Meeting a Need: Developing an integrated care pathway for Veterans newly released from jail.

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Philosophical Assumptions:

- Health is “a state of enough physical, mental, and social well-being to enable people to work productively and participate actively in the social and economic life of the community in which they live (WHO, 1978).

- Nursing is the alleviation of vulnerability in the human health experience.
Milio’s Framework for Prevention:

- Six propositions relating to health promotion and disease prevention.
- Milio asserted that health deficits occur when there is an imbalance between a community’s health needs, and its health-sustaining resources.
- All human beings make health choices that are the easiest for them to make, most of the time.
Central thesis is that if we wish to support health promoting patterns, then we must focus on the central problem of how to make health-damaging choices more difficult when health-promoting behaviors are realistically and easily available.

Jails

- 15 million unique individuals go in and out of jail systems every year.

- Of those who remain in jail, most are poor, over representation of persons of color, under-educated, with long-standing physical and psycho-social issues.

- Detainees may be serving short sentences, probation violations, awaiting bail, awaiting trail.
Difficult for jail personnel to deal with the complex issues.

Jails are not required to provide robust and appropriate medical care, only the basics.

Detainees are often released without notice, and often late at night.

Detainees are often homeless.
Law Enforcement Approach:

- Investigation
- Prosecution
- Incarceration/punishment
Nursing’s Approach

- Prevention
- Identification/intervention
- Treatment/mitigation of harm/rehabilitation
Intersections Between Law Enforcement & Nursing

- Exploration of collaborations with other disciplines as a way to address the high rates of crime and incarceration.
- Issues of crime are not separate from issues of health.
Public Health Crisis:

Because of the increased incidences of chronic and acute physical, dental, mental and social illnesses present in all incarcerated populations, the release and re-integration of individuals back into community without adequate treatment or mechanisms to ensure continuity of care is becoming a disaster for communities, and for the community of veterans and those who are charged with caring for them.
Exemplars:

- TB in New York City.
- Encephalitis in Los Angeles County.
Nursing is uniquely positioned to intervene in crime, incarceration & release thereby making unique contributions to communities and aggregates, in this instance Veterans.
Project Objective:

Using mixed methods, the study will evaluate the development and implementation of an Integrated Care Pathway for Veterans of newly released Veterans from two county jails (Augusta & Charleston, SC).
Purpose of Research:

To identify jailed detainees with military backgrounds and conduct full health histories that will include screening for PTSD, depression, TBI events, or chronic health conditions to identify needs for health services upon release and explore the feasibility of development of an ICP to better bridge VA health and social services to newly released veterans.
Methods Overview:

- Qualitative methods in two parts—critical hermentical interviews,
- Critical discourse analysis.
Specific Aim 1:

- Develop full health profiles of Veterans through medical record review (where possible); and the application of screening tools for PTSD, TBI, depression, substance use disorder, and other health conditions for baseline effects.
Critical Hermeneutics:

First interview will include developing health histories and screenings.

The interview itself, consistent with CH assumes vulnerability, injustice, and their beliefs about how they ended up in jail, as well as how their incarceration might affect their VA benefits.

Attaining “conscientization” through commnicative action inherent within dialogue.
Sustaining Connections:

- Interviewer at both sites will keep in touch with those participants who remain in jail.
- Once released, Veterans will be given a written schedule of dates to speak with, and meet Investigator in the community, at least three times. At those three meetings, Veterans will be given monetary incentives.
Critical Discourse Analysis:

Transcripts of the previous interviews will be examined regarding use of language as symbolic behavior, reflecting not the linguistic system, but the knowledge, attitudes, feelings, memories, and actions they reflect as people using language.
CDA cont.:

- While coding, attention is paid to the account of actions noted in the actual interviews.

- To gain consensus, two coders compare and account for variations, document is there are patterns of difference and agree to a common representation of grouped codes.
Specific Aim 2:

Use of preliminary data. Maeve’s previous studies indicated the devolution of:

A. Economic status.
B. Physical & mental health status.
C. Intimate & family relationships.
D. General social functioning.
Specific Aim 3:

Identify and integrate Veteran, jail and VA provider stakeholder perceptions of facilitators and barriers to ICP.
Specific Aim 4:

To calculate the economic societal cost of current and recurrent crimes for baseline effects on victims, taxpayers and the criminal justice system.

The fuller effect of subsequent crimes will be fleshed out in a subsequent study.
Ultimate Goal:

- Improve health outcomes for Veterans and reduce risk of recidivism through the development of an Integrated Care Pathway.