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Process Evaluation: Suffolk County House of Correction's Reentry Programs

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Process Evaluation: Suffolk County House of Correction's Reentry Programs

A Partnership between the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy and the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department

Summary

Effective reentry is an important component of the mission of the Suffolk County House of Correction and of its reentry programming. The maintenance of public safety depends largely on the institution's ability to help offenders successfully reintegrate back into their communities. Connecting inmates to community-based programs, services, and support before they leave prison can help ensure that they will become productive members of their community. This process evaluation will analyze these reentry programs:

1. **Boston Reentry Initiative**
2. **Common Ground Institute**
3. **Community Reentry for Women Program**

Goals and Objectives

This process evaluation addresses the following:

1. Is the offender's level of risk to the community tied to the level of post-release planning and appropriate for program participation?
2. Is the program reaching and helping the right subpopulations of offenders?
3. To what extent does the program have formal goals and standard measures of performance?
4. To what extent are current measures adequately matched to program objectives?
5. Are the programming goals and mission being met?

Approaches and Methods

This project utilizes a mixed-methods approach including interviews, observations, and document analysis to:

- Analyze each program's goals, eligibility criteria, referral processes, and enrollment and completion rates.
- Assess offender profiles and characteristics for each program by examining what makes a good candidate for each program; measurements of success are used from various perspectives including program staff, program participants, and community partners.
- Assess the effectiveness of extant delivery systems.
- Develop metrics/benchmarks to determine success of each program.

Project Staff

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Results and Next Steps

The final report generated from this project will:

- Contribute knowledge to ensure effective reduction of offender recidivism.
- Ensure that offenders are receiving appropriate programming for their risk level.
- Establish reliable standard for measuring outcomes.
- Outline factors that contribute to effective reentry programs.
- Prepare for second, longitudinal phase of project to assess program impacts by focusing on the experiences and outcomes of sample populations from the three reentry programs.

Partners

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