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# CHALLENGES OF SOCIAL WORKERS GIVING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES TO JUVENILES WHO HAVE BEEN INCARCERATED FOR DRUG USE

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CHALLENGES OF SOCIAL WORKERS GIVING MENTAL  
HEALTH SERVICES TO JUVENILES WHO HAVE BEEN  
INCARCERATED FOR DRUG USE

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A Project  
Presented to the  
Faculty of  
California State University,  
San Bernardino

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In Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirements for the Degree  
Master of Social Work

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by  
Nathalie Marie Jones

June 2016

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June 2016

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## ABSTRACT

This research examined challenges social workers face when delivering mental health services to juveniles who have been incarcerated due to drug use. Through the use of a web-based survey program a total of ten research questions were examined statistically. The research questions discussed what challenges social workers face when trying to administer services to juveniles who have been incarcerated for drug use and also what services are available to juveniles with or without a mental health problem who have been incarcerated for drug use. Questionnaires were sent out electronically, with a response rate of twenty-seven participants. SurveyMonkey® was used to analyze the data. The results indicated that the participants felt very strongly about the recidivism rate being high in juveniles returning to jail due to drug use and that social workers have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of these juveniles. As for social work practice we must make every opportunity to help our juveniles out of the juvenile justice system and into society to be productive citizen.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## DEDICATION

To God for being there for me in every step  
of the way and never leaving my side.

To the wonderful people throughout my life:

My mother, Aracelly, who has provided me with her love, support and given me strength to be able to go further in this journey of education and life and seeing the end of that tunnel even though there were times I did not think I would make it.

To my friend Nathali, who has helped me look at the brighter things in life and not worry about things I cannot change.

To my son, Steven, who has taught me to be patient and to take one day at a time.

To my brother Christopher, who has shown me to enjoy today and not worry about tomorrow because tomorrow will take care of itself.

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# CHAPTER ONE

## ASSESSMENT

### Introduction

Juveniles are frequently incarcerated for drug use with or without a mental health problem and are not receiving the services available to them which results in recidivism. According to the U.S. Department of Justice (2014), four of every five children and teens arrested in the state juvenile justice systems are under the influence of alcohol or drugs. In addition, approximately 50,000 juveniles arrested suffer from a mental health problem (U.S. Department of Justice, 2014). This paper will discuss challenges social workers face when delivering mental health services to juveniles who have been incarcerated due to drug use. This paper will discuss the research paradigm that will be adopted and the supporting rationale used for this research. It will look at current studies on the issue of incarcerated youth to get other perspectives on the juvenile justice system when it comes to dealing with mental health, the use of medications, involvement in gangs, patterns in substance abuse, and the normalization of drugs. Lastly, the researcher will discuss how this research will help the social work practice at the micro levels of the human organization.

## Research Focus

The study's research question is what challenges do social workers face when they are delivering mental health services to juveniles who have been incarcerated for drug use? The hypothesis is that social workers find an array of challenges when they are delivering mental health services to juveniles who have been incarcerated for drug use such as limited funds to help juveniles, childhood trauma, not having enough mental health assessment tools or treatment programs in prison, involvement in gangs, substance abuse, drug normalization, or juveniles being placed back into society without getting the proper medication or counseling they need to be successful in society. All these issues will be investigated.

## Paradigm and Rationale for Chosen Paradigm

The research paradigm chosen for finding out the challenges that social workers face when they are delivering mental health services to juveniles who have been incarcerated for drug use is the positivist approach. The positivist approach according to Morris (2014) talks about how one can identify the laws and norms of human behavior and therefore reveal cause and effect relations. Meaning that the juvenile uses drugs, and has a mental health problem (cause) gets the needed help while in jail such as programs for juveniles with a mental health problem, or juveniles with a drug problem. Once completed with the programs they end up back in society when the medications run out and

when they do not have any support they will end up back in jail to start the cycle again (effect).

## Literature Review

In this section issues important to the problem of incarcerated youth are such as mental health screenings and assessments used in the juvenile justice system are overviewed as well as the use of psychiatric medications in the justice system, involvement in gangs, substance use patterns, and drug normalization.

### Mental Health Screenings and Assessments

According to Grisso, Vincent, and Seagrave (2005), developmental issues affect the understanding of child psychopathology. An example that is given is the concept of “instability of youth” which can lead to a juvenile becoming more violent because he or she already has the tendency to do so. Grisso et al., (2005) also believe that if children are involved with drugs, they have a greater chance of becoming more violent, and having more delinquent tendencies later in life. Grisso et al. (2005) go on to state that a screening tool used in juvenile systems should first focus on depression and anxiety because this can be an indicator of short-term aggression. Lastly, Grisso et al. (2005) focus on instruments that can be used such as the psychometric and mental health assessments, which will give other authority figures in the juvenile system a better understanding of the mental health and drug use of the troubled youth. The literature review research examines childhood, substance

abuse within the family, mental health issues, etcetera, be able to assess how they can help that particularly troubled youth.

#### Use of Psychiatric Medications in the Juvenile System

Cohen, Pfeifer, and Wallace (2014) suggest that the use of psychotropic medication and mental health services in the juvenile justice system are overlooked in the correctional facility and should be used due to many youths who suffer from emotional problems. The impact of the statewide policy shifting the placement responsibility of juveniles from the state to local government has increased the services for juveniles who have a mental health issue. This has benefited many juveniles because they have a chance to get better, and become productive citizens in our society, instead of them going back to jail for another mental health, or drug related issue.

#### Gang Youth, Substance use Patterns and Drug Normalization

According to Sanders (2012), the reason that youth get involved with gangs in the juvenile system is because of the use of drugs. Sanders (2012) goes on to say that major criminological theories, such as the disorganization theory, general strain theory, and the control theory have all received support.

#### Theoretical Orientation

If theories such as the biological theory, that considers delinquent behavior as “predispose and revolves around the idea that children are born to be criminals, according to Cesar Lambrosso,” are accurate, we are always going to have that revolving door of crime. According to this theory, there is a

biochemical and genetic factor that makes the child commit a crime, and this cannot be stopped (McCandless & McDavid, 2012). According to Heffner (2014), the biological theory believes that many mental health disorders, such as depression and anxiety are linked to our inherited genes, and this certainly influences how we approach mental illness treatment and recovery. There needs to be something done to decrease these biological behaviors that way the person can live a normal life as possible.

#### Potential Contribution of Study to Micro and/or Macro Social Work Practice

The potential contribution of research to micro and/ or macro social work practice is that juveniles will be able to have more of an opportunity to get the specific treatment needed to stay clean of drugs, and stay out of the justice system. In addition to this, the focus for social workers can be more on helping the juveniles who have mental health issues stay on the right path, instead of them being put back into society so that they can fail, and be put back into the juvenile system.

#### Summary

During this chapter the researcher focused on what challenges social workers face when they are delivering mental health services to juveniles who have been incarcerated for drug use. The researcher also gave a reason for the utilization of the positivist approach and how the literature review provides insight to how the juvenile system currently functions. Once this was



completed the researcher discussed the purpose of the theoretical orientation and the potential contribution of study to micro and/or macro social work practice.

## CHAPTER TWO

### ENGAGEMENT

#### Introduction

The study is based on a positivist paradigm. According to Crabtree (2006), the positivist paradigm assumes that there is an objective reality that people can understand this reality and use symbols to describe accurately and explain this objective reality, and that research will be free of subjective bias, and objectivity will be accomplished. This data will be based on a quantitative data collection. Gatekeepers will be informed of research through email. Preparation of this investigation is going to be carried out by first acknowledging the many perspectives of juveniles with mental health problems and how our justice system provides care. Lastly, the researcher will make sure that everyone's views are represented in some way concerning the ethical and political issues if any.

#### Engagement Strategies for Gatekeepers at Research Site

This research will be conducted with gatekeepers who are Social Workers and live in the area of Southern California. Gatekeepers will be engaged through emails. It is important for the researcher to find out if the services that are provided help stir the juveniles to stay away from going back to prison, or jail. The researcher will also make sure to keep gatekeepers aware that they are working on a positivist paradigm method.

## Self-Preparation

The researcher must be aware of the following before being able to proceed; their viewpoints about juveniles with mental health problems, ways of building rapport with gatekeepers, and the relationship they will have with the gatekeeper due to the use of the positivist paradigm. The following includes things researcher must do: look at own feelings in regards to the success rates of juveniles who have a mental health problem, and are incarcerated due to drug use. Be able to identify some services provided by the social workers to determine the success rate, and have a better understanding of what services are offered to juveniles with or without a mental health issue while being incarcerated for drug use.

## Diversity Issues

Diversity issues that can arise while conducting research are based on race, ethnicity, culture, lack of knowledge of the juvenile system, sexual orientation, age, mental health status, etc. Gatekeepers might also believe that each juvenile that has a mental health issue is incarcerated for drug use, which would make it harder for them to want to work with a juvenile who has this status.

## Ethical Issues

Ethical issues that can arise are keeping the confidentiality of the gatekeepers and also the juveniles. Another moral issue could be that the juvenile can get the proper guidance or programs once incarcerated. However,

when they are released, there is a possibility they can get back into trouble because the guidance or programs are not offered to them, leaving them open to either being placed back into the juvenile system or doing a bigger crime as an adult. The positivist paradigm could help ease any un-comfort for gatekeepers because the questions that are presented are more rationale based, and also based more on the researcher than on the gatekeeper.

### Political Issues

Political issues that can arise are juveniles who get arrested for drug use being put into the system, and not getting the proper treatment, especially if they have a mental health problem. Another political issue is not having social workers going to the facilities that the juveniles are incarcerated at to get services because the state cannot afford to pay for those services. According to Jenson, Potter, and Howard (2011) the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act in 1974 was passed which helps to place juvenile offenders in the least restrictive appropriate treatment of setting according to the reason they were incarcerated. Also, the juvenile system can establish more of community-based programs in place of large, custodial institutions, and lastly a diversion of youth from formal juvenile justice system processing. In this section, you needed to say something about the impact of your study on the study site.

## The Role of Technology in Engagement

The role of technology to do this study is important. In the initial stages of the research, the researcher first emailed the Social Workers she had in mind and asked if they could participate. Then the researcher emailed each participant the survey through SurveyMonkey®. The researcher is also thinking about creating a blog so that the gatekeepers can express any frustrations or their outlook on the juvenile system when a juvenile with mental health problems is arrested for using drugs.

### Summary

The researcher summarized how they were able to pick gatekeepers, self-prepare by looking at the bigger picture of helping the social work profession get a better an understanding of how to help the juvenile population. The researcher was also about to identify any diversity, ethical, and political issues that could arise in this particular population and lastly the role of technology in engagement through the use of SurveyMonkey®.

## CHAPTER THREE

### IMPLEMENTATION

#### Introduction

This chapter discussed who participated in the study, how they were selected, and the reason for the approach that was used. Quantitative data was gathered via a survey the program used to analyze the findings was SurveyMonkey®. The results of the research have been communicated through emails. The researcher terminated with the conclusion of results and the overall analyzes of juveniles in the justice system. The ongoing relationship with the study participants is none. The dissemination of the research will be through a blog page and or a presentation that is done with the cohort.

#### Study Participants

The researcher used study participants who worked in the juvenile system as social workers. This population knows how the system works and if the juveniles who get arrested for drug use have a mental health problem. They also know if the social workers who serve this population face any difficulties when working with the juvenile in the correctional environment. The age group of the study participants is eighteen and older. The gender of the study participants is female and male. The researcher found social workers who are well seasoned and can describe some of the difficulties they face if

any. Lastly according to Vrouvas (2015), the responsibilities of a social worker are to help guide juvenile offenders through the justice system by helping them get services that are needed and help prevent them exploitation. The hope for the juvenile social worker is to help the young offender deter from committing more crimes and being placed back in the system.

### Selection of Participants

The explanatory design was used to determine what challenges social workers face when they are delivering mental health services to juveniles who have been incarcerated for drug use. In order to determine causality, it is important to observe variation in the variable that is assumed to cause the change in the other variable (Morris, 2014).

### Data Gathering/ Data Recording

Data was gathered using the self-administered approach. A survey was created using a survey maker, such as SurveyMonkey®, and was distributed to the study participants through an email with a link that took them directly to the survey. (See Appendix A) The questions will be closed-ended questions using a Likert scaling technique that will have the study participants choose from strongly agree, agree, disagree, and strongly disagree. The following types of questions were used in this study: Some closed-ended questions that were provided are: The juvenile justice system provides services to juveniles with mental health problems, Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, and Strongly

Disagree, Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, and Strongly Disagree and the recidivism rate of juveniles who go back to jail due to drug use is high, Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, and Strongly Disagree.

### Phases of Data Collection

The researcher prepared by gathering data through literature review articles that spoke about the juvenile justice system and theories that describe the mind of a juvenile who commits a crime due to drug use. Data was collected using the non-parametric statics (Morris, 2014). Non-parametric statics refer to modeling where the structure of the relationship between variables is treated non-parametrically, but where there may be parametric assumptions about the distribution of model residuals (Morris, 2014).

### Data Analysis

The researcher used SurveyMonkey® to analyze the information provided when it comes to the challenges social workers face when distributing mental health services to juveniles who have been incarcerated for drug use. Non-parametric statistics was used to analyze variables that are not measured at the ratio or interval level (Morris, 2014). Morris (2014) explains that this analysis does not have a mean and cannot be assumed to have a normal distribution clustered around a mean. Lastly, this test does not assume normal distributions of variables in the population of interest or the selection of independent samples.



## Termination and Follow Up

The researcher created a poster with their findings in regards to what challenges social workers face when giving mental health services to juveniles who get incarcerated because of drug use. The researcher included a one-page summary of findings and a source for the whole report.

## Communication of Findings and Dissemination Plan

The researcher informed the study participants of their findings by emailing them the results and presenting the poster with a summary of the findings. The researcher provided a link or source that the study participants can look at the whole report if they are interested in doing so. The researcher presented a poster with a summary of the findings to their cohort with a link to sources with the whole report.

## Summary

The researcher created a survey and emailed the link to male and female social workers, who live in Southern California. The social workers were well-seasoned and work with juveniles in the justice system who have been incarcerated due to drug use. The researcher examined juveniles in the justice system and challenges social workers to go through when working in this particular environment. Questions that were given are setup using a Likert scaling technique which was administered online using a survey program.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### RESULTS

#### Introduction

In chapter four you will find the results of the study that was completed using a web-based survey program (SurveyMonkey®) as a helping aid to get several opinions in regards to juveniles who have been incarcerated for drug use. The findings are interpreted according to the opinions of Social Workers who have worked with juveniles that have been incarnated for drug use with or without a mental health problem.

#### Presentation of the Findings

This study included 27 social worker participants in Southern California. Age, gender, and income of participants were not collected for this study. This approach was used to have a better understanding of Social Workers' beliefs, thoughts, and feelings in regards to juveniles who have been incarcerated for drug use with or without a mental health problem. Lastly, viewpoints of Social Workers were examined for similarities and differences.

#### Data Collection Process Results

An Institutional Review Board (IRB) application was submitted, and a full board review was conducted to secure permission to conduct this research. Permission was granted by the IRB for me to move forward with this research.

Data Results: Web-Based Survey Program (SurveyMonkey®)

Data was collected starting in October of 2015 through December 2015.

Results from SurveyMonkey® provided Social Workers ratings on their opinions in regards to juveniles who have been incarcerated for drug use with or without a mental health problem. Table 1 displays questions 1 thru 9 with agree and strongly agree combined and disagree and strongly disagree combined, which show the result of their opinions (below).

Table 1. Close-Ended Question Responses

N=27	% Agree/ Strongly Agree	% Disagree/ Strongly Disagree
1. The juvenile justice system provides adequate service to juveniles with mental health problems.	18.52	81.48
2. The way Social Workers gain entry to a correctional facility is too complicated	55.56	44.44
3. The recidivism rate of juvenile who go back to jail due to drug use is high	100	0
4. There is not enough money to provide services for juveniles with a drug addiction.	77.78	22.22
5. If juveniles get incarcerated for drug use they tend not to get seen for drug use. *	84.61	15.38
6. Juveniles with mental health problems are unaware of programs available to them in correctional facilities.	88.89	11.11
7. Correctional facilities tend not to inform Social Workers about juveniles who need assistance with drug use problems.	61.54	38.46
8. Most juveniles just want to do their time in the correctional facility without being bothered.	40.74	59.26
9. Social Workers have an opportunity to make a difference in the juveniles' life.	96.30	3.70

\* One person did not answer the question

Each Social Worker's responses were used to create a quantitative rating of their opinion about juveniles, to indicate the overall aspect of juvenile's treatment while being incarcerated for drug use. In reviewing the responses from the Social Workers, the three statements with the highest level of agreement were: the recidivism rate of juveniles who go back to jail due to drug use is high at 100%, Social Workers have an opportunity to make a difference in the juveniles' life at 96.30%, and juveniles with mental health problems are unaware of programs available to them in correctional facilities at 88.89%. These responses indicate that he/or she feels strongly that juveniles will continue to go back to jail, that Social Workers still have that opportunity to make a difference to help guide these juveniles in the right direction, and that juveniles with a mental health problem need to learn to fend for themselves and find resources to help them while they are incarcerated.

There was only one statement with the highest level of disagreement: the juvenile justice system provides adequate services to juveniles with mental health problems 81.48%. This response indicates Social Workers feel that our juvenile justice system is not adequately giving services to juveniles with a mental health problem and that more focus needs to be on this issue.

The responses that were very close in percentage were: the way Social Workers gain entry to a correctional facility is too complicated at 55.56% in agreement and 44.44% in disagreement. Most juveniles just want to do their time in the correctional facility without being bothered at 40.74% in agreement

and 59.26% in disagreement. These two responses indicate that these are not pressing issues as the other statements.

In question 10, is there anything else you would like to add about improving mental health services for juveniles in the correctional system?, the researcher gave the Social workers an opportunity to express what is on their mind about improving the mental health services for juveniles in the correctional system. Of the 27 participants 12 individuals answered question 10 (44%). Out of the 12 participants, 2 of them responded with an "NO." The remaining respondents had quite a bit of variety in their open-ended responses. Some of their responses included comments as shown below:

There need to be adequate and appropriate services that work with youth in their resistant and ambivalent state. Research needs to be completed on what are these types of services. Seven challenges have been seen as effective but, many people are uncomfortable with a harm reduction model. Additionally, there are insufficient Social Workers working within the Juvenile Justice system; it is predominantly law enforcement or correctional officers. Although these positions are needed, their skill set or expertise is not in treatment. Social Workers should be the predominant professional that works within the Juvenile Justice System. - (Participant 12, SurveyMonkey®, December 2015)

This indicates that he/or she feels that research still needs to be done in this area and that we need more Social Workers to help this group of people

because we are trained in this area. However, the correctional officer/probation officer is doing the best they can.

The most common theme (25% of the respondents) was there were insufficient resources or services. This perception from the Social Workers shows that there is a lack of resources and that the juvenile justice system needs to find a way to incorporate more services for juveniles. Another theme (17% of the respondents) believe that the juveniles lack a family support system. This indicates that juveniles who do not have a support system wind up in the correctional system over and over again. The last theme (17% of the respondents) believe that the correctional staff needs to be more qualified. This indicates that the correctional staff needs better training on how to handle juveniles who have been incarcerated for drug use who have a mental health problem or not.

The other responses, each from one individual, noted the lack of Social Workers working in the juvenile justice system has an effect on the juveniles. There needs to be assistance from the probation officer so that the juvenile can be successful, racial disparity plays a big role in the juvenile justice system, and we need to reduce the stigma of mental health for the juvenile. This indicates that as Social Workers we must try to get into the field of helping juveniles. The probation officers who work for this population need to inspire the juveniles so that they can be successful while being incarcerated, the juvenile justice system needs to start treating everyone equally and not

leaving people out because of their race, and we need to educate the juveniles of mental health issues instead of shunning them.

### Summary

Through the use of the web-based program SurveyMonkey® the results were gathered and analyzed to understand better the needs of juveniles who are incarcerated for drug use. The overall trend that was demonstrated through the results is that the recidivism rate of juveniles going back to jail is high. Social workers believe that they make a difference in the lives of juveniles, there must be more services for juveniles who have been incarcerated for drug use, and that there must be more family support for the juveniles for them to be a more productive citizen in society.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### DISCUSSION OF RESEARCH FINDINGS

#### Introduction

This chapter outlines the discussion, its significance for the social work profession, what the future holds for our juvenile justice system, limitations, and summary.

#### Discussion

This research was done to gain insight into social workers' perspectives of juveniles who have been incarcerated for drug use with or without a mental health problem. There were twenty-seven well-seasoned social workers that participated, twelve of the twenty-seven well-seasoned social workers responded to the open-ended response.

The research found that 100% of the participants agree that the recidivism rate of juveniles going back to jail for drug use is quite high. As a society, we must provide juveniles with different avenues of gaining help and rehabilitation of drug use instead of locking them up in jail and throwing away the key. According to Office of National Drug Control Policy (n.d.), the Federal government has created residential substance abuse treatment programs for juveniles, which has prepared them to reintegrate into the community successfully. In addition to this, the programs are incorporating reentry planning activities into treatment programs and encouraging the use of



community-based treatment, and other broad-based aftercare services upon the juvenile's release (Office of National Drug Control Policy, n.d.).

The research found that 96.30% of the participants agree that they are making a difference in the lives of juveniles. As a social work profession, we are strong believers in empowering our clients to help them better their lives, no matter what situation they encounter in life. Berman (n.d.) says it best when he states that we as social workers are there to make a difference in the lives of others no matter what circumstances comes their way through healing relationships, providing a sense of well-being to those lives who have been fractured, and helping them change that way they can have a brighter future.

The research found that 81.48% of the participants disagree that the juvenile justice system provides adequate service to juveniles with mental health problems. The federal government must find a way to provide juveniles with services no matter the cost; that way taxpayers can save some money at the end because juveniles will finally receive the services they need for their mental health problems and hopefully stay out of the revolving door of going back to jail. According to Office of National Drug Control Policy (n.d.), they are focusing more on getting the juveniles screened and treated not only for substance abuse and drug problems, but also for unmet emotional, behavioral, mental, and academic needs.

The analysis of this research overall demonstrates that there must be a change in the services offered to the juveniles with or without a mental health

issue, juveniles need to be informed of the services that are offered to them, we must retrain our correctional facilities on how to work with social workers within the correctional environment, and lastly find funds so that we can provide services for juveniles with a drug addiction or mental health problem.

### Recommendations for Social Work Practice, Policy, and Research

This work provided a basis for further studies which could explore: a study that looks at why the recidivism rate of juveniles being incarcerated for drug use with or without a mental health problem is quite high. A study that focuses on juveniles and any crime they commit that leads them back into the correctional system. A study that is more extensive and statistically significant, to promote the understanding of how mental health issues plays a major role in why juveniles are not receiving the necessary services while being incarcerated. A study that looks at how the lack of support of the juveniles' family system gets them to live a life of crime. Lastly, a study that shows why there are not that many social workers working with juveniles.

### What the Future Holds for Juveniles

What the future holds for juveniles is that they need more education while being incarcerated for mental health or/on rehabilitation for drug use. The researcher also believes that more social workers should work in this line of work because they have the skills necessary to counsel these young men and women so that they can have a brighter future and become productive

citizens in society. In addition to this, juveniles should receive some counseling while incarcerated that way they can receive the support they lack from family members. Lastly, the researcher feels that more services should be in place for the juvenile that way they do not feel as if they are alone in this matter, and hopefully with all these mechanisms in place, it will help to drop the recidivism rate.

### Limitations

The following limitations apply to this study. The small number of social workers who responded may not provide an accurate representation of the correctional facility and how they help juveniles. The low participation rate could have been due to the lack of social workers working with juveniles being incarcerated for drug use with or without a mental health problem, the nature of the questions, not being able to elaborate on questions one through nine, and the location of the social workers. Recommendations to future researchers to address these limitations may be to conduct the surveys through social media, expand the search of social workers who work with juveniles in different locations, and give the opportunities for the social workers to input their opinions on questions one through nine.

### Summary

This study highlighted the importance of social workers coming together to help out the juveniles, increasing knowledge of mental health issue to

juveniles, and giving better training to the correctional and probation officers who work with them. With this information hopefully we can get a better understanding of the many challenges that social workers face while working with juveniles in this field. Also, how to combat these issues through proper training and being able to get the word out to juveniles about services that are available to them while being incarcerated and lastly giving them the knowledge of mental health services as well as support groups for them while being incarcerated.

APPENDIX A  
DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENT

## DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENT

Participants of this study, please circle one answer that best fits your opinion in regards to incarcerated juveniles in the justice system. Thank you for your time in helping with this survey.

1. The juvenile justice system provides adequate services to juveniles with mental health problems.  
Strongly Agree    Agree    Disagree    Strongly Disagree
2. The way Social Workers gain entry to a correctional facility is too complicated.  
Strongly Agree    Agree    Disagree    Strongly Disagree.
3. The recidivism rate of juveniles who go back to jail due to drug use is high.  
Strongly Agree    Agree    Disagree    Strongly Disagree
4. There is not enough money to provide services for juveniles with a drug addiction.  
Strongly Agree    Agree    Disagree    Strongly Disagree
5. If juveniles get incarcerated for drug, use they tend not to get seen for drug use.  
Strongly Agree    Agree    Disagree    Strongly Disagree
6. Juveniles with mental health problems are unaware of programs available to them in correctional facilities.  
Strongly Agree    Agree    Disagree    Strongly Disagree
7. Correctional facilities tend not to inform Social Workers about juveniles who need assistance with drug use problems.  
Strongly Agree    Agree    Disagree    Strongly Disagree
8. Most juveniles just want to do their time in the correctional facility without being bothered.  
Strongly Agree    Agree    Disagree    Strongly Disagree
9. Social Workers have an opportunity to make a difference in the juveniles' life.  
Strongly Agree    Agree    Disagree    Strongly Disagree
10. Is there anything else you would like to add about improving mental health services for juveniles in the correctional system?

Developed by Nathalie Marie Jones (2015)

APPENDIX B  
INFORMED CONSENT



California State University, San Bernardino  
Social Work Institutional Review Board Sub-Committee  
APPROVED 10/7/15 VOID AFTER 10/6/16

College of Social and Behavioral Sciences  
Department of Social Work

IRB# SW1504 CHAIR Laurie Smith

### SOCIAL WORKER INFORMED CONSENT

The study in which you are being asked to participate is designed to investigate what challenges social workers face when delivering mental health services to juveniles who have been incarcerated due to drug use. This study is being conducted by Nathalie Marie Jones under the supervision of Dr. Laurie Smith, Professor of Social Work, California State University, San Bernardino. This study has been approved by the School of Social Work Sub-Committee of the Institutional Review Board, California State University, San Bernardino.

**PURPOSE:** To find out what challenges social workers face when delivering mental health services to juveniles who have been incarcerated for drug use.

**DESCRIPTION:** After agreeing to participate and agreeing to the informed consent, participants will be given a Likert survey to answer. A Likert survey is based on 4 categories with the participants choosing one answer. The answers will help us have a better understanding of any difficulties presented in the juvenile justice system.

**PARTICIPATION:** Participants are Social Workers within Southern California. Your participation is completely voluntary and you do not have to answer any questions you do not wish to answer. You may skip or not answer any questions and can freely withdraw from participation at any time with no consequences.

**ANONYMOUS:** The information provided for this survey is anonymous. Once the participant is done filling out the survey the researcher will make sure that there is not any identifying information about the participant in the survey. Once surveys have been collected they will be placed in a locked space and destroyed once the researcher does not need the information anymore.

**DURATION:** The duration of doing the surveys should not take more than 5 to 10 minutes to complete.

**RISKS:** No foreseeable risks, however, you may feel uncomfortable about taking the survey if you do not have some knowledge in the field. You are able to skip questions or stop taking survey if you chose too.

**BENEFITS:** You are able to help social workers have a better understanding on how to help juveniles who are incarcerated for drug use which may benefit the client.

**CONTACT:** If you have any questions or concerns about the research you can make contact with Dr. Laurie Smith at (909) 537- 3837 or by email [lasmith@csusb.edu](mailto:lasmith@csusb.edu)

909.537.5501

5500 UNIVERSITY PARKWAY, SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407-2393

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**RESULTS:** The results from the study can be obtained by contacting California State University, San Bernardino School of Social Work, 5500 University Parkway, San Bernardino CA 92407-2318; Main phone number: (909) 537-5000.

**CONFIRMATION STATEMENT:** I understand that I must be 18 years of age or older to participate in your study have read and understand the consent document and agree to participate in your study. If you agree click yes and continue with the survey

APPENDIX C  
DEBRIEFING STATEMENT

## DEBRIEFING STATEMENT

Thank you to the participants that took the time to fill out my survey.

You have helped the researcher get a better understanding of how social workers work with juveniles who have been arrested for drug use. Participants can obtain the results through an email that will be sent to them. Contact information for Nathalie Jones the researcher is through email:

[jonen308@coyote.csusb.edu](mailto:jonen308@coyote.csusb.edu).

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