Vermont Prison Research & Innovation Network

Executive Committee
August 21, 2020
Kathy Fox, PhD
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History

- Vermont history of justice innovation
  - Statewide interest in CJ reforms
- Conversations with VT DOC Senior Mgmt—*culture change*
- UVM-DOC Collaborations:
  - Liberal Arts in Prison Program; CoSA Evaluation; Inmate Family Survey
  - UVM Justice Research Initiative: PRIN; Women’s Prison Project; National Center on Restorative Justice (Vermont Law School); Children of Incarcerated Parents Initiative – pending

Urban Institute Prison Research Innovation Network: VT DOC application

✓ State Leadership Support
✓ Partnership between UVM and DOC (UVM JRI)
PRIN Infrastructure

- Pilot facility: Southern State Correctional Facility
- Research partners: UVM Justice Research Initiative
  - Increase research capacity
  - Accountability/Transparency
- Onsite Prison Research Innovation Manager (PRIM)
- Steering Committee: Support logistics
- Executive Committee:
  - Hold us accountable; support success; use position to make big changes
Phase 1 - Research

Jan 1, 2020 - Dec 31, 2020 (Mar 31, 2021)

• Survey Development & Administration

• Participatory Research Methods

• Administrative Data Analyses
Phase 1 – Survey Development & Administration

Describe and provide measurable insights on prison climate & culture

Two surveys: One for staff and one for incarcerated individuals

Prioritize survey development process (participatory methods)

Timeline:

• Sep – Nov: Survey development
• Nov: Pilot testing
• Dec - Jan: Survey administration
• Jan – Feb: Data analysis
• March: Data Walk (results & discussion)
Phase 1 – Participatory Research Methods

“recognizes the importance of involving members of a study population as active and equal participants, in all phases of the research project, if the research process is to be a means of facilitating change.” – Holkup et. al., 2009

In this project, this consists of:

Community Research Councils

Focus Groups

Individual Interviews
Phase 1 – Administrative Data Analysis

Individual level analyses - existing centralized data systems
  • Corrections & Human Resources (staff)

Document review (i.e. unit logs)

Quarterly web-publication of PRIN measures, DOC

Timeline:
  • Sep: Data inventory
  • Oct: Research data extracts & document review
  • Nov: Data analysis
  • Jan: Disseminate Preliminary findings
Phase 1 - Timeline

Phase 1 Start
- Site visit & Kick-off meeting

UVM Institutional Review Board (IRB) Review

Phase 1 End
- Exec Committee Mtg #1
- Exec Committee Mtg #3
- Exec Committee Mtg #4

Recurring Steering Committee Meetings

Survey Development, Administration, and Analysis

Administrative Data Extraction and Analysis

Data Walk
Phase 1 - Timeline

- Phase 1 Start
  - Site visit & Kick-off meeting

- UVM Institutional Review Board (IRB) Review

- Exec Committee Mtg #1
  - UVM - DOC Research Contract Finalized

- PRIM Hired

- Exec Committee Mtg #2
  - DOC PRIN measures

- Exec Committee Mtg #3

- Exec Committee Mtg #4

- Phase 1 End

Recurring Steering Committee Meetings

Survey Development, Administration, and Analysis

Administrative Data Extraction and Analysis

Data Walk
Questions?

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