 - Skilled and knowledgeable staff
 - Gender responsive policies and practices

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A summary of the reentry research for women

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The National Resource Center (NRCJW) was established by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance in partnership with the National Institute of Corrections.

- A two year effort (2010-2012), \$750,000
- Provide guidance and support to criminal justice and other professionals who work with justice involved women

Ultimately, with the aim of reducing recidivism and increasing successful outcomes for women involved in the justice system.

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The Resource Center Partners

The National Resource Center is administered by the Center for Effective Public Policy (www.cepp.com) and its partners:

- CORE Associates (<http://coreassociates.org>)
- Orbis Partners (www.orbispartners.com)
- The National Center for Trauma-Informed Care (www.samhsa.gov/nctic)
- The Moss Group (www.mossgroup.us)
- University of Cincinnati, School of Criminal Justice (<http://www.cech.uc.edu/criminaljustice>)
- Women's Prison Association (www.wpaonline.org)

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Primary Activities

- Targeted training and technical assistance
 - Gender informed Policies and Practice
 - Assessment, Classification and Case Management
 - Institutional Culture
 - Reentry
 - Community Partnerships
- Outreach to national associations and professional organizations
- Production of **policy and practice briefs** that summarize knowledge and research
 - Top Ten, Women Veterans, Violence, Trauma Informed Care, and others

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Primary Activities

- Centralized referral for evidence-based, gender-responsive research, knowledge and resources

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WWW.CJINVOLVEDWOMEN.ORG

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In sum

- There are many excellent programs, skilled and dedicated staff, and reentry models that are succeeding with women throughout the country, at the federal, state and local levels
- There are strategies we know through research and practice that make a difference:
 - evidence-based, gender responsive, trauma informed policies and practices, assessment tools, case management and reentry, programs and interventions

Despite our best efforts, there is still much to do!

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A Vision of the Future

Imagine.....

- Evidence-based, gender responsive assessment tools in policy and practice in every state and locality
- Gender responsive, trauma informed programs and interventions in all state and local facilities and jurisdictions
- Trained and skilled staff (in institutions and the community) who work with women
- Effective supervision, case management and reentry programs in every women's facility
- Programs that focus on "pre-entry" as well as reentry (to keep women from entering criminal justice to begin with)
- A reduction in recidivism and successful outcomes with justice involved women

...a significant reduction in the number of women incarcerated

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The Challenge

- Disseminating (and advancing) the knowledge base
- Working collaboratively (as federal, state and local partners) to increase the visibility of the issues facing justice involved women...and in nontraditional ways
- A comprehensive and concerted effort to expand the number of jurisdictions who have implemented evidence-based, gender responsive approaches that work

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For More Information

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