



CENTER FOR JUSTICE RESEARCH AND POLICY



NEWSLETTER SPRING, 2023

By CJRP
Newsletter Team

JAIL RECIDIVISM & REENTRY



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Greetings from Co-Directors	• P. 2
Jail Reentry Project Overview	• P. 3
Jail Reentry Project Design & Interventions	• P. 4
Jail Reentry Project DBT & Testimonials	• P. 5
Employment & Crime About Dr. Jaynes	• P. 6
Leadership Team & Grants, Upcoming Events	• P. 7-8

The Center for Justice Research & Policy hosts an interdisciplinary team of researchers and practitioners, focused on studying crime, violence, and criminal and social justice policy. We believe the justice system can be improved through evidence-based practices and research collaborations.

GREETINGS FROM CO-DIRECTORS



**BY DR. BRYANNA FOX &
DR. EDELYN VERONA**

Welcome to our first-ever newsletter! This has been another incredible and highly productive year for the USF Center for Justice Research & Policy. As we detail in the articles to follow, we have several major federally funded projects underway that specifically aim to leverage collaborations with criminal justice organizations, community partners, and researchers in the CJRP to best prevent crime, recidivism, and negative outcomes for people in the justice system. A major priority in the last few years has been the 5-year \$1.21 million National Institute of Justice funded 'Reentry Project' where we are utilizing a four-group randomized controlled trial to examine the independent and combined effects of therapy while in jail and access to tailored services, treatments, and therapy post-release on recidivism reduction. Beyond this, we also have a slate of new projects and collaborations underway.

Just this year, CJRP Co-Director Dr. Verona was awarded a contract from the CDC in collaboration with Johns Hopkins to develop an extreme risk protection order implementation protocol and evaluate the impact on communities. Further, she and other members of the CJRP Leadership Team conducted an evaluation of a social welfare and assistance program in St. Petersburg, intended to replace (not co-respond with) police calls for non-violent social welfare and mental health-related calls. This project was generously funded by the Foundation for Health St. Petersburg. CJRP Co-Director Dr. Fox was awarded two new federal grants to develop and implement community-driven initiatives to prevent and reduce violence and gun crime in Tampa, in collaboration with Safe & Sound Hillsborough, the Tampa Police Department, and the City of Tampa Mayor's Office. We are hiring our first postdoctoral scholar into the center for this project, and are excited to hire other staff to assist on this project. Finally, we received funding from the ACLU of Florida and Penn State University's Criminal Justice Research Center to collect new data on how bail decisions are made and impact defendants, which we are undertaking this spring and summer.

Needless to say, our Leadership Team has a long list of projects that are truly astounding in quality and impact. One of these leaders, Dr. Chae Jaynes, is highlighted in this newsletter. Please enjoy! We wish everyone a wonderful semester and are excited to continue our community engagement and collaborations with criminal justice agencies, mentorship of students, and research designed to positively impact policy and practice in the criminal justice system.

Did you know?

- At any one time, nearly 6.9 million people are on probation, in jail, in prison, or on parole in the United States.
- Every year, \$81 billion is spent on incarceration in the US. (Bureau of Justice Statistics)
- Each year, more than 600,000 individuals are released from state and federal prisons. Another 9 million cycle through local jails.
- More than two-thirds of formerly-incarcerated persons are rearrested within 3 years of their release and half are reincarcerated.

JAIL REENTRY PROJECT: OVERVIEW

The Jail Reentry Project, funded by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), aims to address the high rates of recidivism in jails. We aim to equip people skills to overcome existing barriers for a successful transition from jail to the community. For instance, many individuals can benefit from coping skills training and access to resources to achieve success in the community.



The aim of this project is to uncover whether in-custody and post-release interventions tailored to the specific needs and risks of participants can improve outcomes and reduce re-arrests. If so, which types of programming are most effective and for whom? Ultimately, the team aspires to develop and promote intervention programs that maximize the utility of the limited jail resources to effectively address recidivism.

PHASE 1
BASELINE
SCREENING

PHASE 2
CLINICAL
EVALUATION

**THE STUDY
DESIGN**

PHASE 4
ONE-YEAR
POST-
RELEASE
FOLLOW-UP

PHASE 3
INTERVENTION
PROGRAMMING

**What types of
intervention
programs do we
offer?**

- Clinical evaluation
- Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) group skills training
- Reentry planning and post-release case management

The study follows a randomized control trial (RCT) design, where participants are randomly assigned to one of four intervention conditions (DBT, Reentry, Combined, or Control). The focus on DBT groups while in custody is meant to teach participants coping skills they can use to navigate the challenges of reentry and community integration. The reentry planning and post-release services are meant to address greater needs and risks while in the community.

WHAT IS DIALECTAL BEHAVIOR THERAPY (DBT)?

This evidence-based psychotherapy model targets risk and protective factors to recidivism. We adapted the manual to fit the jail context. Interested in learning more?

MINDFULNESS

EMOTIONAL REGULATION

DISTRESS TOLERANCE

INTERPERSONAL EFFECTIVENESS

PARTICIPANT TESTIMONIALS

- “The program is giving me a positive outlook in knowing that there are people here to help me get through and get the help that I need. They actually care to help.”
- “I enjoy the class. It’s great to change the way you think before you act and makes you aware of how much emotions [you put] into how you act and react to life. I’m more aware of my emotions and reactions to those emotions. The group leaders are kind and understanding.”
- “I am grateful to have dedicated students take their time and energy to try to shine a light on people who have made poor choices such as myself. I feel these skills will help build my character. I use multiple skills at the same time since I started attending the class. Wise Mind has helped me avoid conflict and Dear Man has helped me be more social. I use TIPP to help cope with situations out of my control. ”

Employment Challenges

Formerly-incarcerated individuals have trouble finding jobs, and 24% are unemployed. Approximately 40% of persons released from incarceration are re-arrested, many because they cannot afford basic needs (Yang 2017). Additionally, if employed, these individuals have an income on average 53% less than their non-incarcerated coworkers (White House, 2022).



CREATE LAB- DR. JAYNES



Dr. Jaynes's research addresses these obstacles to employment among the formerly incarcerated. She challenges common stereotypes and concerns about employing these individuals. Currently, she is exploring the best ways to determine the incarcerated individuals' and employers' needs and expectations. Employer expectations could be challenging in a society where incarcerated individuals experience stereotypes such as being dangerous or untrustworthy. However, research suggests several factors, such as finding a job that one is committed to, make individuals less likely to recidivate (Jaynes, 2022). Moreover, research suggests circumstances where those with a criminal history are unlikely to offend (or just as likely as anyone from the general population) (e.g., Bumstein & Nakamura 2009). Dr. Jayne's CREATE lab aims to help create opportunities for redemption and align those looking for employees with high-quality applicants. The CREATE lab seeks to help develop options for saving and align those looking for employees with high-quality applicants, which is implemented through case management. Dr. Jaynes states that the goal of case management is to provide someone for incarcerated individuals consistent throughout the reentry process - before reentry and continuing after the individual is released. The lab student can help the individual find a job they are passionate about and will be committed to. Dr. Jaynes explained that the goal is to think holistically about the job and the many characteristics that can benefit a person. For instance, her current research suggests many other work characteristics are essential to individuals (e.g., a safe work environment, having a good boss, benefits, being respected, hours/schedule, and job security).



More information about the CREATE lab can be found on the following website: <https://www.createlabusf.org>.

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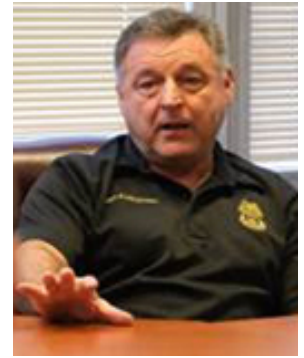
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GRANTS AWARDED

- **Bureau of Justice Assistance (2023-2026):** Tampa Community Violence Intervention Initiative. \$1.49 M.
- **National Institute of Justice (2023-2026):** What works to reduce violent gun crime in focused deterrence initiatives? \$1.38 million.
- **Center for Disease Control and Prevention (2022-2025):** Developing and evaluating an extreme risk protection order (ERPO) implementation protocol with impacted communities. USF subcontract \$286,541.
- **Bail Project (2023):** Evaluation of bail decisions and impact on defendants. \$17,000.
- **Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg (2021-2023):** Evaluation of Community Assistance and Life Liaison (CALL) program. \$90,745.
- **National Institute of Justice (2021-2024):** Adapted Risk-Needs-Responsivity Model to Reduce Recidivism in an Underserved Area: A Randomized Controlled Trial of Pre-Release and Post-Release Reentry. \$1,218,12.

UPCOMING EVENT

We are planning a CJRP Open House to welcome everyone to our new work space!



Specific details of the date and registration info will be announced on our website soon.

SUPPORT THE TEAM

Consider supporting the CJRP with your donations. Scan QR code below:



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