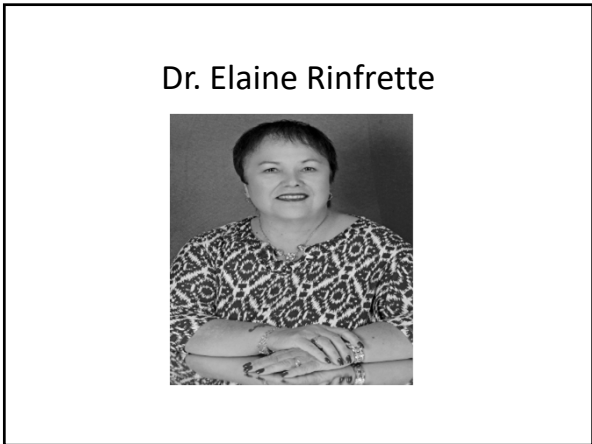


Using A University Partnership to
Enhance Community Forensic Services
in a Rural Area

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Nature of the Partnership

- Amy Weaver was both an MSW intern, and an employee of the Crawford County Correctional Facility (classification)
- The warden approved a study as part of the internship that might reveal service needs –first of women, then the entire jail
- A faculty member was the field instructor since there was no MSW

Sidebar on Implementing the internship

- The study enabled the faculty field instructor to work with the student
- Additional tasks outside the institution, and normal work hours were necessary
- Traditional role of field instructor required more creativity than typical
- More advising, and no directing

Original Intent of the Studies

- Quantitative assessment of inmate service needs –including:
 - ACES
 - Trauma Symptoms
 - Substance Use
 - Mental Health
- Focus group of a CJAB established group
- Leading to Community Advocacy

Final Study Purpose

- Quantitative Study
 - Revised Trauma Symptom Checklist
 - Mental Health Screens
 - Substance Use Assessment
 - Resilience
- Analysis of the CJAB group detailed meeting minutes in the last year
 - Issues
 - Actions
 - Follow up

Quantitative Study

Intent to Discover Service Needs

Measures (Handouts)

- Revised Trauma Symptom Checklist
- Revised Correctional Mental Health Screens (Men's and Women's)
- TCU Drug Screen
- The Ohio State Brief Resilience Scale

Sample Pool

- 256 Jail Census
- 20 unavailable due to outside work release
- 6 working in jail second shift
- 5 housed in booking
- 73 refused participation
- 143 inmates completed the self-report assessment

Characteristics of the Sample

- 98 Males
- 45 Females
- White (85%)
- Single, never Married (62%)
- Age 33 (range 19-70, SD 11)
- 11.7 Education (range 4th – BS, SD 2)
- 4 Previous Incarcerations (0-24, SD 4)

Differences by Gender

- Assessed differences on all demographics, and all outcomes (except MH)
- The only significant difference found was on previous incarcerations
 - Men 5
 - Women 3

Outcomes –Trauma Symptoms

- Range of possible scores was 0 – 96
- Mean Score was 39
 - Typical of clinical and trauma survivors
 - A score of around 19 typical of non-clinical, low ACE's history
- Interpretation: High Severity of Trauma Symptoms
- Jail may well exacerbate

Trauma Checklist Items Most Prominent (92% of variance)

- Insomnia
- Flashbacks
- Loneliness
- Nightmares
- Spacing out
- Not feeling rested
- Desire to physically hurt self
- Restless sleep
- Feeling tense all the time
- Feelings of guilt

Mental Health –Men's

- Mean of 7 out of possible 12 symptoms that might be indicative of mental health issues
- High number of indicators that might reflect disturbances in mood, anxiety, and trauma reactions
- Certainly indicates the necessity of additional individual assessments

Mental Health –Women’s

- Mean of nearly 6 (5.8) out of 8 possible indicators
- Alarming high

Common Mental Health Items

Item	Percent Men	Percent Women
Frequent mood changes	67	89
Try to avoid thinking, and reminders about something terrible witnessed or experienced	72	93
Times depressed most of day for two weeks	67	82
Repeated nightmares, and thoughts about something terrible witnessed or experienced	66	89
Annoyed when others complain – told not sympathetic	49	27
Been in a psychiatric hospital	40	42

Men’s Only Mental Health Items

Item	Percent
Worries can’t get rid of	84
Times so irritable found self shouting at people, starting fights, or arguing	71
A time when constantly on guard, or watchful when didn’t need to, or felt jumpy, and easily startled	76
Tend to hold grudges, and give people silent treatment for days	52
Often in trouble at work or school after not following through on projects initially excited about	33

Women's Only Mental Health Items

Item	Percent
Times felt useless, sinful, or guilty	78
Most people will take advantage of you if you let them know too much about you	76

TCU Drug Screen Results

- Three or more indicators of the thirteen listed suggest a DSM V Substance Use Disorder
- Mean number of indicators was 8
- 78% of sample had 3 or more

Drug Screen Indicators

Item	Percent
Used larger amounts for longer than intended	70
Tried to control use or cut down	56
Spent a lot of time getting, using, recovering	66
Had a strong desire to use	66
Got so high or sick couldn't work or care for children	47
Kept using despite social, interpersonal problems	70
Spent less time at work or school due to use	57
Used drugs that put self and others at risk	52
Continued use despite physical, psychological problems	65
Had to increase amount to get same effect	65
Using the same amount had less effect	65
Got sick, or had withdrawal when tried to quit, or cut back	57
Kept using to avoid withdrawal	57

Drug of Choice

Drug	Number	Percent
Alcohol	20	14
Heroin	12	8
Prescription Opioids	9	6
Polysubstance	58	40

- Polysubstance use and Total detox Needs**
- Among those reporting polysubstance use:
 - 24 –alcohol
 - 24 – Prescription Opioids
 - 16 – Heroin
 - With the 41 from the previous table using the same drugs, at least 65 inmates entered jail with high risk withdrawal

TCU –Frequency of IV Drug Use

Frequency	Number	Percent
Never	83	58
A few times	13	9
1-3 times a month	9	6
1-5 times a week	8	6
Daily	30	21

- 27% of the sample had been engaged in very high risk drug use

TCU Previous Drug treatment

Category	Number	Percent
Never	60	42
1 time	36	25
2 times	17	12
3 times	10	7
4 or more times	20	14

TCU –Seriousness of Drug Problem

Seriousness	Number	Percent
No Problem	34	24
Slight	17	12
Moderate	24	18
Considerable	34	24
Extreme	34	24

- 48% report high levels of severity
- At least the same 78% assessed as having a D&A problem contemplated some degree of seriousness

TCU –Importance of Treatment Now

Category	Number	Percent
No Importance	46	33
Slight	19	13
Moderate	8	6
Considerable	22	15
Extreme	48	34

- 49% report very high importance of getting treatment now
- 68% have given it some thought
- 10% having a SUD not considering

Resilience

- Mean score was 2.9
- Indicates low resilience as this is less than the neutral response category on the scale.

Correlations Between Outcomes

	Trauma	WMH	MMH	D&A	Resilience
Trauma		.60**	.66**	.28**	-.51**

- The correlations between trauma symptoms, and mental health indicators are fairly high.
- High trauma and MH associated with low resilience
- All are significant ($p < .01$)

Conclusions

- Substantial problems with:
 - Trauma Symptoms
 - Mental Health Issues
 - Substance Use Disorders
 - Low Resilience
 - Multiple Incarcerations
 - The same is the realistic expectation without drastic changes
 - An important first step is documentation of these findings

Qualitative Jail Study

Content Analysis of Forensic Group issues and Actions

The Forensic Group



The Forensic Group Purpose and Composition

- Created by the Criminal Justice Advisory Board
- Purpose is to identify, and address issues in services for inmates upon release, and others on probation
- Comprised of agency representatives from drug and alcohol, mental health, housing, probation/parole, human services, jail classification, a community rep, and recently Edinboro University

Method

- Content analysis of detailed minutes over the past 12 monthly meetings
- Two researchers reviewed the minutes independently
- Reviewed Issues identified, actions taken, and any evaluations of actions
- Research team then met to develop mutually agreed upon themes

THEMES -Issues

- Mental Health Treatment
 - Communication
- Drug and Alcohol Treatment
- Housing Options
- Recidivism
- Inmates with Extreme Mental Health Conditions

THEMES -Actions

- Mental Health (continuity of care)
 - Agreement between Human Services (BSU) and Stairways Behavioral Health
 - Jail assessment by BSU
 - Court ordered; or
 - on psychotropic meds
 - Crawford County resident
 - No private insurance
 - Jail Counselors:
 - Referral list weekly to BSU
 - online medical assistance application (Compass)
 - Appointments within a few days of release at Stairways
 - Counseling only assessment appt. at BSU (post-jail)

THEMES –Actions (continued)

- **Mental Health (continuity of care) (CONTINUED)**
 - **Communication**
 - **Universal Release – BSU Referral List**
Allows forensic team to freely communicate about specific inmates
 - **Jail Warden Approved**
 - Counselors get inmates' signatures

THEMES –Actions (continued)

- **Drug and Alcohol Treatment**
 - **Crawford County Drug & Alcohol Executive Commission**
 - **Jail counseling by Art Therapist options expand**
 - One-on-ones and groups
 - Art Therapy, Seeking Safety, meditation
 - **Suboxone (opiate relapse prevention) (after release)– qualified dr. staffed to prescribe medication**

THEMES –Actions (continued)

- **Drug and Alcohol Treatment (CONTINUED)**
 - **Vivitrol Program (opiate and/or alcohol relapse prevention)**
 - **First dose at jail**
 - Jail Counselors (referrals, educate inmate)
 - CCDAEC (assessment--good candidate?)
 - PrimeCare (jail medical department) (medically qualify?)
 - Probation officers (approved parole plan orders to jail at least 10 days prior to release date)
 - **Post-jail**
 - Drug and alcohol counseling
 - Injection every 30 days (Positive Recovery Solutions – once/month at CCDAEC)

THEMES –Actions (continued)

- Housing Options
 - Ongoing discussions on available options / barriers for:
 - Sentenced Probation Violators
 - Approved Parole Plan/Approved Address required before release
 - Men's and women's shelters
 - Improved men's shelter now an option
 - Pastoral programs
 - Referrals to housing by probation officer
 - CHAPS housing referrals after release

THEMES –Actions (continued)

- Recidivism
 - Probation Office Restructure
 - EBP measures put in place
- Inmates With Extreme Mental Health Conditions
 - Discussions
 - prevent criminal charges
 - Refer to necessary care instead of incarceration

THEMES –Follow Up

- Mental Health
 - Gaps in service: Access/Compliance
 - Improve team communication
 - Improve treatment outcomes
 - Possible alterations in treatment: recognition of completion—beginning, middle, end: incentives to deter noncompliance
 - Improve continuity of care for out-of-county residents
 - Add more options for therapy
 - Men's parenting group
 - Anger management
 - trauma

THEMES –Follow Up (continued)

- **Drug and Alcohol Treatment**
 - Gaps in service: Access/Compliance
 - Improve team communication
 - Identification of those in need of services
 - Quick releases with high needs
 - Improve treatment outcomes
 - **Outcome Measures**
 - Provide data on effectiveness of Suboxone and Vivitrol
 - **Creation of a Drug Court**
 - Continue to evaluate neighboring counties' drug courts / implementation in Crawford County

THEMES –Follow Up (continued)

- **Housing Options**
 - Discussions on how to increase options for county residents
- **Recidivism**
 - Inmates overwhelmed with probation requirements
 - Goal for Better outcomes – all now using same EBP measures
 - Earlier/more accurate identification of parolee's needs and better implementation
 - Measures to assess outcomes

THEMES –Follow Up (continued)

- **Inmates With Extreme Mental Health Conditions**
 - Create diversion team / outside consult team
 - Provide Funds / Approval for Trauma-Informed Training
 - Forensic team members
 - Criminal justice system
 - Police, courts, jail, etc.

Conclusion of Qualitative Study

- The forensic team works at improving services for inmates and parolees. Together they have identified gaps and deficiencies in services and have implemented means for improvements. Data is needed to support whether or not the changes implemented have improved outcomes.
- The team will continue to work towards a trauma-informed system.

Conclusion of Mixed Methods Study

- Substantial problems with inmate trauma symptoms, mental health problems, substance use disorders, and low personal resilience.
- Tremendous gaps in services
- Coordination of the forensic group lacks formal authority

Next Steps for this Rural County Jail

- Establish:
 - Trauma informed jail
 - Formal Release Planning well in advance of release
 - Services while incarcerated from each rep on the forensic group
 - Intensive Forensic Case Management

Next Steps Continued

- Seek
 - Grants to establish a treatment court, therapeutic housing upon release, and evidence based intensive case management services

QUESTIONS and COMMENTS