RE-ENTRY OR NU-ENTRY

RHONDA COONS
SOCIAL ACTION PROJECT
IWL – NOVEMBER 29, 2016
The Leadership Scholars Certificate Program is a two-year selective, interdisciplinary certificate program that prepares Rutgers undergraduate women to be informed, innovative, and socially responsible leaders.

Leadership Scholars design and implement social action projects to expand their understanding of issues and problems and to develop leadership skills.

This project gives Scholars the opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge they have gained about leadership, advocacy, and social change with the practical and experiential knowledge they have developed about a particular policy issue or problem through the field site placement. It also further develops leadership skills by giving undergraduates the opportunity to practice leadership through action.

To find out more please visit the Institute for Women’s Leadership’s website at http://iwl.rutgers.edu.
Roundtable Discussion – November 19, 2016
Road Blocks to the Women Coming Home
Resources Available to them Now after first coming home and now being home for 1-2 or even three or more years
SPONSORS

- Institute for Women's Leadership – Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
- Rev. Charles Boyer – NJ Redemption 4 Justice - Mentor
- American Friends Service Committee – Bonnie Kerness – Community Advisor for IWL - SAP
- Women Who Never Give Up – Gale Muhammed, Founder
- Dr. Nancy Wolff - BSPPP-Survey Research Center – Faculty Advisor for IWL - SAP
IMPLEMENTATION OF SAP

- Contacted women I knew that came home around the time I did from prison
- Contacted women that were still in prison that were part of the conversation via paper
- Help from my internship community advisor with collecting those voices that were not being heard – women in other prisons
- Help from community advisor to help with the dialogue for the group discussion
- Invited other community leaders to speak on how to make the transition better
- Reserved the Board Room at my church to have this roundtable
- Served food and gave tokens of appreciation of a mug, pen and a candle for the ladies to use on their down time to just relax and reflect
IMPACT ON THOSE PARTICIPATING

- Impact of being in Halfway house and how that experience affected them, no job skill training, etc.
- Participants walked away with resources for their specific needs
- Have contact information for mentors that will help them with whatever the need may be, i.e. help with DYFS, housing, social services in their area, getting ID’s, birth certificates, expungements etc.
- Have my contact information if ever need help with any obstacle they are facing with resources
Lack of information being disseminated to this population

Number of women that are now homeless because of incarceration

Number of women with children with no healthcare because of the charges they faced while in prison (most because of their men)

Number of women that have gone back to prison because of lack of resources

Number of women who still are not reunited with their children that are in their own system (DYFS)

Number of women without jobs to survive in society
RESOURCES

- National Reentry Resource Center. www.nrcc@csjusticecenter.org
- www.nj.gov/corrections/inmateandfamilyresources
- When is a Prisoner Released to a Halfway House? www.criminal.lawyers.com
- When Halfway Houses Pose Full-Time Problems. www.prisonlegalnews.org
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