INNOVATIVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE STRATEGIES

A monthly newsletter brought to you by the CJCC Strategic Planning Committee

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Delinquency

Where: Kitsap County, Washington

Program: Girls Therapeutic Court

https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/news/2019/07/24/washingtons-first-therapeutic-girls-court-launches-kitsap-county/1821885001/

This program specifically addresses girls involved in the criminal justice system. Studies show that girls in the juvenile justice system have histories involving negative childhood experiences and trauma or a larger scale than boys. Kitsap hopes to address this disparity through therapeutic court. The goal of therapeutic court is to provide treatment and services in order to stop juveniles from cycling through the system. There are hopes that this approach will address the underlying issue, and prevent girls from continuing to be justice involved. Up to 17 girls with moderate to high-risk of reoffending meet on a monthly basis, and are required to complete some sort of educational or community service activity.

Re-Entry

Where: Kentucky

Program: Supporting Others in Active Recovery (SOAR)

https://www.amnews.com/2019/07/11/northpoint-first-prison-in-kentucky-with-new-aftercare-program/

SOAR aims to provide relapse prevention, education, and skills to inmates of the Northpoint Training Center. The program is based on the therapeutic community model, which is a residential and group-based approach to substance abuse. The program hopes to reduce recidivism, and provide to opportunity for inmates to begin long-term recovery before they return to the community. The program has 44 participants, with room for 44 more. Each participant is paired with a social service clinician that tailors a recovery program to their needs, and provides them with connections within the community.

Law Enforcement

Where: Winnipeg, Canada

Program: Virtual Reality Stress Training

https://innovationorigins.com/virtual-reality-stress-training-prepares-police-for-high-risk-situations/

In order to help provide training that will prepare officers for stressful, high-risk situations, Winnipeg Law Enforcement is using virtual reality. Using different virtual scenarios, the program aims to improve decision making and action taking behaviors while under stress. Overall, the program seeks to prevent violence and collateral damage in high-risk situations. The program is based off of studies done by the Australian Institute for Technology. Officers train within these virtual scenarios, and it simulates the stress of an actual high-risk situation. Officials hope that this training will help condition officers to react soundly in high-risk situations before they happen.