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NIC Services in Managing Justice-Involved Women

“Accepted policy and practice in the correctional profession have been established and implemented for the largest population, which is overwhelmingly male. That holds true for programming, facility design, assessment and classification tools, and all operations foundational to the management of an institution. Missed are the issues that are either unique to women or that occur with more frequency with female offenders.”

Among the differences that justify a gender-responsive approach to women in custody are:

- Their lower level of risk compared to the majority of male offenders,
- Their status as either pregnant (6% of women in jail) or the parent of minor children (62% of women in prison),
- Their more frequent histories of physical and sexual abuse compared to men,
- Their high levels of mental illness, behavioral health challenges, and substance abuse, which are direct causes of much of women’s criminal behavior.

The article provides an overview of NIC technical assistance, training, reports, and tools agencies can access to examine and refine their services for women in contact with the justice system. To review the article **Visit:** http://community.nicic.gov/blogs/national_jail_exchange/archive/2014/02/13/nic-services-in-managing-justice-involved-women.aspx

The Unseen Provider: Health Care in Our Jails

This 8-minute video presents the case for implementing electronic health information exchanges (HIEs) that bridge the gap between jails and public health agencies, with the twin goals of cost savings and improving services to vulnerable populations. With Camden, New Jersey, as a backdrop, the video features local and national experts in community and jail-based health care, who discuss the HIE solution. **Visit:** http://community.nicic.gov/blogs/national_jail_exchange/archive/2014/02/06/the-unseen-provider-health-care-in-our-jails.aspx

Report Explores Responses for Justice-Involved Youth with Mental Health Needs

The Mental Health and Juvenile Justice Collaborative for Change has released “Better Solutions for Youth with Mental Health Needs in the Juvenile Justice System.” This report focuses on effective responses to youth with mental health needs in the juvenile justice system. Based on research, as many as 70 percent of justice-involved youth have a diagnosable mental health disorder. The report highlights the scope of the problem, identifies scientific breakthroughs, and encourages community-based treatment interventions that provide more appropriate, effective responses to youth with mental health needs.

The Collaborative for Change is a project of the National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice and is supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation as part of its Models for Change Resource Center Partnership. **Visit:** <http://cfc.ncmhjj.com/>

National Institute of Corrections 10 Facts About Women in Jails

Noting that more than 90,000 women were being held in U.S. jails as of 2012, Ms. Ney explains the top 10 reasons why a gender-informed perspective on women in jail improves individual women’s outcomes and helps break generational cycles of justice system involvement. A brief discussion of each fact summarizes the supporting research and evidence generated over the past 30 years in several different fields.

Ney states, “Women offenders face challenges that are not only different from their male counterparts, but that also greatly influence their involvement in criminal justice, including jails. This article describes ‘10 facts’ that corrections professionals should know about working with women in jails.” To review the full article on the 10 facts visit: <http://www.americanjail.org/10-facts-about-women-in-jails> For additional information **Visit:** <http://cijinvolvedwomen.org/>

Job Corps: Building on Board Strength Across our New England States

We are calling on all workforce professionals to join our Push to help us fill our centers and to be advocates for Our Youth and Young Adults. Please help us fulfill Job Corps’ mission of giving America’s young people a brighter future by spreading the word about opportunities available at Job Corps centers across Our New England States.

We encourage all workforce systems who work with economically disadvantaged and low-skilled youth and young adults between the ages of 16 - 24 (including long-term unemployed workers), regardless of position, to engage in recruiting new students into the Job Corps program. We ask you to create outreach opportunities to share information about the program with your networks—e.g., family members, friends, faith leaders, community members influencers, family services and school leaders.

A recent study found there are 5.8 million teens and young adults between the ages of 16 – 24 who are neither working nor in school – that is one out of every seven of these young people. Many of these may be eligible for Job Corps. Together, let’s make sure we are giving as many youth and young adults as possible the chance to gain the skills and credentials they need to get a good job and connect to a career pathway.

Job Corps is the nation’s largest and most successful educational and vocational training program for low income youth ages 16 to 24. Job Corps provides year-round enrollment, vocational skills, employability training, and job placement for our graduates. Students who enroll in Job Corps can earn a GED, learn a trade, take college level courses, prepare for higher education and gain the practical skills they need to succeed in the workplace.

We can provide an ideal setting for young people to focus, plan and prepare for their future. Students can choose from various vocational offerings, including Automotive Mechanics, Carpentry, Electrical Wiring, Certified Nursing Assistant, Culinary Arts, Medical Office Technology, Welding, Business and more. Drivers’ education, health and dental services, career counseling, basic computer training, and meals are also provided - all at no cost to the student or their family as long as they meet the eligibility criteria. **Visit:** <http://www.jobcorps.gov>

