

Project Objective:

By working with health professionals in the correctional system, as well as ex-offenders involved with the Voices Beyond Bars organization, we hope to create a comprehensive health education curriculum for Wisconsin's prison population that covers chronic care, health care access, and preventive medicine.

Project description, using the Logic Model

Assumptions:

1. The current health education curriculum in prison systems does not adequately serve prisoners' needs. (See attached curriculum.)
 2. Prisoners and ex-offenders have the right to health care and health education.
 3. Improving health education in prison will lead to better health outcomes for ex-offenders as they re-enter society.
 4. Better health outcomes for ex-offenders will benefit the rest of society via a decreased burden on the healthcare system.
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Inputs:

1. Research on effective educational tools and techniques.
 2. Survey of prisoners' and ex-offenders' areas of interest.
 3. Knowledge base of participants with Voices Beyond Bars as well as health professionals within the correctional system
 4. Current version of curriculum
 5. Our time and knowledge base
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Outputs:

1. New health education curriculum
 2. Volunteer teaching sessions
 3. Partnership between health professionals in the correctional system and UWSOMPH students
 4. Increased volunteer opportunities for UWSOMPH students
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Outcomes:

Short term:

1. Greater interest in health education
 2. Greater knowledge about healthcare: self-care, access to care, prevention, etc.
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Medium term:

3. Better ability to access healthcare and to take care of oneself
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Long term:

4. Better health outcomes
 5. Economization of health care resources for society
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What we invest:

1. Time to review the curriculum, get feedback from prisoners and ex-offenders, perform educational research, brainstorm with health professionals in the correctional system, and produce a curriculum
 2. Funds for educational materials
 3. Travel to and from the State Department of Corrections and various prisons around the state
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What we do:

1. Survey prisoners regarding areas of interest/concern
 2. Research effective educational techniques
 3. Update health care curriculum
 4. Survey prisoners on satisfaction with new curriculum
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Who we reach:

1. WI prisoners
 2. Health professionals in the prison system
 3. Society -- indirectly
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External Factors:

1. Constantly evolving healthcare system
 2. Changes in programs and services available over time
 3. Variability in healthcare geographically
 4. Relationships and experiences between ex-offenders and their physicians
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Follow-up to program:

1. Prisoners will be surveyed on the utility of the new curriculum
 2. Project will be sustained by the nurses who are in charge of teaching the current curriculum
 3. Opportunity to establish long-term volunteer teaching opportunities within the correctional system.
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