



COMMUNITY-ENGAGED LEARNING HEALTH AND JUSTICE

PATHWAY: MENTAL HEALTH

Initiative Description

Health and Justice is an outreach initiative that focus is to provide students with an opportunity to learn about the structural, social, cultural factors in play in the lives of individuals who get involved in the justice system; the social determinants associated with the health of these individuals; to build empathy to and understanding of the stories of these individuals; and to engage in reflection and action related to interventions to improve the life circumstances and health outcomes of the individuals. The students will connect incarcerated individuals with resources and tools for a successful re-entry process. The students will also identify different barriers in the healthcare system for incarcerated individuals and develop a personalized plan to navigate the healthcare system.

Annual Student Activities

- Help to develop a resource tools for justice involved individuals to access healthcare
- Help to develop a set of resources for healthcare professionals to address the needs of justice involved individuals

Community Outcomes/Results

- ↑ Awareness of disparities and barriers in healthcare resulting justice involvement
- ↑ Awareness of resources available to justice-involved individuals in the community
- ↑ Quality of care for justice-involved individuals

Facilitator

Johnny Finn, PhD

Partners

- Virginia Beach Correctional Facility
- Southampton Memorial Hospital
HOPES Free Clinic
- Sentara ACC
- Workforce Development Center &
Parole Offices

The Need

- Between 1980 and 2014, the rate of incarceration in the U.S. increased by 220%
- Incarceration impacts the health and well-being of those who are or have been incarcerated as well as their families and communities