The Current Research: Juvenile Justice-Involved Youth with Disabilities

Thurs., May 18 at 9:00 - 10:00 am

Matthew Saleh, Cornell University
Deanne Unruh, University of Oregon
Disability Prevalence & Justice-Involvedment

- An estimated 30-60% of youth in juvenile detention facilities have some disability.¹

- Only 37% of justice-involved youth with disabilities received special education services while in school.²

- **Intersectional Considerations:** Black youth 4x as likely to be held in juvenile facilities; tribal youth 3x and Latinx youth 28% more likely.³

- **Multiple Systems Involvement:** 65% of justice-involved youth have prior involvement in the child welfare system; 40%-47% of youth in foster care have disabilities.⁴
Research Question 1 (RQ1):
What evidence-informed practices exist for successful community reentry (phenomenon of interest) for justice-involved youth, adolescents, and young adults with disabilities (ages 14-24) (population), in the United States (context)?

RQ2:
What are the experiences and needs of justice-involved individuals and the stakeholder/practitioner groups that provide services to them?
Scoping Review: Some Research/Policy Challenges

Defining “justice-involved” youth:

Defining Outcomes:
Youth may simultaneously be involved with courts, education, probation, child welfare, developmental disability or mental health agencies, etc. Often with different outcomes, progress measures, and case management procedures, with heavy emphasis on recidivism and short-term employment.

Limitations of “risk-based” emphasis
Research specific to justice-involved youth with disabilities overwhelmingly situates interventions in a medical/psychiatric and criminological frameworks of behavioral intervention.
Scoping Review (2)

Evidence-informed practices observed in the qualitative synthesis:

1. Enhanced transition services that integrate academic, behavioral/social, and vocational goals;
2. Rapid and long-term person-centered and individualized transition planning from a transition specialist;
3. Self-determination, record sharing, and immediacy in post-release planning;
4. Early community engagement;
5. Wraparound services that integrate and coordinate diverse youth/family needs;
Discussion Question #1

How do you (or the agency you work for) define “justice involvement” for youth?

Discussion Question #2

How do you (or the agency you work for) define outcomes for justice-involved youth? How about justice-involved youth with disabilities?
Employment and Training

- Justice-involved and multiple-systems involved youth with disabilities have lower reentry outcomes in independent living, education, work, lifetime earnings, etc.¹

- Employment is a significant factor in decreasing recidivism.²

- Quick re-engagement with positive community experiences (e.g., employment, education) contributes to lower recidivism and better life outcomes.³

- Justice-involved youth have fewer opportunities for work/skills-building experiences (internships, apprenticeships).⁴
Accessing Vocational Services

- **WIOA**: placed new emphasis on providing training and educational services to underserved and unserved populations, particularly youth in high-risk categories, such as high school dropouts, justice-involved youth, and foster care youth.

- Justice-involved youth are less likely to access vocational rehabilitation (VR) and other disability-focused human services than other groups.\(^1\)

- **2018 Cornell Survey**: Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors (VRCs) and Community Service Providers (CRPs) in New York State \((n = 489)\) reported lower levels of training and confidence in serving justice-involved youth with disabilities than other diverse groups.\(^2\)
Interagency Collaboration

• **Cornell Study:** Based on national survey of supervisory and frontline staff at youth-serving agencies ($n = 338$) found that VR/workforce and juvenile justice agencies are some of the least frequent collaborators.\(^1\)

• Follow up qualitative study in ten states ($n = 64$ total participants) identified common thematic challenges to collaboration between VR/workforce and juvenile justice.\(^2\)

• **These included:** (1) data and information sharing barriers; (2) lack of formal interagency agreements to facilitate communication and coordination; (3) silos and lack of awareness of services, outcomes, eligibility issues, etc.
Discussion Question #3

What is the nature of collaboration between your agency and juvenile justice?

A. Informal collaboration
B. Formal agreement (MOU, MOA)
C. Shared or braided funding
D. Other
Ready for Wages: An Employability Social Skill Curriculum for Youth Involved in Juvenile Settings
Employment is a PROTECTIVE factor for justice-involved youth.
Ready for Wages targets workplace skills of:

- Self-regulation
- Effective Communication
- Teamwork
- Problem-solving
Ready for Wages teaches how to KEEP a job; just not how to GET a job
Developed with the tenets of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy: an evidence-based practice for justice-involved youth
Wages Curriculum

14 activity-based lessons that take approximately 50 minutes per lesson

Lessons aligned with Pre-ETS tenets

Aligned with Common Core Career Standards

On-line, asynchronous training platform for teachers is about ready to be launched!
Disclose or not?: Lessons in Ready for WAGES

Two lessons were created to help youth choose (or not) to disclose their prior involvement in juvenile services.

Data are provided about employer’s perspectives on hiring justice involved youth.

Youth practice a problem-solving strategy about the pros and cons of disclosing.

Youth then can practice a strategy for how to disclose their prior/current involvement in juvenile services.
Employer’s Perspectives of Hiring Youth involved in juvenile services

- Updating the literature base and curriculum
- N = 1,469 entry level employers
- CEOs, hiring managers, supervisors, and HR personnel
- Data collected from employers across all states
How Likely to Hire Youth who are Justice Involved?

- **Very likely** 28%
- **Likely** 41%
- **Not likely** 18%
- **Not sure** 13%
Then & Now: Likely to Hire Justice-Involved Youth

2022

2014

Very Likely  Likely  Not Sure  Not Likely
Should Justice Involved Youth Disclose?

- Yes: 40%
- No: 27%
- Not sure: 33%
Then & Now: Should Justice Involved Youth Disclose?
Influential Factors on Decision to Hire

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Next Steps

Copyright procedures are being completed

Asynchronous online training platform for teachers is being evaluated and revised for dissemination

Disseminate!

If you want to be on a dissemination list for the training platform sign-up here:
Please take a moment to submit your session

Quick Reaction