Women Engaged in the Criminal Justice System Webinar Series
Part I: What Works for Women Engaged in the Criminal Justice System

Rachelle Ramirez
Program Associate; The Center for Effective Public Policy

Krista S. Gehring, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor; Department of Criminal Justice, University of Houston-Downtown, & Consultant for the National Resource Center on Justice Involved Women

The National Resource Center on Justice Involved Women (NRCJIW) 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.

Mission: Provide guidance and support to criminal justice professionals who work with justice-involved women
Audience: criminal justice stakeholders, state and local governments, service providers

The Resource Center Partners

The National Resource Center on Justice involved Women is administered by the Center for Effective Public Policy (www.cepp.com) and its partners:
- CORE Associates http://coreassociates.org
- Orbis Partners, Inc. www.orbispartners.com
- The National Center for Trauma-Informed Care www.samhsa.gov/nctic
- The Moss Group www.mossgroup.us
- National Institute of Corrections http://nicic.gov
- University of Cincinnati, School of Criminal Justice http://www.coch.uc.edu/criminaljustice
- Women's Prison Association www.wpaonline.org

Primary Activities

Conducts outreach activities in service of its mission
- American Probation and Parole Association Institute, August
- National Association of Pretrial Service Agencies Conference, August
- International Community Corrections Association Research Conference, September

Provides targeted training and technical assistance

Develops policy briefs, tools, and other materials to fill significant resource gaps in the field
- Ten Truths That Matter When Working With Justice Involved Women
- Executive Summary and Research Brief
- Achieving Successful Outcomes with Justice Involved Women: Q&A
- News, Facts, and FAQs
- Innovators in Criminal Justice

Serves as a referral source for information, research, and subject matter experts

Website provides links to over 200 online resources in key topic areas:
- Correctional Environments
- Offender Management and Supervision
- Classification, Assessment and Case Management
- Treatment, Interventions, and Services
- Community Reentry
- Quality Assurance and Evaluation
- Other Critical Issues like Women and Violence, Women and Drugs, Children
Resource: National Institute of Corrections

- Technical Assistance
- Training
- The National Directory of Programs for Women with Criminal Justice Involvement
- Provides links to resources; comprehensive online library

http://nicic.gov/WomenOffenders
http://nicic.gov/Library/

Join our mailing list and visit our website

www.cjininvolvedwomen.org

For more information:
Rachelle Ramirez
rramirez@cepp.com
301-589-9383

Council of State Governments Justice Center

Today’s Presentation

Section 1: Women in the Criminal Justice System
Section 2: “What Works” in Corrections
Section 3: The Gender-Responsive Movement

Section 4: Research on Women in the Criminal Justice System
Section 5: Where Do We Go from Here?
Section 6: Resources

Council of State Governments Justice Center

Men and Women in State Prisons

Estimated percent of sentenced prisoners under State jurisdiction, by offense and sex, year end 2004

Men
Women

Violent Offenses
Property Offenses
Drug Offenses

By the end of 2006, the number of women under criminal justice supervision had reached over 1.3 million.

The Female Offender

- Early 30s
- Drug related crimes
- Undereducated/unskilled
- Poverty
- Unemployed
- Disproportionately women of color
- Mothers to minor children
- Victims of physical and/or sexual abuse
- Substance abuse problems
- Health problems
- Mental health issues

Components of the Pathways Perspective

- Histories of Personal Abuse
- Mental Illness
- Substance Abuse
- Economic and Social Marginality
- Homelessness
- Relationships

Example of Two Pathways Women Might Travel into the Criminal Justice System

- Child Abuse (Physical and Sexual)
- Mental Illness
- Substance Abuse
- Offending Behavior

- Child Abuse (Physical and Sexual)
- Running Away
- “Survival Behavior” (e.g., prostitution, drug use)
- Offending Behavior

Pathways Perspective

Suggests women enter the criminal justice system through different pathways than men.
Examines the lives of women prior to incarceration.
Looks at how experiences shape pathways to offending.
Section 2: “What Works” in Corrections

What Does “What Works” Mean?

- Evidence exists that the program or intervention is effective.
- This effectiveness is obtained through empirical research not anecdotes, stories, common sense, or beliefs about effectiveness.

...this works

Literature Review

- We prefer not to look at just one study.
- The most current and informative method is meta-analysis.
- Meta-analyses are summaries of many studies of correctional interventions.

Principles of Effective Intervention

Risk principle

- Identify high-, medium-, and low-risk offenders based on likelihood of recidivism, escape, or other misconducts
- Direct intensive treatment to high- and medium-risk offenders
- Avoid assigning low-risk offenders to institutional placements or intensive treatment that expose them to criminogenic influences (e.g., high-risk offenders)

Needs Principle

- Needs related to future offending should receive high priority as we match offenders to programs
- Criminogenic needs = dynamic risk factors
- Programs that reduce needs → reduce criminal behavior
Gender-Neutral Risk/Needs Factors

- Antisocial Attitudes, Values, & Beliefs
- Antisocial Associates
- Antisocial Personality or Low Self-Control
- Criminal History
- Employment/ Education/ Job Skills
- Substance Abuse
- Dysfunctional Family

Principles of Effective Intervention

Responsivity Principle
- Affects how well an offender will be able to respond to his/her treatment plan
- Address “barriers” to treatment
  - Examples: intelligence, anxiety, ethnicity, cognitive maturity, personality, ADD, housing, learning style, child care, transportation
- These will affect offender’s likelihood of success in a program

Section 3: The Gender-Responsive Movement

What is “Gender-Responsive?”
- Acknowledges the realities of women’s lives and how they may differ from men, including the pathways to offending and how relationships shape their lives.
- Practices address issues like violence, abuse, family relationships, and substance abuse

How do we develop gender-responsive policies, programs, and practices?
- System should be different from male system
- Target women’s pathways to criminality and issues involved with them
- Recognize the minimal danger women generally present to society
- Recognize importance of relationships

Gender-Responsive Risk/Needs Factors

- Multidisciplinary review
- Psychology, substance abuse, mental health, family violence, health, trauma, employment, and education regarding women
- Important targets to reduce likelihood of recidivism
Gender-Responsive Risk/Needs Factors

- Relationship Dysfunction
- Family Conflict
- Child Abuse
- Adult Victimization
- Parental Involvement
- Parental Stress
- Housing Safety
- Depression/ anxiety (symptoms)
- Psychosis (symptoms)

Section 4: Research on Women in the Criminal Justice System

National Institute of Corrections/ University of Cincinnati Collaboration

- Development of a gender-responsive risk/needs assessment tool
  - Women’s Risk/Needs Assessment (WRNA)
- Research with this tool has been conducted in institutional and community settings, and most recently, the pretrial stage.

Gender-Neutral Risk/Needs Assessments and Women Offenders

- They were designed for men and applied to women, with little concern for appropriateness;
- They are valid;
- Existing risk/needs assessments do not tap needs most pertinent to women;
- Existing risk/needs assessments don’t help us to understand these women as best we could;
- Results of an NIC study to develop women’s risk/needs assessments found additional needs/risk factors for women.

Gender-Responsive Risk/Needs Instrument

- Mental health history
- Depression/anxiety (symptoms)
- Psychosis (symptoms)
- Adult victimizations (sample variations)
- Relationship dysfunction
- Parental stress (community)
- Housing safety (community)

And strengths (self-efficacy, family support, parental involvement, and educational assets)

Extending Evidence-Based Practice

Table 1: Comparative Predictive Validity of Assessment Models

<table>
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<th>Pre-release Samples</th>
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Note: Outcome measure is serious misconducts within 6 months, not including minor forms of insubordination.

Note: Outcome measure is incarcerated within 24 months.

Note: Outcome measure is new arrests within 24 months.

Note: Outcome measure is returns to prison within 24 months.
What’s Important for Institutional Environments?

**Gender-Neutral Factors**
- Criminal history
- Antisocial attitudes
- Family conflict
- Substance abuse

**Gender-Responsive Risk Factors**
- Criminal history
- Mental health history
- Depression (symptoms)
- Anger
- Relationship dysfunction
- Child abuse

**Strengths**
- Self-efficacy
- Family support
- Employment/education
- Poverty
- Housing safety
- Adult victimization

What’s Important for Pre-Release Environments?

**Gender-Neutral Factors**
- Criminal history
- Financial/employment
- Antisocial friends
- Substance abuse

**Gender-Responsive Risk Factors**
- Financial/employment
- Anger
- Parental stress
- Victimization as an adult
- Dysfunctional relationships

**Strengths**
- Self-efficacy
- Family support
- Educational assets
- Parental involvement

What’s Important for Community Environments?

**Gender-Neutral Factors**
- Criminal history
- Antisocial attitudes
- Financial/employment
- Education
- Subsequent friendly relationship
- Substance abuse

**Gender-Responsive Risk Factors**
- Housing safety
- Mental health history
- Depression (symptoms)
- Psychiatry
- Anger
- Relationship dysfunction
- Child abuse

**Strengths**
- Educational assets
- Self-efficacy
- Family support

Research in the Pretrial Realm

- Variation of the WRNA in Hamilton County, Ohio
- Inventory of Needs Pretrial Screening Tool
- Looked at both male and female pretrial defendants (N=266)
- Were these needs related to pretrial failure?
  - FTAs
  - New Arrests
  - Any Failures
- Did these needs differ for men and women?

Needs/Scales in the Study

**Gender-Neutral**
- Criminal History (risk)
- Employment
- Educational Need
- Substance Abuse

**Gender-Responsive**
- Abuse
- Trauma
- Mental Health
- Homelessness
- Family Support

Needs Related to Pretrial Failure

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Needs Related to Pretrial Failure

FTAs
- Criminal History
- Employment
- Substance Abuse
- Abuse
- Trauma
- Mental Health
- Homelessness
- Family Support

New Arrests
- Criminal History (6 Mo)
- Employment
- Substance Abuse
- Abuse
- Mental Health
- Homelessness
- Family Support

Any Failure
- Criminal History
- Employment
- Substance Abuse
- Abuse
- Mental Health
- Homelessness
- Family Support

Overall...

Gender-Neutral Scales
- Men
  - FTAs
  - New arrest
  - Any failures
- Women
  - FTAs
  - New arrests
  - Any failures

Gender-Responsive Scales
- Men
  - FTAs
  - New arrest
  - Any failures
- Women
  - FTAs
  - New arrests
  - Any failures

Implementation

- Now that this research is emerging, what can we do?
  - Adopt gender-responsive assessment tools
  - Implement comprehensive case planning approaches
  - Develop/use gender-responsive programming that target the needs of women

Examples of Gender-Responsive Interventions

- Beyond Trauma
  - Covington (2003)
- Female Offender Treatment and Employment Programs
  - See Grella and Greenwell (2005)
- Forever Free
- Helping Women Recover
  - Covington (1999)
- La Bodega de la Familia
  - See Shapiro & Swartz (2001)
- Moving On
  - Van Dieten (1998)
- Seeking Safety
  - Najavits (1996)
- Women Offender Case Management Model
  - Orbis Partners (2006)

Resources

- National Reentry Resource Center
  - http://nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/
- Consensus Project
  - http://consensusproject.org/
- National Resource Center on Justice-Involved Women
  - http://cjinvolvedwomen.org/
- Federal Interagency Reentry Council's Women and Reentry Subgroup
  - http://www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/reentry-council
- For further information please contact Linda Mellgren (linda.mellgren@hhs.gov), Clare DiSalvo (clare.disalvo@hhs.gov)
- Information regarding the Women’s Risk/Needs Assessment Tool
  - http://www.uc.edu/womenoffenders.html

Section 5: Where Do We Go from Here?

Gender-Neutral Scales
- Men
  - FTAs
  - New arrests
  - Any failures
- Women
  - FTAs
  - New arrests
  - Any failures

Gender-Responsive Scales
- Men
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Federal Interagency Reentry Council

- Federal Interagency Reentry Council
  - A collaborative effort convened by Attorney General Holder to enhance re-entry efforts across the federal government.

- Women and Reentry sub-group
  - Sub-group was initiated as a part of the Reentry Council Working Group's activities.
  - Mobilize federal systems to more effectively address the needs of women offenders and to improve outcomes for these women.
  - Building on the information exchanged at the March conference Meeting the Reentry Needs of Women: Policies, Programs and Practices, sponsored by the Office of Women's Health within HHS.

Questions and Answers

- Please type questions for the presenters into the question panel located on the right side of your screen.

Thank You!

The webinar recording and PowerPoint presentation will be available on www.consensusproject.org within a few days.

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Suggested Citation:
Presenter Last Name, Presenter First Name. “Title of Webinar.” Webinar held by the Council of State Governments Justice Center, New York, NY, Month day, year.