

Aid to Inmate Mothers

Satellite Conference and Live Webcast
Wednesday, June 23, 2010
2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Central Time

Produced by the Alabama Department of Public Health
Video Communications and Distance Learning Division

Faculty

Karen Carr
Reentry Coordinator
Aid to Inmate Moms, Inc.



The Answer

Primary health care should be fully participatory with the community involved in all aspects of planning for their healthcare. For primary health care to be participatory there has to be a shift in emphasis away from total dependence on health care practitioners towards health promotion. This shift can happen through learning and building on strengths, shared decision making about community healthcare needs, empowering individuals, better integration of information and transformative learning.

Facts About Incarcerated Women

- Women have a multitude of health issues, some of which are a result of childhood trauma, domestic violence, and substance abuse
 - These issues often present multiple barriers to a successful reentry from prison to the community

Facts About Incarcerated Women

- Because women represent the smaller percentage of the overall prison population, their needs are often neglected
- Incarcerated women represent a “captive audience”

Impact on the Community

- **Women are returning from prison to our communities everyday**
- **Incarcerated women have poorer health and a higher prevalence of HIV, hepatitis C, cervical dysplasia, and psychiatric illness than the general population**
- **These health issues, without treatment, can pose a significant negative impact on our communities**

Historically women have been underrepresented at all levels of the criminal justice system. This underrepresentation of women has resulted in a criminal justice system created by males for males in which the diverse needs of women are forgotten and neglected.

- Belknap, J 1997

Although women represent approximately 10% of the prison population - they have unique health concerns that outweigh those of their male counterparts. Additionally, the rate at which women are being incarcerated has nearly tripled since the early 1990's.

Incarceration alone fails to prepare them for reintegration into society. Many previously incarcerated women remain marginalized in society and are impacted by the social determinants of health.

Founding of WHI FI

- **The Women's Health Information For the Incarcerated Initiative was developed as a result of the input of several women in the healthcare and criminal justice professions who were concerned about the health and well-being of incarcerated women**

The WHI FI Initiative

- **Presents a gender-responsive strategy for addressing the health concerns of incarcerated women**

WHI FI Initiative Mission

- To provide health information, education, and facilitate healthcare service referrals for women dislocated and disadvantaged due to their incarceration
- Nurturing healthy lifestyles pre and post release
- Improve the health outcomes for previously incarcerated women

WHI FI Initiative Implementation

- Phase I
 - Monthly/quarterly health education programs and forums will be presented in at least one Alabama Department of Corrections women’s facility

WHI FI Initiative Implementation

- Phase II
 - Will be referred to as the Community WHI FI Initiative
 - Inmates within 30-90 days of release will be referred to one of the following pilot health departments for services:

WHI FI Initiative Implementation

- Madison
- Montgomery
- Calhoun
- * More will be discussed during the step by step referral process

WHI FI Recap

- 2008
 - Monthly health programs at Julia Tutwiler Prison & Montgomery Women’s Facility reached 300+ incarcerated women

WHI FI Recap

- 2009
 - Monthly health programs at Julia Tutwiler Prison, Montgomery Women’s Facility, & Birmingham Community Based Facility reached 493+ incarcerated women

WHI FI Recap

- 2010
 - Monthly health programs at Julia Tutwiler Prison, Montgomery Women’s Facility, & Birmingham Community Based Facility reached 270+ incarcerated women

WHI FI Recap - Health Topics

- Breast/Cervical Cancer
- Health risks associated with body art/piercing
- Hepatitis/Staph (MRSA)
- Tuberculosis
- Smoking cessation
- Good mental health
- Nutrition/physical activity

WHI FI Recap - Health Topics

- Functional body workouts
- Sexual health
- Infant mortality
- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
- Heart health
 - Cardiovascular disease

Questions?

We welcome any questions or comments at this time and look forward to working with the county Health Departments! Let us be a part of the change we desire to see!