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Community Needs Assessment for McLean County

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COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR MCLEAN COUNTY

HANNAH L. CURRY

81 Pages

A community needs assessment was conducted for McLean County, Illinois assessing the community level resources that are in place for ex-offenders reintegrating into the community and further resources that are needed. The purposive sample included 7 local agencies that provided a range of reentry services. Intensive interviewing was conducted with respondents of local agencies. Audio-recordings of interviews were transcribed, coded through software and analyzed. Results indicated that boundary spanners and mental health services are the common types of resources in place for ex-offenders in McLean County. Further resources that are needed include housing, employment and mental health services.

KEYWORDS: Community Needs Assessment, McLean County, Illinois, Recidivism, Community-Level, Re-entry, Local Service Organizations, Qualitative Methods

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR MCLEAN COUNTY

HANNAH L. CURRY

A Thesis Submitted in Partial
Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of

MASTER OF SCIENCE

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COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR MCLEAN COUNTY

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CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY

Approximately 600,000 incarcerated individuals are released each year into communities across the nation. Over half of these individuals will reoffend and enter back into corrections. In 2005 alone, 401,288 state prisoners were released and 68% of these individuals were rearrested within 3 years of their release (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2018). Rates of reentry failure are steadfast which has led to recidivism becoming a criminological topic of great concern.

Transitioning from corrections to the community is extremely difficult for offenders. Often, there is a lack of resources for offenders who are already economically and socially disadvantaged. Offenders are returning to the communities that contributed to their disadvantage. The lack of resources in underserved communities contributes to the high numbers of offenders that are rearrested and sent back to corrections.

Previous research has commonly focused on individual factors that lead offenders to recidivate. Among these are a lack of employment, unstable housing, inadequate social supports, mental health symptoms and substance abuse issues. In addition, individuals in racial and ethnic minority groups have an increased probability of recidivating after release which may account for discrimination (Mowen & Culhane, 2016). Other studies have concluded that those who have serious offenses, a history of offenses, low education levels and stricter supervision during probation have a higher likelihood of recidivating. Along with minorities, men and young offenders recidivate more frequently (Kubrin & Stewart, 2006). Programming at the individual level has focused on cognitive-behavioral techniques, employment training, substance abuse treatment and housing placements (Clark, 2016). Meanwhile, knowledge of community-level factors affecting recidivism is lacking.

Only more recently has literature begun to examine the context of community and how it affects recidivism. Negative social influences, racial segregation and poor economy all have been found to contribute to recidivism at the community level (Clark, 2016). However, more research is needed in this area as there could be several factors at play within the community that contribute to enabling an offender's success such as social ties, socioeconomics, racial integration, plentiful resources, residential stability and neighborhood organizations impacting recidivism.

For example, Kubrin and Stewart (2006), focused solely on socioeconomic status of neighborhoods accounting for recidivism by examining neighborhood context. The type of neighborhoods ex-offenders are released into can differ considerably. Neighborhoods may have more wealth with lower levels of unemployment, options for housing, a variety of resources, less residential turnover and few crimes that occur. Alternatively, neighborhoods might have higher rates of poverty with increased levels of unemployment, a lack of housing options, more residential turnover, more crime and a lack of resources for individuals within the community. Additional studies need to address topic areas such as inconsistent housing and familial disruption. In contrast, initial studies including Gottfredson and Taylor (1998), did not find a direct impact with neighborhood context and recidivism (Stahler et al., 2013). Thus, replication of studies examining the relationship between neighborhood context and recidivism would be beneficial.

Mass incarceration has led to more than 7 million adults in the United States being under some type of criminal justice supervision with many eventually reintegrating back into their communities. Around 85% of these individuals will return to corrections within 3 years of being released (Stahler et al., 2013). Solely focusing on individual-level programming does not assist

individuals returning to a community if there is limited employment or resources available. Offenders are not receiving all the support they need in order to reintegrate back into their communities to be successful, rehabilitated, functioning members of society. Holistic support is necessary at an ecological level to aid in their success.

A community needs assessment will be administered to identify offenders' community-level needs when reintegrating back into the community. The research question will address; what community resources are needed for offenders to successfully reintegrate back into McLean County? Addressing the types of services and programs that are available for previously incarcerated individuals reentering their community as well as what resources are lacking in McLean County will provide foundational knowledge on reentry programs' effect on recidivism. Despite limited knowledge and research on this topic, the reentry programs that have shown to be successful are those that start in prison and continue into the community, especially programs that tailor to an individual's specific needs (Gill & Wilson, 2017).

Prior to conducting the community needs assessment, McLean County will need to be defined (Wambeam, 2016). Local reentry organizations that provide services to individuals who are released from McLean County Jail will be the focus of this study. In order to provide more context, county characteristics and demographics of the county are needed. McLean County consists of 1,183 total square miles with 146 persons per square mile (NACo, 2020). Both urban and rural residents reside in the county with a total population of 171,517. Approximately, 59.3% of persons are between the age of 18 to 65 years old while race demographics include 83.7% white, 8.4% Black and 5.2% Hispanic. A majority of the population, at 91%, speaks only English and 6% speak Spanish (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019). Persons with a high school degree and higher comprise the majority of the population at 95.9% while 44.8% of the population has a bachelor's

degree or higher. Median household income from the years 2015 to 2019 was \$67,675 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019). The unemployment rate for McLean County is 4.2%, which is comparatively low to other counties in Illinois (Illinois Department of Employment Security, 2021). Approximately 14.9% of persons are living in poverty, defined by the U.S. Census Bureau (2019) as a family's total income being less than their threshold that varies by family size and composition which uses money before taxes and measures families' need. In addition, 51.5% of the population are female and 48% of the population is married (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019).

Data from the Integrated Justice Information System (IJIS) was used to provide information on the number of bookings to the McLean County Jail from 2015 to 2020. Descriptive statistics demonstrated the average age at first arrival was 32 years old, ranging from 17 to 88 years of age. Race at first booking was 55.8% white, 35.3% Black and 6.7% Hispanic. Sex at first booking was approximately 72% male and 28% female. The average difference in bookings between 2015 to 2020 was 1.7 years. One-third of the bookings between those years were Black, even though they only make up 8.4% of the county. Charge severity differed from criminal felony classes to DUI, criminal misdemeanor, traffic/other, and no charges filed. Criminal Misdemeanors had the highest average of bookings at 6,395 (IJIS, 2020). Context and characteristics of McLean County help provide connections and meaning to the resources that exist and the resources that are still needed among local reentry organizations. Identifying needs among local service providers will further our ecological understanding of barriers that prevent ex-offenders from being successful upon release. In addition, awareness of the community's needs can contribute to informed decisions and evidence-based practices among stakeholders.

CHAPTER II: LITERATURE REVIEW

The failures of reentry cannot be expanded upon without knowledge pertaining to the growth of mass incarceration and what it is today. Starting in the 1970s, rates of incarceration accelerated rapidly. Due to increased crime at the time, policy changes were made including the switch from indeterminate to determinate sentencing. Determinate sentencing created an exact sentence to result in lengthier stays in prison. Prior to determinate sentencing, the use of indeterminate sentencing was more rehabilitative in nature as offenders were not bound to a specific length of incarceration. Length of sentence could be curtailed to each offender for good behavior. Transitioning to determinate sentencing was thought to reduce crime because if individuals were sent to prison longer, they would not be out in the community committing crime. Rates of incarceration continued to increase in the 1980s with the war on drugs being declared, resulting in overwhelming increases of inmates with nonviolent, drug offenses. In the 1990s, focus turned to repeat offenders, with longer sentences due to mandatory sentencing, three strikes laws and truth in sentencing policies (Clear & Frost, 2014). This growth in incarceration inevitably led to an increase in individuals being released into their communities.

Annually, more than 600,000 individuals are released from jail or prison back into communities (Carson, 2020). Those returning to communities with low socioeconomic advantage, now have the mark of a criminal history that will deny them many opportunities. Marginalized treatment of these individuals stunts the economic growth and social development of entire communities. Needs of offenders have been denied due to the ‘get tough on crime,’ policies which have created a revolving door of prison with individuals returning to corrections multiple times. Individual intentions or programming can attempt to prepare offenders for their return home but if the community is not designed to be supportive of the offender, then it will be

extremely difficult. Literature in the past has primarily focused on recidivism happening at the individual level. Less focus has been spent on how the community might affect recidivism. Recent literature has delved into social ties, neighborhood context and local reentry organizations.

Social Ties

Within the community there are several dimensions of social support an ex-offender could receive through their social ties. Family could be one dimension of this social support. Prior studies have shown that attachments to friends and family members do not directly relate to preventing recidivism. Rather, familial ties prevent reoffending upon release by providing ex-offenders support and motivation for cognitive change. Berg & Huebner (2011), found that employment and intimate relationships were negatively related to recidivism. These findings demonstrate that family ties encourage ex-offenders to find stable employment to not let their social supports down. Family members may also help provide social capital to get connected with employment. However, ex-offenders may not have familial networks that can help with employment.

Expressive and Instrumental

Social support can also come from members of the community that are engaging in the treatment of the ex-offender. Lin, Vaux and Cullen (1994) describe social support as both expressive and instrumental. Expressive support involves the validation one receives from another when expressing their emotions and troubles. On the other hand, instrumental support is the encouragement one acquires in order to achieve their goals. One case study examining a restorative justice and reentry program in Minnesota called Circles of Support and Accountability found that sex offenders that were involved in these programs had more expressive and

instrumental social support. The authors argue that this case study demonstrates social support being imperative to success within reentry programs (Bohmert et al., 2018).

Expressive support can be a difficult object to measure, thus Presser and Van Voorhis (2002), claim that healing and social well-being are suitable outcome measures in shaping success within restorative justice reentry programs. Staff of the Circles of Support and Accountability program engaged in respectful listening which is a core piece of expressive support according to Braithewaite's (2002) theory of restorative justice (Bohmert et al., 2018). In addition to a lack of expressive support, most ex-offenders released from prison have limited skills and an uncompetitive resume in addition to the stigma of their criminal history that affects their opportunities for employment. Reentry programs can be influential in supporting ex-offenders because they use members of the community to administer instrumental support to help achieve goals. Goals could range from teaching ex-offenders how to cook their family a meal to obtaining employment or attending AA meetings.

Social Control

Connections and ties with members of the community can exert social control onto ex-offenders enabling them with the desire to succeed. Different levels of social control to prevent recidivism have been examined. Lin (2020) compared and contrasted private, parochial and public levels of control. Delving further into these types of social control, private control refers to family or employers supervising ex-offenders' behavior. If an individual has a stable job and prosocial relationships with family, these commitments can outweigh the desire to commit crime. Parochial control refers to supervision by the community when an individual does their day-to-day routines within the neighborhood. When individuals within communities are more interactive with one another, there is likely to be more social support for ex-offenders. Prior studies have

focused on disadvantaged communities with liquor stores and bars nearby, but none have observed how social cohesion can contribute to an ex-offender's success. Public control refers to service providers such as the criminal justice system or nonprofit organizations managing ex-offenders' behavior. Thus, Lin (2020) contends that social control is derived within community social networks measured by the Urban Institute's concept of neighborhood cohesion and respondents' perspective of social cohesion in their neighborhoods. Structural disparities such as poverty, population heterogeneity and instability influence social disorganization while counteracting cohesion within community networks and informal social control. Prior research has shown amounts of deterioration or disorderly social behavior independently impacting later violent crime changes, later unexpected structural decline and changing reactions to crime (Taylor, 2001).

Social Cohesion

Ultimately, Lin's (2020), study regarding public control found three out of nine programs contributed to social cohesion including employment, medical coverage and financial support programs. In contrast, reentry programs such as job training, education, housing, drug treatment, mental health counseling and life skills training were not found to be associated with more social cohesion. In terms of private social control all three were found to be negatively related to recidivism including employment, family bonds and marriage. Finally, parochial control (a neighborhood's cohesion,) was found to be more related to decreased rates of recidivism than even the individual factors. Prior literature has described neighborhood cohesion as being measured by four different dimensions including the use of local organizations, personal identification, social interaction and shared values (Smith, 1975). Lin's (2020) results provide

support for how influential contextual factors can contribute to an ex-offender's success or failure reintegrating back into their communities.

Without social control, there is social disorganization which inhibits communities to flourish and naturally develop. Often, when there are whole communities at a disadvantage it is because a large number of Black and Latino men are leaving the communities due to incarceration. Rose and Clear (1998) hypothesized that coercive mobility as a form of social control increased crime. Mobility in neighborhoods can isolate residents, decrease social integration and inhibit a sense of commitment to a neighborhood. If several individuals within a community have a felony or criminal history, social cohesion is prevented. Goffman (2009), revealed that minorities from impoverished, crime-ridden communities are not able to maintain a normal lifestyle by going to funerals, the emergency room or seeing a loved one who is incarcerated because they need to avoid interaction with law enforcement to prevent themselves from being arrested (Cochran et al., 2016). As a result, communities at large are affected by the quantity of individuals reentering the criminal justice system, leaving many individuals to be in a constant run from the law.

Evidence-Based Practices

In order to create more social cohesion within neighborhoods, community organizations need to provide support and resources for individuals. One way community organizations can provide support is by utilizing evidence-based practices to address interpersonal issues. For example, many offenders who are released into communities deal with substance abuse issues and are not provided any treatment while in prison (Grommon et al., 2013). Many of these individuals will return to prison because treatment needs are not addressed, leading community treatment programs to take the initiative. One community-based program that utilized the

Creating Last Family Connections Curriculum has shown effects on recidivism and an increase in nine different relationship skills through the use of both cognitive behavioral therapy and motivational interviewing. Ex-offenders were shown to be able to distinguish and acknowledge their responsibility while applying it to how they interact with the larger community. Utilizing strategies such as cognitive-behavioral therapy and motivational interviewing as forms of treatment has been shown to work because it is helping individuals change their thought processes, be motivated to change and improve their interpersonal relationships (McKiernan et al., 2013).

Neighborhood Context

In addition to the struggles of substance abuse, mental and physical health, housing and employment; the majority of prisoners will come from disadvantaged neighborhoods and return to them. Few researchers have examined neighborhood context and those that have, have found contradicting results. Neighborhood context refers to the type of communities ex-offenders are released into. For many cities, neighborhood context consists of poverty, unemployment and family disruption (Kubrin & Stewart, 2006). With issues such as mental health and substance abuse, added stressors of impoverished neighborhoods and a lack of resources make adjusting back into society extremely challenging. In addition, if an individual is on parole supervision, there are several guidelines to follow and fines to pay. Further research is needed to study neighborhoods with diminished resources to identify which attributes make an individual more likely to recidivate.

Concentrated Disadvantage

Gottfredson & Taylor (1998), conducted one of the first studies on neighborhood context and did not find any direct impacts with recidivism. However, Kubrin and Stewart (2006), in their

study of a county near Portland, Oregon, found a direct impact of neighborhood context on recidivism. They found those who lived in impoverished areas with disparity and socioeconomic difficulty were found to be more likely to recidivate. Those who lived in areas with abundant resources, services and conveniences could reduce negative consequences (Kubrin & Stewart, 2006). More recently, Jacobs et al. (2020) conducted a systematic review of existing research examining concentrated disadvantage and recidivism. Overall results demonstrated there was no significant relationship between neighborhood disadvantage and recidivism. However, their results did demonstrate that smaller geographical areas such as neighborhood, block, or zip code may be a better indicator of concentrated disadvantage than larger geographical areas such as counties or regions (Jacobs et al., 2018).

Risk and Protective Factors

Research pertaining to ecological risk and protective factors influencing recidivism has had mixed results. Houser et al. (2018), studied a group of parolees released into Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 2007 and 2008 to examine the role of neighborhood context including risk and protective factors in reincarceration and time to reincarceration. Findings indicated that the presence of liquor stores and bars predicted an individual's return to prison (Houser et al., 2018). In Jacobs and Skeem's (2020) study, a sample of individuals on probation was examined in San Francisco, California. They found that individual risks interact with neighborhood concentrated disadvantage and disorder. Low individual risk was found to be correlated with concentrated disadvantage and disorder predicting recidivism. They found that those who are surrounded by disorder will have more of an opportunity to reoffend. The authors contend that neighborhood context may influence lower-risk people which may be helpful knowledge in preventing recidivism (Jacobs & Skeem, 2020).

Residential Instability

Neighborhood conditions such as residential instability have been surveyed as a community-level factor influencing recidivism. Residential instability is common for those with a criminal record and especially for those who are recently released from corrections. Most of those who are released from corrections live with their parents. However, one-third will struggle with housing instability with about 10% becoming homeless within a year of release (Jacobs & Gottlieb, 2020). Residential instability can have a detrimental effect on one's physical and mental health. There is a significant association between poverty, crime, mental health, physical health, neighborhood type, stable housing and economic prospects (Pogorzelski et al., 2005). Several policies and restrictions are in place that are barriers for ex-offenders to obtain housing. Private housing is usually not an option for ex-offenders as landlords can bar individuals from housing with criminal background checks. Government assistance housing programs which are few and far between are left as the only option for ex-offenders. However, some felony offenses would disqualify individuals from obtaining government assistance in housing.

In a study involving probationers, residential instability was found to be a higher predictor of recidivism than other characteristics such as demographics, criminal risk, behavioral health problems, social support, and financial insecurity (Jacobs & Gottlieb, 2020). In addition, no distinctions among living situations were found between those that live with family, friends, or individually. Homelessness heightened the risk of recidivism by nearly 50% and for every residential transition, there was a 12% increase in recidivism (Jacobs & Gottlieb, 2020). In Clark's (2016) study she examines different types of housing to determine if there would be higher risks of recidivism comparatively. Offenders that were released to transitional housing or

emergency shelters were found to be rearrested at a greater rate because they may have had a lack of social support from friends or family that they could have lived with.

Racial Segregation

Racial segregation is an additional community-level factor that has been associated with crime. Previous literature has shown homogenous neighborhoods, specifically Black, Hispanic, and foreign-born, have higher crime rates and are known to have more disorder (Houser et al., 2018). In line with this research, Houser et al. (2018) found that those who lived in racially heterogenous neighborhoods had a longer amount of time in the community before returning to corrections.

Resource Deprivation

Community-level approaches often examine resource deprivation because it has been known to be associated with crime. Resources that are typically deprived in communities are employment, social services and treatment. Comparable to prior studies, Mears et al. (2008), measured resource deprivation based on data from the 2000 Census Bureau including median family income, percent female-headed households, percent unemployed and the percent of population receiving public assistance. Resource deprivation was found to be related to higher rates of recidivism for violent crimes but not property crimes and there were lower rates of recidivism for drug crimes.

Competition for resources

Resource deprivation might also contribute to many individuals requiring the same needs in one highly concentrated area. If mass amounts of offenders are being released into the same disadvantaged communities and there is already a scarcity of resources in impoverished areas, the resources that do exist become diluted with many individuals in need. Moreover, ex-offenders

compete with one another for existing resources which could increase rates of crime. The bunching of ex-offenders in one area could have a distinctive effect on recidivism. Individual findings from Chamberlain and Wallace (2016), demonstrated this and found that neighborhoods with more parolees will have a greater likelihood of recidivating within a shorter time frame. Therefore, “large concentrations of parolees can act as a neighborhood-level process which increases competition for resources and disrupts social ties – neighborhood conditions that are conducive to crime,” (Chamberlain & Wallace, 2016, p. 935).

Proximity of Services

Proximity of services is a necessary dynamic to examine at the community level as commuting to and from places may be a barrier for some individuals. Hipp et al. (2010), discovered that recently incarcerated individuals with local service providers close by reduced recidivism. Wallace and Papachristos (2014), specifically looked at the concentration of health care organizations which is an area that needs further research in regard to resource deprivation. Many formerly incarcerated individuals have poor health, thus the likelihood that health can contribute to recidivism is reasonable. Around 80% of all male ex-offenders leave corrections with a chronic health issue creating another challenge individuals’ have to deal with upon reentry (Wallace & Papachristos, 2014). There are insufficient health services in disadvantaged communities many offenders are reintegrating into. Wallace and Papachristos (2014) observed the availability of health care organizations and their changes over time with neighborhood-level recidivism and how they could be diminished by neighborhood disadvantage. It was found that as neighborhood disadvantage increases, tremendous quantities of health care organizations are lost. In regard to policy implications, Wallace and Papachristos (2014), suggest that health care organizations that already exist in these disadvantaged communities should remain there because

that will help create more economic stability in the community. For example, they exemplify the housing market and the desire for current homeowners to stay in the neighborhood to prohibit negative effects of housing turnover.

Additional types of local services and their availability have been examined. Wallace (2015) examined three types of organizations including emergency assistance, employment and education and their impact on recidivism. They found that the availability of local organizations in communities affects recidivism. Several changes in organizations have been shown to increase recidivism. For example, when two or more educational organizations are shut down within a community it increases recidivism. Moreover, disadvantage in a community does not aid in developing more organizations in the community.

Local Reentry Organizations

Despite prisoner reentry organizations increasing by 240% between 1995 and 2010, the impact of local organizations on recidivism has not had extensive examination (Mijs, 2016). Local organizations can affect how many opportunities individuals have within their community by creating social networks. In addition, reentry organizations influence ex-offenders' social and moral life. Ex-offenders can be told to avoid social ties from the past that may cause them to stray away from their goals. Moral values can also be taught including making the right choices in order to be successful. Harvey (2020), found that Black male ex-offenders who participated in the Jails to Jobs program were able to get several of their needs met. However, participants stated they needed more support with obtaining employment and housing.

Due to the vast amount of insight to gather on community-level factors such as organizations affecting recidivism, it is imperative to explore the needs of local organizations in

the community. Foremost, there must be discussion of what we know about each subtopic of reentry. Reentry services can vary from general reentry, treatment, victim advocacy, family, education, employment, public services and the jail itself.

General Reentry

General reentry programs are designed to be a wraparound service to ex-offenders when released from corrections. Visher et al. (2017), examined twelve prisoner reentry services, that received funding from the Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative (SVORI) in twelve different states and their impact on recidivism using a quasi-experimental design comparing male ex-offenders who participated in a reentry program to those who did not. Visher et al. (2017), found those that participated in reentry programs spent a longer amount of time in the community prior to rearrest. In addition, they were also found to have fewer arrests after release. Despite slight improvement with time to arrest and number of arrests, no specific services were found to affect recidivism. However, they noted that programs that focused on individual change using evidence-based practices such as cognitive behavioral therapy were more beneficial than programs that solely concentrated on skills and needs.

Risk and Needs

In contribution to assessing SVORI funded reentry programs, Gill & Wilson (2017), conducted a secondary data analysis on data from the SVORI evaluation to discover if self-reported criminogenic needs and the services they obtained were associated with recidivism. They found that when individuals were obtaining services that were specific to their needs, there was a decrease in self-reported arrests and official arrest reports from the National Crime Information Center. In addition, individuals who were obtaining the services that they self-

reported they needed were less likely to recidivate. These results suggest that evidence-based programming should be given priority to those who have high risk and needs.

Strength-Based Practices

Once services are offered to the ex-offenders who are most in need and at risk, practitioners must use strength-based practices to empower and collaborate with individuals to develop resiliency and intrinsic motivation to change. A collaborative, rather than an authoritative relationship between practitioner and ex-offender will create autonomy and independence within an ex-offender in order to empower them to achieve their goals. Collaborative relationships focusing on strengths of the ex-offender are labeled as strengths-based practice and are noted as a tool to provide acceptance for ex-offenders, ultimately improving a community's economy because ex-offenders are able to participate civically.

(Schlager, 2018).

Boundary Spanners

However, reentry services are vast and often there are several different practitioners involved in an ex-offender's reintegration into the community. Challenges are bound to happen when there are too many hands in the pot. Difficulties such as oppositional goals, incongruity with how things are running and cultural and political clashes can happen between different stakeholders who are involved with the reentry process (Nahn et al., 2017). Schlager (2018), recommends the concept of boundary spanners who work as a liaison for ex-offenders to coordinate between services to align an individual's treatment goals.

Treatment

Treatment is a vital local reentry service for individuals who are struggling with issues such as addiction, mental health, physical health or victimization. These issues often go hand in

hand and with particular attention to victimization, literature has commonly focused on female victimization. When providing treatment to previously incarcerated males, there is a need to account for gender and cultural sensitivities. Society expects men to act strong, which inadvertently suppresses the emotional needs of males that have inevitably gone through traumatic experiences (Glantz et al., 2017). Prior research indicates that childhood trauma and victimization is connected to engaging in risky, criminal behaviors and therefore should be assessed as a risk for ex-offenders (Glantz et al., 2017).

Trauma-Informed Practices

The Centers for Disease Control (2014) found that individuals with more adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) between the ages of 0-18, experience more negative health and behavioral issues later on in life (Glantz et al., 2018). Adverse childhood experiences seem to be the core in all of the major components of the LSI-R tool, thus it must be considered to be part of the assessment for risk. Encompassing trauma as a variable for risk can address root issues within an individual and why they may be committing crime. Informed interventions involving trauma would be a beneficial tool in addressing recidivism when providing treatment.

Addiction

One goal for many ex-offenders on their path to treatment is to combat their difficulties with substance abuse. Over 70% of individuals in the criminal justice system have substance abuse issues related to their crime (Phillips, 2010). Recidivism increases with the use of alcohol, cannabis, amphetamines, and opioids. Andrade et al. (2018), conducted a systematic review of substance use and recidivism effects of prison-based substance use intervention using public health, criminology, and psychology databases between January 1, 2000 to June 30, 2017. Out of the 49 studies reviewed, the authors found that therapeutic communities were successful in

preventing recidivism and less successful in preventing substance use upon release. In addition, opioid maintenance treatment was found to be successful in preventing drug use upon release. Both interventions were shown to be more successful if an aftercare program was in place. Moreover, a combined approach of treatments is useful rather than solely utilizing cognitive behavioral therapy or motivational interviewing when managing substance use issues.

Treatment does help individuals to commit less crimes and ultimately reduce recidivism and societal expenses. Addiction is a treatable disease and individuals will continue to gain repeat offenses if they are not treated. Unfortunately, most correctional institutions do not provide treatment that is comparable to what one would find in the community. The School of Public Affairs Justice Programs Office (2017), recommends five needs prioritizing addiction including employing multiple treatment interventions, as well as medications such as methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone for opioid withdrawals. Considering that no one treatment technique is applicable for every person, individuals should receive a multidimensional assessment from a medical clinician and the treatment plan should be decided by this professional clinician. Foregoing the concept of “doing time,” in a treatment program is advisable as the individual should show progress. In addition, reframing the concept “graduation,” from drug treatment and drug courts to “commencement,” is suitable so individuals have the mindset of continuing their addiction recovery.

Physical Health

Physical health can have significant implications for an ex-offender’s success upon reentry as it can have effects in every dimension of one’s life. Chronic health problems can interfere with an individual’s ability to go to work, affect their job performance and increase absences (Link et al., 2018). Individuals reintegrating back into their communities are going

through a large transition and when health interferes with everyday life, there is less ability to face challenges that may arise. Inevitably, the correctional system has become the main source of health care for inmates as there are high rates of infectious diseases including HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C, and tuberculosis. Prisons were not designed to serve the numerous health needs among inmates as facilities are often overcrowded and lavatories are communal (Fahmy & Wallace, 2019). Risks are imposed on the entire community when individuals are released from corrections without treatment for infectious diseases.

Woods et al. (2013), recommends utilizing strengths-based preventive interventions including universal which includes everyone that is at risk, selective which is aimed towards those with increased risks and indicated which is aimed toward those who are at greatest risk upon reentry. The authors suggest that case managers utilize strengths-based preventive interventions to create continuity of care from prison to the community by identifying risks, educating individuals about their health and addressing service area gaps such as healthcare. The health care system itself is already complicated, thus the aid in a case manager navigating care and resources for individuals at risk is valuable.

Mental Health

Mental health diagnoses are common among the incarcerated as the criminal justice system is overrun with mental illness. Unavoidably, jails have become the largest mental health service provider (Roth, 2018). Individuals with mental illness pose a greater risk upon reentry and return to corrections more quickly than their counterparts without mental illness (Portillo et al., 2017). Individuals with mental illness have immediate needs upon release to address their mental health, with perhaps inadequate or no medications prescribed. Local organizations can contribute by managing the switch of care from the jail to the community by coordination of care, client

advocacy, and peer navigators (Portillo et al., 2017). Peer navigator roles are more common among local nonprofit organizations that serve a mental health population. Portillo et al. (2017) contends that the peer navigator role should be implemented within the criminal justice system as it has shown to be successful among alternative local organizations.

Portillo et al. (2017) argue utilization of a peer navigator will provide positions of role model, legitimizer and resource broker. Peer navigators can be a positive role model for individuals with mental illness in the criminal justice system as they have first-hand experience making the transition from the criminal justice system to the community. They can legitimize the organization they work for because the organization helped them be successful. In addition, they can be resource brokers by helping individuals get connected with other needed services similar to the role of case manager.

Victim Advocacy

Those who are dealing with mental health problems can be at more of a risk of victimization. Victim advocacy is a significant social service to those who are reintegrating back into their communities. As there are several different criminal behaviors individuals can be victim to, domestic violence will be exemplified because it is the most common offense with recidivism (Payne, 2017). A common programming approach for domestic violence cases is the batterer intervention program (BIP) which is usually a mix of feminist, psychoeducational, and cognitive-behavioral approaches (Holtrop et al., 2017). Thus far, BIPs have not been sustainable in preventing recidivism in domestic violence cases consistently, however it is a more successful approach to prohibiting recidivism than traditional sanctions such as arrest, probation and incarceration (Payne, 2017). An alternative restorative justice intervention is victim-offender mediation (VOM) which aims to resolve issues between the victim and offender. There is prior

research that shows that VOMs are useful in reducing recidivism, however the mechanisms in how it helps individuals is unknown whether it be from processes or the willingness to participate in the program (Jonas-van Dijk et al., 2020).

Payne (2017), conducted a quasi-experimental study to observe if there were any differences in recidivism between BIPs and VOM. This study incorporated archived data from first-time male, domestic violence offenders between the ages of 18 and 30 in the Midwest and measured recidivism within 24 months after participating in either of the programs. There were no differences in recidivism rates between the two programs which demonstrates that restorative justice practices can be another intervention to prevent recidivism in domestic violence cases as it is not currently implemented as much as BIPs (Payne, 2017). Compared to traditional sanctions, BIPs and VOM are both more therapeutic and must be considered when addressing rehabilitation among ex-offenders.

Family

Often adverse experiences can happen within families and family support services could be a beneficial area where ex-offenders could receive support. Research involving family-based reentry interventions with adults is limited. Primarily, couple and family psychologists provide community-based services to juveniles rather than adults (Datchi et al., 2016). Scientific evidence demonstrates how instrumental social support can be in an individual's successful reentry. Datchi et al. (2016), recommends CEC which is a multimodal, family-focused program for adults who are incarcerated. The program is designed to help individuals become equipped to reenter their communities while working on skills to change addictive and criminal behaviors and develop prosocial relationships. The program components consist of the choice between psychotherapy, psychoeducation and parenting groups and participation in activities that encourage ex-offenders

to apply the skills they have learned with their families. An example given is family night where they attend group meetings that are run by therapists and then they have a choice between an activity they can do as a family together afterward. Fretz et al. (2004), found that individuals who participated in the CEC program had lower rates of rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration than prisoners at the New Jersey Department of Corrections after release at 6, 9 and 12 months (Datchi et al., 2016). Further research is needed to examine which components of this program made ex-offenders more successful.

Education

Another considerable risk is an individual's educational level which can be a determinate factor in how many opportunities are available. Higher educational programming within correctional institutions can be a beneficial tool to reducing recidivism and alleviating taxpayer money because less money would be needed for programming compared to reincarcerating individuals. It has been found that for every \$962 spent on educational programming the criminal justice system will save \$5,306 per inmate (Hall, 2015). In addition to saving money with educational programming, it helps empower inmates to be productive citizens of society by providing them with knowledge and tools. Steurer et al. (2010), states that educational programming has three goals including offering security, safety and rehabilitation which leads to a community that is safe from more crime being committed and maintains secure institutions (Hall, 2015).

Pelletier & Evans (2019), conducted qualitative interviews to determine more positive outcomes of higher education programs in addition to recidivism. Additional positive outcomes could provide insight as to why higher educational programs are the best programmatic practice in reducing recidivism. They found that those who participated in the higher education programs

were able to make social networks with peers, increase their communication skills and create integrity and self-assurance with themselves. When they reentered their communities, they were able to use the skills they learned to join social institutions that assisted them with employment prospects, gain positive interpersonal relationships and have a positive attitude that affected others (Pelletier & Evans, 2019). All of these benefits to higher educational programming in correctional institutions demonstrate great potential in cutting recidivism rates and helping our society when individuals return to their communities.

Vocational

Contrary to education, there is little research known about the effects of vocational education and training programs on recidivism. Therefore, Newton et al. (2018), conducted a systematic review to discover the best-known vocational program outcomes between January 2000 and March 2015. In order to prevent selection bias, they only reviewed experimental or quasi-experimental designs which accumulated to a total of 778 abstracts used for this study. Utilizing strict inclusion criteria, they only found 7 vocational programs across the United States that were proven to be successful. However, they varied so much in type that no distinctions could be made in what particularly made each program successful. Despite this fact, they were able to identify a few program outcomes advancing previous research.

An evaluation of the CEO program demonstrated that prisoners who participated in the program within 3 months of their release were less likely to recidivate (Newton et al., 2018). The sooner an ex-offender is supported upon release, the better. In addition, Redcross et al's. (2009; 2012), survey from CEO participants found that those who felt more connected to the staff were more likely to succeed in the program (Newton et al., 2018). Further enhancing previous research by Christofferson (2014), the CEO program was most effective for high-risk ex-offenders

(Newton et al., 2018). Those with more needs and risks ought to receive more programming because a higher level of support is needed.

Public Assistance

Further support needed upon release includes public assistance. A lack of basic necessities arises when an individual is not supported with food assistance, temporary cash assistance, or Medicaid. Individuals are able to apply for these services if they have a low income and meet other various requirements. The Food Research and Action Center (2008) found one-third of individuals who were eligible for services in 24 major US cities did not access the services because of language barriers or because they did not know of their eligibility (Costopoulos et al., 2017). Boundary spanners could prove useful for disseminating information about resources for ex-offenders.

However, the 1996 policy that was made under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) enacted that any individual who has been convicted under federal or state law is denied Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) eligibility (Luallen et al., 2018). Some states have bans on this policy. In Illinois' case there is a ban on felons receiving TANF but not SNAP (IDHS, 2020). Previous literature has shown that economic factors affect reentry. Yang (2017), found that eligibility for welfare and food stamps upon release reduced recidivism within one year up to 10 percent. Due to policy implications and limited resources, often service providers have to compete against several differing goals. To gain theoretical understanding of the concept; Underground Advocates, it is described as service providers who compete against conflicting roles of being both a rule enforcer and social worker. Underground Advocates exemplify the balance between rehabilitation and punishment/control because they deliberately resist rules

within a system, they feel to be unjust because they believe they can influence change (Whittle, 2018).

Jail

Lattimore et al. (2009), recounted pre-release inmates saying that public assistance was the most beneficial resource in order to reintegrate successfully (Costopoulos et al., 2017). If jails provided information on obtaining resources, while individuals were incarcerated, there is a possibility that would decrease rearrest rates. Costopoulos et al. (2017), found that Black and older people benefitted the most from this service which suggests that services be offered in a targeted manner. Meanwhile, 60% of those incarcerated in jail or prison are of ethnic and racial minorities while only making up 30% of the general population (Trotter II et al., 2018), suggesting that a sizable portion of those cycling in and out of jail would need public assistance. Furthermore, policies are put in place that inhibit the government or the jail from offering more assistance because food stamp fraud could occur among drug offenders who could likely have an addiction. Food stamp fraud refers to the illegal buying or selling of food stamps in order to get other prized possessions such as drugs or cash (Costopoulos et al., 2017). However, the jail is disproportionately fraught with individuals that have comorbidity, substance abuse issues, mental health issues and chronic or transmittable diseases (Trotter II et al., 2018). A tactful solution is for the jail to provide a balanced approach of offering public assistance, substance use, mental and physical health treatment.

Previous literature mainly focuses on prison recidivism rather than jail recidivism. In the Broward County Jail in Florida from 2009-2010, recidivism rates were higher for former jail inmates compared to former prison inmates with around 20% of jail inmates reoffending within six months of exiting corrections and up to 30% after one year (Costopoulos et al., 2017). Higher

recidivism rates among former jail inmate populations could be likely across different states. In order to address this gap, White et al. (2012) evaluated a jail-based reentry program in New York City that start when an individual is placed in corrections and continues 90 days post-release. Two phases of analyzing the outcomes of four different groups of inmates were examined by comparing participants in the Rikers Island Discharge Enhancement (RIDE) program and those not in the program and then utilizing matched samples with participants and non-participants. Matching samples were utilized because they accounted for similarities in jail histories in the past 5 years and following, logistic regression anticipated group assignment. Findings indicated that the participants and nonparticipants in the RIDE program returned to jail around the same time. However, those who received at least 90 days of post-release services did not return at the same rate as those who received less than 90 days of post-release services (White et al., 2012). Results of these findings demonstrate a consideration for the length of time services are being provided upon release.

Conclusion

Local reentry services can have an impact on recidivism at a contextual level. However, contributions to literature involving the ecological aspects of recidivism are lacking. The contributions in literature that have already been made include social ties which involves instrumental and expressive support by service providers, type of relationship practitioners have with ex-offenders; if it is collaborative or authoritative and levels of social control contextually that create neighborhood cohesion. In addition, neighborhood context has been explored in terms of socioeconomics with levels of poverty and diminished resources, as well as racial segregation, resource deprivation, local organizations availability and competition for resources in a largely concentrated area of parolees. An overall strength of contextual factors involving recidivism in

literature is the foundation of knowledge that has been acquired. However, with that there is a weakness because more knowledge is needed, especially pertaining to local community organizations and how they affect recidivism. Due to limited literature on the topic, the next steps for research include providing rich and in-depth information about how ecologically communities affect recidivism.

CHAPTER III: METHODOLOGY

The purpose of this study was to assess the magnitude of needs on behalf of local reentry services in McLean County, Illinois. Data-driven decisions can assist local organizations to be more effective and efficient. Additionally, this study will fill in missing links in prior literature about the variability of local organizations affecting recidivism. An exploratory, qualitative study provides rich detail as to how community-level organizations influence recidivism. Local organizations were examined to assess both what they currently provide for the community and what they may need to better provide for the community. Local reentry organizations that provide services to individuals released from McLean County Jail were the target population for this study.

In order to provide more context and inform the needs of the community, local data including recidivism, reentry, poverty and unemployment levels were examined. Specifically, recidivism data was collected from 2015 to 2020, measuring the number of individuals that returned to McLean County Jail and years from release. The study examined the following general research question: what are the community-level supports that are in place for individuals released from McLean County Jail and what further supports are needed in order for individuals to reintegrate back into the community successfully to prevent recidivism?

The McLean County reentry directory was used to identify different types of organizations in each identified service area. Because the reentry directory includes a lengthy list of organizations that cannot be included in this study due to time and resources, specific service areas were chosen to provide a comprehensive look at McLean County's reentry services. Community needs assessments are conducted when there is general knowledge of what works. Therefore, service areas that were targeted for this study were based on prior literature including

general reentry services, treatment, family, education, vocational, public services and the McLean County Jail.

A combination of purposive sampling and snowball sampling was used to choose local organizations that interact with recently released individuals entering McLean County from the McLean County Jail. Purposive sampling provides the ability to look at topic areas that are known to influence reoffending. This study will be able to provide more knowledge about recidivism. After interviewing one participant representing an organization, social network and rapport were used with the respondent to employ snowball sampling. Service providers had recommendations of agencies they felt would be principal to include in the study. A combined approach provides better results with further validation of service providers within the community. Ultimately, there was a sample size of seven organizations that agree to be interviewed. Fortunately, a small number of participants are needed in order to gain in-depth information.

Individuals from seven local organizations were interviewed including Integrity Counseling, McLean County Jail, Labyrinth Outreach, Joy Care Center, Chestnut Health Systems, McLean County Court Services and Prairie State Legal Services. Integrity Counseling provides counseling, education, and outreach services to 180 active clients. Eighty percent of the clients they serve are living below the federal poverty line. They are a private company that is funded through client contributions and donations from community members. The McLean County Jail is a detention facility where inmates are held. Once an ex-offender is released, the McLean County Jail can provide referrals to other agencies and a 3-month prescription if they need medication. Their daily population includes 225 to 235 inmates and approximately 25% of those inmates will get treatment referrals or medication prescribed. As a government agency, they

are funded through tax-payer money. Labyrinth Outreach is a program run through the YWCA that provides transitional services, outreach, transportation, and case management for women who have a criminal history. The number of clients served between all their programs is unknown, however, approximately 32 women are in the transitional living program. Labyrinth is funded primarily through grants.

Joy Care Center provides a job partnership, housing, food, celebrate recovery class and support groups for men or women who may or may not have a criminal record. Since 2010, Joy Care Center has served over 2,000 clients. The agency is funded through donations with volunteers as staff. Chestnut Health Services provides services such as adult residential, mental health, domestic violence groups, and substance use detox outpatient. In addition, they work alongside drug court. Chestnut Health Services is a public company that is fairly spread out with a large base across the state. An average of 150 to 200 clients are assessed each month in their central region which includes McLean County. Grants are the primary source of their funding. McLean County Court Services is a post-dispositional organization that serves individuals who are sentenced to probation. The probation department serves 1500 to 1700 clients with supervision, referrals, and access to a food bank. They are a government agency that is funded through tax-payer money. Finally, Prairie State Legal Services provides education and legal counseling for civil lawsuits. They currently serve 400 total clients and serve around 900 to 1000 clients a year. They are funded through multiple sources including Legal Service Corporation, personal contributions, grant funds through United Way, The Element, the Illinois Equal Justice Foundation, the Older American's Act Title 3, Lawyer's Trust Fund of Illinois, Crime Victim Assistance and Violence against Women. For the current study, the names of respondents and their role at the agencies were kept confidential per informed consent.

Data Collection

Once the community sample has been defined, data collection is the next step of a community needs assessment (Wambeam, 2016). An email was sent to local organizations asking if they would be willing to participate in an interview about the services provided by their agency and current needs their agency had when reintegrating offenders back into the community. With consent, intensive interviewing was employed to gather information from local organizations. Interviews contained a mix of open-ended and semi-structured questions. Interview questions explored client relationships as well as how neighborhood context influenced service provision. In addition, an overview of the services provided by the agency, client selection process, length and duration of services, and organizational needs were addressed. As each agency provides different services to ex-offenders, diverse questions were necessary for each organization. Semi-structured interview questions created the opportunity for an open-ended conversation rather than closed-ended answers, providing in-depth information about the organization's experience and employee perceptions of contributions from the surrounding community to offenders reintegrating back into McLean County [see Appendix A: Interview Guide].

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, interviews primarily took place online, over a platform called Zoom. One interview was conducted in person due to a respondent's request to do so. In terms of gathering data and observations from the organizations, requests were made to audio record the interview to help aid the coding process. Field notes were taken throughout the intensive interviewing process. Notes taken during the interviews focused on providing descriptive information regarding the setting, actions, behaviors, and conversations observed when interviewing service providers from each organization. In addition, reflective notes were included entailing personal thoughts, ideas, questions, and concerns throughout the intensive

interview process. As an interviewer, being mindful of personal behavior was imperative. An interviewer must be a good listener, nonjudgmental, sensitive, and a good conversationalist (Wambeam, 2016). The duration of each interview ranged from 30 to 60 minutes.

Analysis

Analyzing the data is the last step of the community needs assessment. Once interview notes and recordings were complete, MAXQDA software was used to assist with the coding/analysis process. Recordings of audio files were transcribed by the researcher by listening to the recording and typing in a Word document what was stated by the participant. The transcription of audio recordings, reflective notes and field notes were uploaded into the MAXQDA software for organization. Next, the data was dissembled (Wambeam, 2016). Coding took place during this process by identifying similarities, major trends, and ideas through a thematic coding process. A reflexive research design was utilized as coding data included concepts derived from the information rather than having the concepts prior to the study. Following, reassembling the data took place to identify broader patterns and themes (Wambeam, 2016). Assembling and reassembling was a circular process throughout the project.

A major part of this research was the conceptualization of topic areas within the information acquired from the local organizations. Throughout the process of interviewing different organizations, further insight was gained about the needs within the community. Concepts that were previously constructed with notes on other organizations were examined again and reconstructed with further insights. This major process explains the reflexive process of data collection and analysis that was used throughout the study. The last step of data analysis involved interpreting the results by describing and explaining the data (Wambeam, 2016).

Before arriving at conclusions, it was critical to address whether factual information gained from respondents was through spontaneous conversation that they initiated, or if it was in response to a question or statement the interviewer made. Spontaneous comments are important to distinguish because they are most similar to what would be said if the interviewer was not present (Bachman et al., 2017). Finally, the interviewer's reactivity was considered. A respondents' response will always be altered by the interviewer's presence and influence on the questions or statements made. In order for this to be monitored, a consideration of a respondent's answers as well as direct observations was taken into account.

With reflexive studies, it is imperative to reflect on how the interviewer's personal thinking contributes to the results of the study's findings. Personal identity and life experiences were separated from the knowledge of respondents being interviewed. Likewise, knowledge acquired from this study was constructed in a way that is able to be replicated by other scholars as qualitative studies provide rich, in-depth information that may need to be explored further in the future. Findings from this study are unique to McLean County. Therefore, further studies would be needed to address additional counties as they likely may have differing neighborhood contexts.

The qualitative methods chosen for this study are appropriate because community-level factors influencing recidivism is a relatively new area of research. Most of the research conducted in the past has focused on individual-level factors causing recidivism. This study contributes a basis of understanding and information on the topic of community-level factors and their influence on recidivism. In order to further help offenders successfully reintegrate back into their community, added knowledge about how the community can be supportive is needed to address the issue of recidivism. A goal for future research is to look into community-level factors influencing recidivism to build upon the foundation this study provides.

CHAPTER IV: ANALYSIS

Service providers from local agencies in McLean County that work with ex-offenders released from the McLean County Jail were interviewed for a Community Needs Assessment for McLean County. Interviews were audio-recorded, transcribed, and entered into the MAXQDA software along with field and reflective notes. Transcriptions of respondents' answers were thoroughly examined and coded. The following section describes the progression of coding, objective results regarding the context of the service agencies in McLean County, and then follows by addressing the primary research question which is what are the community-level supports that are in place for individuals released from McLean County Jail, and what further supports are needed in order for individuals to reintegrate back into the community successfully to prevent recidivism? Prior to a discussion of the findings, it is imperative to discuss the ecology of neighborhoods surrounding the local organizations in McLean County. Codes were categorized by themes including community context, types of resources available, types of services available and types of unmet needs.

Community Context

Community context was defined as background information on the context of McLean County as a whole. This could involve social relations, economy, residential stability or turnover, racial demographics and amount of resources. Themes for community context had further sub-themes of social economy, barriers of the organization, residential instability, racial integration, racial segregation, resource deprivation, neighborhood disruption, social ties, and negative social which was defined as a lack of social support and a stigma in the community. McLean County overall was described as economically better off than other counties in Illinois. Social economy was divided into two categories including Good Economy; defined as McLean County described

as well off with median or higher levels of income and Poor Economy; defined as discussions of areas with lower levels of income. Poor Economy codes demonstrated the populations targeted by included organizations lived in areas with lower levels of income.

Table 1: Community Context Theme, Sub-Themes & Examples

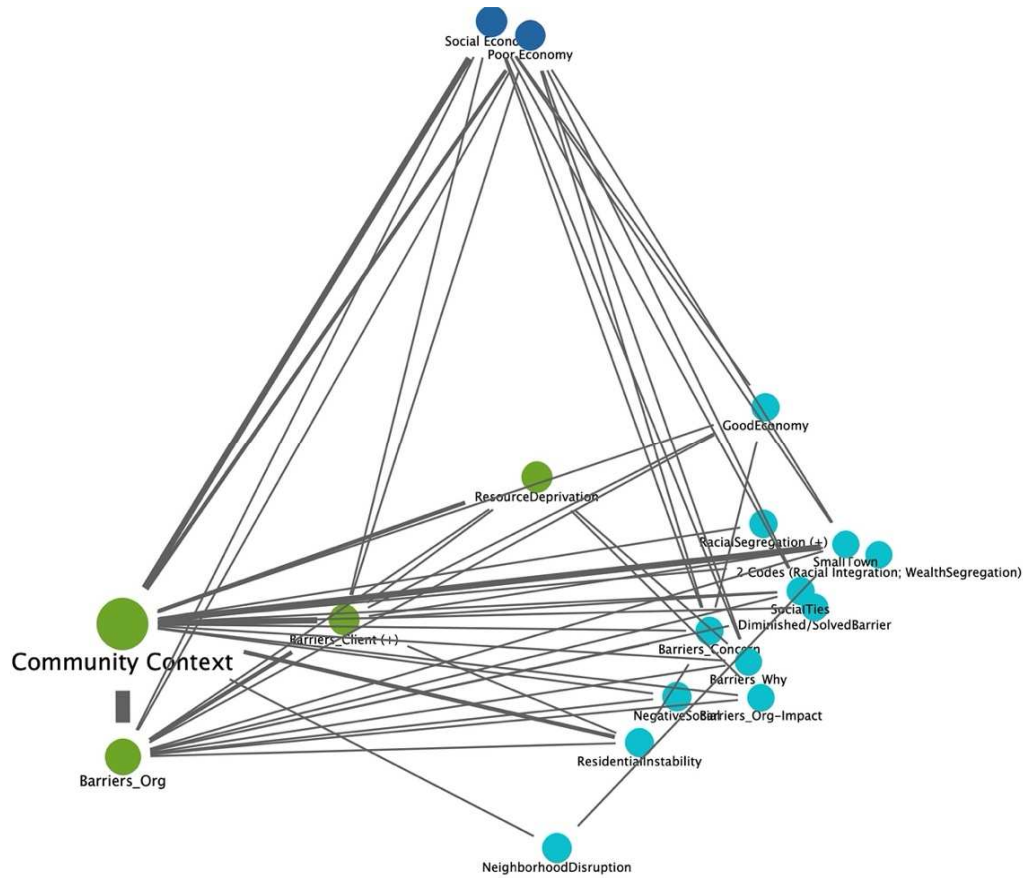
Themes	Sub-Themes	Examples
Community Context	⇒ Social Economy	"I know that we're a pretty rich county overall. Um, I don't know that that always trickles down to everyone and so that does make it difficult, because the majority of our inmates come from areas that are a little more depressed economically and trying to know and there aren't as many resources where they're at."
	⇒ Barriers_Org	"McLean County is a pretty middle income, high income area."
	⇒ ResidentialInstability	"I think for ex-offenders, one of the big challenges is finding employment." "Plenty of our clients are homeless."
	⇒ RacialSegregation	"If you look at the west side of Bloomington, over time it has actually shifted demographically from African American to Hispanic in certain neighborhoods. I think the segregation is more economic than it is racial."
	⇒ SocialTies	"It is very exciting to find stuff that people need... We reach out, the people in the community come together."
	⇒ NegativeSocial	"I think there's a stigma attached to someone that has been put on probation or has committed a crime."
	⇒ ResourceDeprivation	"I don't think it's well distributed, I'll say that, in the community."
	⇒ NeighborhoodDisruption	"But, it's also true that many of our clients are frequently changing addresses, are frequently changing phone numbers so in that respect it does make it more challenging for us to reach out to them or for ongoing treatment services."

Patterns among the intersections of local service organizations' barriers were twofold, including individual client barriers and neighborhood disruption. Individual client barriers were described as how the ex-offenders they serve are affected by obstacles to reintegrating successfully. Some of the obstacles mentioned were financial troubles/maintaining employment, race or ethnicity, homelessness and transportation issues. Four out of the seven agencies

interviewed reported individual client barriers. Neighborhood disruption was described as neighborhoods that have more crime or instability during daily activities. One respondent stated, “They aren’t functioning well enough to hold employment and their lives are totally out of control”. Two agencies that provide mental health treatment reported neighborhood disruption. Identified client barriers were commonly linked to resource deprivation and poor economy. Resource deprivation was defined as neighborhoods that have fewer resources or tools for ex-offenders. All seven of the agencies interviewed described resource deprivation. “Very, very limited. I mean on paper there’s tons, like the Path book is thick”. Five out of the seven agencies reported poor economy. One respondent stated, “With the socioeconomic, a lot of people come in and they’re unfortunately from a more poverty level situation”. Another respondent stated “The majority of our inmates come from areas that are a little more depressed economically and there aren’t as many resources where they’re at”.

A code map was created in the visual tools tab in the MAXQDA software, intersecting the community context theme and sub-themes. Darker lines demonstrate more codes and linkages between community context and sub-themes. Neighborhood disruption was on the opposite side of the cluster map from poor economy and seems to be a consequence of a lack of opportunity as it was coded frequently for why these barriers are in place.

Figure 1: Community Context Theme intersected with Sub-Themes

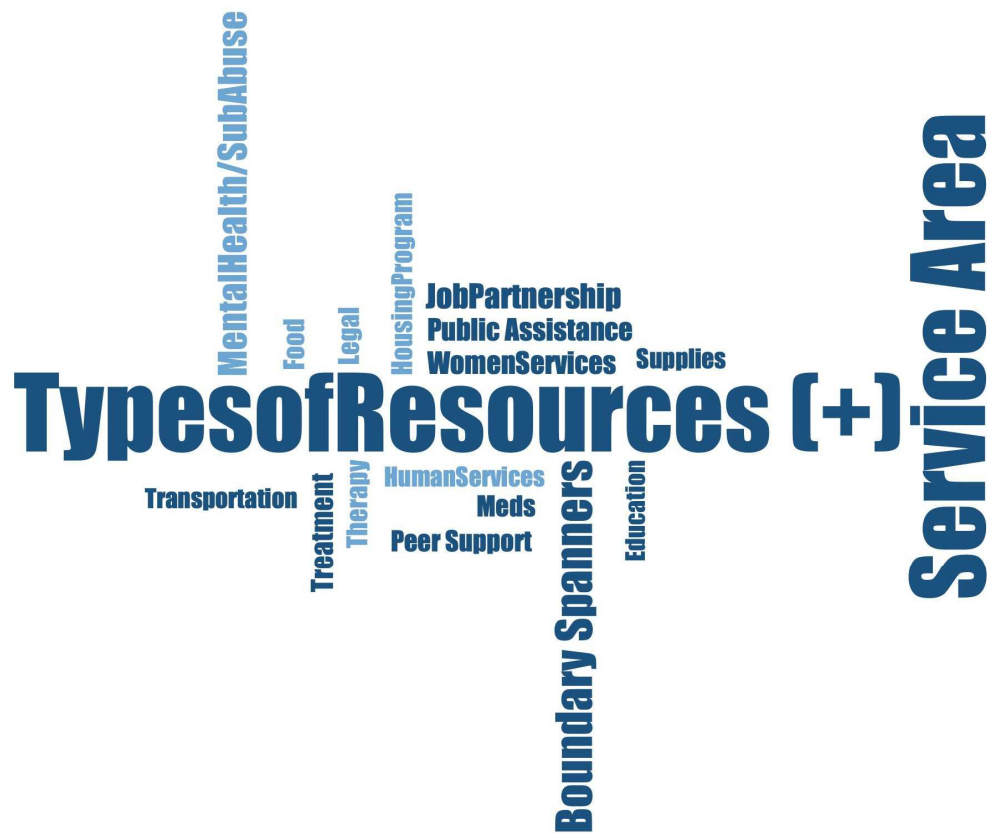


Types of Resources

Resource deprivation was the second most frequent code for community context which brings discussion to the type of resources that exist in McLean County. Boundary spanners were the highest frequented service that was provided by the agencies. Many respondents described connecting clients to other services that they may need. One provider explained, “If they were to come to us, they will be referred to someone that will probably be able to assist them.” Similarly, another respondent stated, “So, if they have mental health issues, we’ll link them to mental health services, if they have substance abuse issues, we’ll link them to substance abuse services,” and another replied, “They can meet with a case manager weekly”. Four out of the seven agencies interviewed offered mental health or substance abuse treatment services. As one provider

explained, “We do have a ROSC program out of Chestnut, that’s recovery-oriented systems of care and that program is meant to utilize staff that have some recovery experience. I mean that might be SUD, that might be mental health recovery”. A word cloud was created from identified codes in the MAXQDA software to demonstrate the types of resources available for ex-offenders in McLean County. Types of resources were sub-themed into service areas and the bigger words in the cloud show a higher frequency of codes.

Figure 2: Code Cloud for Types of Resources and Service Areas



Services Provided

Given that the population of this study spanned from organizations that offered different kind of services including legal services, county court services, substance abuse treatment, job

partnership, women's services, counseling services and the McLean County Jail, it is imperative to look at the population of clients these organizations are serving. The most frequented code for type of population served was ex-offenders. A close runner-up were scenarios where certain clients were disqualified. Among reasons for clients being disqualified for services included the status of being a registered sex offender, inappropriate goals, repeat services, adverse clients, capacity, and safety. The social stigma and status of being a registered sex offender was the most frequented code for clients who were disqualified for services in the community. As one respondent stated, "One of the things that would disqualify you is if you are on a sex offender registry, that is the only thing that would keep you from being a resident here".

Service provision was coded into sub-themes containing information about the service process used by included agencies. Sub-themes included Risk & Need, referral and distribution. Risk & Need was defined as whether agencies assess clients' needs and risks prior to or during service provision. Sub-Themes of Risk & Need included agencies assessing clients for interpersonal needs, family history, criminal behavior, trauma, community reentry needs, mental health, and substance use. As one respondent described, "We do an intake on that person using the assessment tool to find out the risks and needs". Five out of the seven organizations assessed risks and needs for their clients.

Referral was an additional sub-theme used to describe how clients heard about services. Clients were referred to services through outreach, newspaper, social media, word of mouth, consequences, and community partnership. Word of mouth was the highest frequented code of how ex-offenders get referred to services. Word of mouth was defined as word of mouth being used to refer ex-offenders to services. Inclusion criteria involved an individual getting a referral from someone they know that was a past-client. For example, one provider explained,

“Somebody comes to see us and a person maybe lives in their neighborhood or who they are acquaintances with will end up getting the referral from them”. Exclusion criteria involved alternative service organizations in the community referring services.

Distribution included the availability of services to the entire county no matter which area an individual may reside. Six out of the seven agencies distributed services to the whole county. Remote areas including the small towns outside of Bloomington-Normal were remarked as having little to no resources.

I mean you can't really get anything in Gridley. I mean if you live in Mclean you have to pretty much come all the way to Bloomington. The smaller towns don't really have any of the resources and if you don't have transportation from there, you're sort stuck in that manner too.

Types of Needs

The top two needs for ex-offenders reintegrating into McLean County were listed as housing and employment. Given that poor economy was coded frequently under community context, it is no surprise there is a need for employment among ex-offenders. Some respondents explained the importance of client employment. As one provider explained, “...most of the time you get people a job, then they are in command of their own life, a lot of things turn around”.

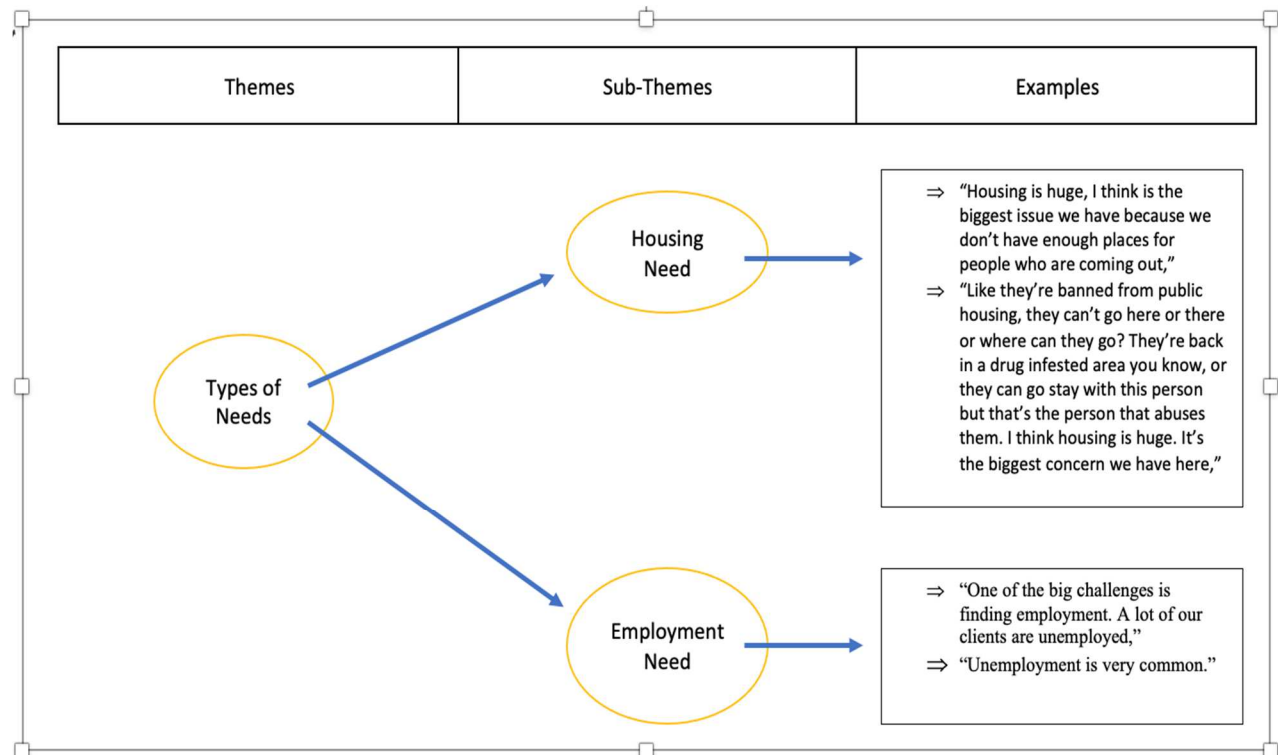
Similarly, another stated:

What you do find anyway when people have an effective and healthy mental framework, it's far more likely for them to have employment and sustain employment. If you can have sustained employment then everything tends to spiral up as opposed to spiral down, so part of our goal is to always try to help people live effectively, which means being able to

be employed. It means being able to start taking the steps of being in control of your own life.

One respondent described the existence of systemic issues with obtaining employment. “I think giving people equal opportunity to get a job and make sure that racial issues are not part of the job selection process”. Reflective notes entailed examining other demographics such as age to see how that may affect competition for employment. Over half of McLean County’s population is between the ages of 18 to 65 years old, which may create more competition for employment (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019). Table 2 describes Types of Needs theme with sub-themes including Housing Need and Employment Need and examples.

Table 2: Types of Needs, Housing Need & Employment Need, Examples



Although health services are in place for ex-offenders in McLean County, health services were the third-highest need coded for this need’s assessment. Often, respondents described not

having enough resources or capability to offer the services to the extent they are needed within the community. “Well, I think those things pretty much exist. You know, social service tools exist. It’s just the challenge of enough of them to help people with behavioral health challenges”.

The purpose of this community needs assessment for McLean County was to gain a deeper, contextual understanding of recidivism. Providers from local service agencies that work with ex-offenders reintegrating back into the county were interviewed to discover existing services and supports in place and identify further resources that are needed. McLean County’s community context was coupled with barriers of providing resources for ex-offenders by the local service providers and poor economy. However, McLean County overall does not have a poor economy as the unemployment rate is low compared to other counties in Illinois. Poor economy could have had more frequent codes because the population that agencies serve are in localized areas of lower income. Resources and supports that are already in place are boundary spanners, mental health and substance abuse treatment. Further needs that are not met for ex-offenders in McLean County are housing, employment and health services such as mental health.

CHAPTER V: DISCUSSION

Recidivism was examined at a contextual level in relation to a broad range of local reentry service providers in McLean County, Illinois. Because this study focused on one community, there were no community-level comparisons present. There is a need for further studies across communities examining community-level effects of recidivism. Overall recidivism rates from 2005, report 68% of individuals released from prison were rearrested within 3 years of their release (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2018). In McLean County from the years 2015 to 2020, there were a total of 21,758 bookings to the McLean County Jail with 1.7 years as the average difference between bookings. To gauge the resources that are in place for ex-offenders, providing context of McLean County is necessary. McLean County has a low unemployment rate at 4.2% (IDES, 2021) and median income levels at \$67,675 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019). However, interviewed service providers routinely described McLean County as having a poor economy coupled with barriers of local organizations providing resources or services. Poor economy was defined as areas of the county with lower income levels and fewer resources for ex-offenders who made up the population that these agencies served. Rural areas were described as having fewer resources and lower levels of income. Additionally, larger areas were described as containing localized areas that have higher poverty rates and are far below the median income level.

What is striking about these findings is the next frequent description of community context included barriers of the individual client. Individual barriers of the clients intersected with resource deprivation frequently. This indicates that ex-offenders may have to fend for themselves to get the resources or supports that are needed. Further community-level supports in place to aid ex-offenders reintegrating back into McLean County are needed as previous literature has commonly examined recidivism at the individual-level. For instance, community-level supports

are job partnership programs or transitional housing services. Further supporting this result brings the discussion to the type of resources and services that are in place for ex-offenders in McLean County.

Among the highest frequency codes for types of resources in place were boundary spanners and health services. Many respondents described referring ex-offenders to other local organizations to meet their needs. Due to this finding, it was necessary to examine the population that the service organizations' were targeting. The top code for population was ex-offenders; confirming that appropriate service organizations were targeted for this study. However, a close runner-up were codes for those who are disqualified from obtaining services. Top explanations for being disqualified from services was the status of a registered violent or sex offender. The social stigma of these types of offenses plays a part in local organizations belief or capacity to safely administer services. These findings align with previous literature discussing the widespread stigma of a sex-offender status (DeLuca et al., 2018). Registered offenders are a particularly vulnerable population in the county and need extra support in coping with past traumas to help them heal. Often, disqualifications overlap with ex-offender status creating an even more vulnerable population for recidivism. McLean County needs more resources or services in place for those who are unable to receive resources from existing agencies due to a status that disqualifies them.

Health services such as mental health or substance use were often described as being a service in place for ex-offenders. However, health services were the third-highest reported need in the community. Given that jails have become the largest mental health providers in our society, it is no surprise that this need exists within McLean County (Roth, 2019). Increased mental health services are needed within McLean County. Ex-offenders with mental health diagnoses that are

released from incarceration are in immediate need of treatment or medication. Additional social support in a role such as peer navigators would provide useful for a smooth transition of care into the community.

Top priority services that are in need for ex-offenders in McLean County include housing, employment, and mental health. Housing was listed as a large level of concern within the community. Respondents reported that residential instability contributed to neighborhood disruption and chaos in their clients' lives. Employment was the next most described need within the community. Respondents often shared a lack of opportunities for clients to obtain employment. A lack of employment opportunities for ex-offenders in McLean County may be due to collateral consequences of having the stigma of a criminal record coupled their race and age as over half of the population of McLean County is between the ages of 18 to 65 years old creating more competition for employment (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019). Finally, increased mental health services were reported as a need. Respondents reported that there were mental health services in place, but not enough of these resources to meet the need that exists within the community. Specific transitional services from the jail to the community are recommended so ex-offenders can receive support with housing, employment and mental health needs. Stronger social ties at the private, public and parochial levels are recommended to provide more opportunities for ex-offenders in the community while giving individuals a sense of responsibility to their community. Responsibility to our community provides stability and harmony.

Limitations

Limitations of this study included these of purposive sampling as local organizations in McLean County that provide services for ex-offenders is a unique population. Results of this study cannot be generalized to local organizations in other counties or states. In addition, the use

of qualitative methods is a labor-intensive process that is time-consuming. This study was conducted within a limited time frame. Eight to ten interviews with local organizations were the targeted sample for this study. However, due to the difficulty of acquiring interviews with agencies, only seven local organizations were interviewed. Results of this study cannot be verified unless other researchers put in the time and resources to replicate this study.

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APPENDIX A: INTERVIEW GUIDE

Interview Questions

1. What is the name of your local organization?
2. What types of services does your agency provide to those who are recently released from jail, returning to the community?
3. How is the agency funded?
4. How many clients do you serve?
5. What is the length or duration of services?
6. Do you provide services to the whole county?
 - a. Do the majority of who you serve live in the Bloomington/Normal area?
7. How do clients find out about your services? How are they referred to your services?
8. Could you please describe the process your organization goes through when an individual is released from McLean County jail in order to provide them services?
9. Could you please describe your selection process/eligibility requirements when deciding who to provide services to?
10. Do you work only with clients or their entire families?
11. Does your agency have supervisory power over the clients you serve?
 - a. If yes, what level of supervision does your agency have over clients?
12. Does your agency ever have to deal with opposing goals of other organizations that are working with your clients? (e.g. treatment vs. law)
 - a. If yes, how does your organization handle opposing goals from other organizations when providing services to clients?
13. How do you measure success outcomes in your program?
14. What is your agency's role in relation to the clients you are serving?
15. Does your agency adhere to any treatment philosophies or utilize evidence-based practices when providing services to clients?

- a. (Such as Strength-Based Practices, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Trauma-Informed Practices or Motivational Interviewing?)
16. Does your agency assess risk and needs among the clients you are serving?
- a. If yes, are any risk assessment tools used such as the LSI-R?
17. What type of training do employees at your agency receive in order to work with clients?
18. How does this agency demonstrate social support to clients?
19. How does this agency approach working with individuals that have different backgrounds? Such as culture, religion, gender, etc.
20. How would you describe the socioeconomic state of the county and how that affects distributing resources to clients?
- a. What amount of resources are available for ex-offenders in McLean County?
21. How do you help clients deal with emotional problems?
22. How do you help clients with any structural barriers they might have? Such as poverty..
23. Are there any other barriers for individuals obtaining services from your organization?
- a. How do these barriers affect your local organization?
 - b. How do these barriers affect the ex-offenders you are serving?
 - c. How would you rate the level of concern with these barriers in McLean County?
 - d. Why do these barriers exist?
 - e. What are resources that your local organization needs in order to address these barriers?
 - f. Do local service organizations have the ability to impact these barriers – if so, why?
 - g. What would the solved or diminished barrier look like?
24. What community resources are needed for offenders to successfully reintegrate back into McLean County?
- a. (Bring up main points in literature review to get their thoughts if they do not mention it: social ties, socioeconomics, residential instability, racial segregation, resource deprivation, a specific local reentry service – whether it be mental

health, physical health or victimization treatment, family services, education, vocational, public assistance, etc.)

Social Ties → How would you describe the social connections between clients and the community?

Socioeconomics → How does the economy of the county affect your clients?

Residential Instability → Are there any processes in place for those who are homeless? Are there any emergency shelters or transitional living?

Racial Segregation → Does racial segregation exist within the neighborhoods in McLean County?

Resource Deprivation → What areas if any have more or less resources for ex-offenders?

Local Reentry Service → Is there any specific local reentry service that is needed in the county? (like mental health, physical health, victimization treatment, family services, education, vocational, public assistance, etc.)

SNOWBALL: Which local organization do you recommend that works with ex-offenders in the county that I should I interview and include in my study?

-Any contact information for them like email?

Codebook

Community Needs Assessment for McLean County.mx20

7/12/21

Code System

1 TypesofNeeds	84
1.1 FinancialLiteracyNeed	1
1.2 AdvocacyNeed	2
1.3 VocationalNeed	4
1.4 HealthNeed	10
1.4.1 AbusePreventionNeed	1
1.4.2 TreatmentNeed (+) (+)	5
1.4.3 MentalHealthNeed	3
1.5 StaffNeeded	3
1.6 FundingNeed	5
1.7 PublicAssistanceNeed	3
1.8 EmergencyHousingNeed	8
1.9 EmploymentNeed	11
1.10 TransitionalServicesNeed	3
1.11 SocialTiesNeed	5
1.12 PublicAssistanceNeed	1
1.13 FamilyServiceNeed	3
1.14 IdNeed	2
1.15 Men's ServicesNeed (+)	3
1.16 HousingNeed	16
1.17 TransportationNeed	9
1.18 Service Areas	302
1.18.1 Risk&Need	24
1.18.1.1 Assess_Interpersonal	2
1.18.1.2 Assess_Family	4
1.18.1.3 Assess_CriminalBeh	2
1.18.1.4 Assess_Trauma	1

1.18.1.5 Assess_CommunityReentryNeeds	3
1.18.1.6 Assess_MentalHealth	3
1.18.1.7 Assess_SubAbuse	4
1.18.1.8 YesAssessment	7
1.18.1.9 NoAssessment	2
1.18.2 COVID Impact	5
1.18.3 Org Process	2
1.18.4 YesEvidenceBased	21
1.18.4.1 DomesticViolence_EvidenceBased	1
1.18.4.2 Behavior_EvidenceBased	6
1.18.4.3 Therapy_EvidenceBased	13
1.18.4.4 SubAbuse_EvidenceBased	4
1.18.4.5 Trauma_EvidenceBased	4
1.18.5 NoEvidenceBased	1
1.18.6 Approach	38
1.18.6.1 Individualized (+)	9
1.18.6.2 Collaborative	22
1.18.6.3 Authoritative	7
1.18.7 Social Support	11
1.18.7.1 None	1
1.18.7.2 Expressive	7
1.18.7.3 Instrumental	3
1.18.8 Sensitivities	8
1.18.9 Training	19
1.18.9.1 Ethics	1
1.18.9.2 Multicultural	1
1.18.9.3 DomesticViolence	1
1.18.9.4 SexOffenderSupervision	1

1.18.9.5 Sexual	2
1.18.9.6 EvidenceBasedTraining	2
1.18.9.7 SubAbuse	1
1.18.9.8 MentalHealth	2
1.18.9.9 ConflictResolution	1
1.18.9.10 ProfDev	5
1.18.9.11 TrainingLength	3
1.18.10 Emotions	12
1.18.11 Structural	9
1.18.12 Measure	11
1.18.13 Opposition	16
1.18.13.1 Opposition_handle	12
1.18.13.2 Yes	4
1.18.13.3 No	4
1.18.14 Supervision	7
1.18.15 Population	37
1.18.15.1 Civil	1
1.18.15.2 Individual	5
1.18.15.3 Family	9
1.18.15.4 Impoverished	4
1.18.15.5 SmallPortion	4
1.18.15.6 Youth	4
1.18.15.7 Disqualified	9
1.18.15.7.1 InnappropriateGoals	1
1.18.15.7.2 Repeat	1
1.18.15.7.3 AdverseParty	1
1.18.15.7.4 Capacity	1
1.18.15.7.5 Safety	2
1.18.15.8 Ex-Offenders	11

1.18.15.8.1 BehaviorProbs	1
1.18.15.8.2 MentalHealth	1
1.18.15.8.3 ViolentOffenders	1
1.18.15.8.4 SexOffenders	3
1.18.16 Eligibility	6
1.18.17 Referral	27
1.18.17.1 Outreach	4
1.18.17.2 Newspaper	1
1.18.17.3 SocialMedia	2
1.18.17.4 WordofMouth (+)	11
1.18.17.5 Consequences	5
1.18.17.6 CommunityPartnership (+)	6
1.18.18 Distribution	16
1.18.18.1 CountyWide	8
1.18.18.2 Remote	2
1.18.18.3 BloNo	7
1.18.19 # of Clients	7
1.18.20 Service Length	16
1.18.21 Funded	9
2 TypesofResources (+)	87
2.1 Service Area	82
2.1.1 Education	2
2.1.2 Boundary Spanners	26
2.1.3 Transportation	2
2.1.4 HumanServices	2
2.1.5 HousingProgram	4
2.1.6 Budgeting	1
2.1.7 WomenServices	6
2.1.8 JobPartnership	10

2.1.9 MentalHealth/SubAbuse	15
2.1.9.1 Treatment	5
2.1.9.2 Therapy	4
2.1.9.3 Meds	3
2.1.9.4 Peer Support	4
2.1.10 Public Assistance	5
2.1.10.1 Supplies	2
2.1.10.2 Food	3
2.1.11 Legal	3
2.1.11.1 Info	1
3 Community Context	123
3.1 Social Economy	24
3.1.1 Poor Economy	18
3.1.2 GoodEconomy	8
3.2 Barriers_Org	47
3.2.1 Diminished/SolvedBarrier	3
3.2.2 Barriers_Client (+)	21
3.2.3 Barriers_Concern	7
3.2.4 Barriers_Why	3
3.2.5 Barriers_Org-Impact	4
3.3 ResidentialInstability	11
3.4 Racial Integration	1
3.5 WealthSegregation	1
3.6 RacialSegregation (+)	8
3.7 SocialTies	7
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1 TypesofNeeds

Describes a need within the community for ex-offenders in McLean County.

1.1 TypesofNeeds >> FinancialLiteracyNeed

Describes there being a need for financial literacy within the community.

1.2 TypesofNeeds >> AdvocacyNeed

Describes a need in the community for advocacy in order for an individual to obtain and receive the services that are in place in the community.

1.3 TypesofNeeds >> VocationalNeed

Describes the need in the community for job training programs.

1.4 TypesofNeeds >> HealthNeed

Describes the need for mental health services in the county.

1.4.1 TypesofNeeds >> HealthNeed >> AbusePreventionNeed

Describes abuse prevention being needs for ex-offenders in the community.

1.4.2 TypesofNeeds >> HealthNeed >> TreatmentNeed (+) (+)

Describes treatment being needed in the community. This could vary from residential treatment services being needed in the community for a client to live and get treatment on specific substances like heroin, fentanyl and meth. It could also mean other substance use treatments or trauma-informed practices.

TraumaInformedNeed ▣

Created: hannahcurry, 7/8/21 7:31 PM

Describes there being a need for trauma informed practices in the community

SubstanceTxNeed ▣

Created: hannahcurry, 7/8/21 7:34 PM

Describes there being a need for substance abuse treatment in the community.

1.4.3 TypesofNeeds >> HealthNeed >> MentalHealthNeed

Describes the need for mental health services being used within the community.

1.5 TypesofNeeds >> StaffNeeded

Describes the agency needing more volunteers, staff or more consistency and reliability.

1.6 TypesofNeeds >> FundingNeed

Describes the agency needing funding.

1.7 TypesofNeeds >> PublicAssistanceNeed

Describes the need for public assistance in the community upon release.

1.8 TypesofNeeds >> EmergencyHousingNeed

Describes there being a need for emergency or immediate housing in the community for ex-offenders.

1.9 TypesofNeeds >> EmploymentNeed

Describes the need for employment among ex-offenders.

1.10 TypesofNeeds >> TransitionalServicesNeed

Describes some type of transitional need for ex-offenders reintegrating back into McLean County.

1.11 TypesofNeeds >> SocialTiesNeed

Describes social ties needing to be formed in the community so ex-offenders have better connections.

1.12 TypesofNeeds >> PublicAssistanceNeed

Describes public assistance of some sort being needed for ex-offenders in the county.

1.13 TypesofNeeds >> FamilyServiceNeed

Describes the need for more formal programs or services for families and ex-offenders.

1.14 TypesofNeeds >> IdNeed

Describes getting identification being a need for ex-offenders in the community.

1.15 TypesofNeeds >> Men's ServicesNeed (+)

Describes focus on men as ex-offenders in McLean County not being focused on, or being needed in some capacity.

Community Resources 🟡

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Describes the need for more male oriented programs for ex-offenders in McLean County.

1.16 TypesofNeeds >> HousingNeed

Describes a need of ex-offenders in the community

1.17 TypesofNeeds >> TransportationNeed

Describes the need for transportation services for clients to get to appointments or resources throughout the county.

1.18 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName

Describes the name of the local organization in McLean County that the participant is speaking on behalf of. This will provide valuable information for the county in what local organizations need.

1.18.1 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Risk&Need

Describes if the agency assesses clients for their risks and needs prior to or during their services. This could include any risk assessment tools such as the LSI-R, Strength-Based, etc.

1.18.1.1 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Risk&Need >> Assess_Interpersonal

Describes the risk and need assessment tool assessing for social or interpersonal communication skills.

1.18.1.2 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Risk&Need >> Assess_Family

Describes the risk and need assessment tool assessing aspects of the clients family.

1.18.1.3 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Risk&Need >> Assess_CriminalBeh

Describes the risk and need assessment tool assessing for criminal behaviors.

1.18.1.4 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Risk&Need >> Assess_Trauma

Describes the risk assessments assessing for trauma. This could involve social histories because it would cover big life events in the past.

1.18.1.5 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Risk&Need >> Assess_CommunityReentryNeeds

Describes community reentry needs being assessed for on the risk & needs assessment that is being utilized.

1.18.1.6 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Risk&Need >> Assess_MentalHealth

Describes mental health being assessed on the risks & needs assessment that is being utilized.

1.18.1.7 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Risk&Need >> Assess_SubAbuse

Describes substance abuse being assessed on the risk and needs assessment that is being utilized.

1.18.1.8 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Risk&Need >> YesAssessment

Describes the organization having a plan in place or assessing for risk and needs among the persons they serve.

1.18.1.9 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Risk&Need >> NoAssessment

Describes the organization not assessing for risk and needs among the persons they are serving.

1.18.2 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> COVID Impact

Describes the impact/effects of the COVID pandemic on the local reentry organizations, the inmates, the ex-offenders, etc.

1.18.3 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Org Process

Describes the process the organization goes through when an individual is going to receive services from their organization.

1.18.4 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> YesEvidenceBased

Describes the organization using evidence-based practices

1.18.4.1 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> YesEvidenceBased >>

DomesticViolence_EvidenceBased

Describes informed domestic violence practices being used by the organization.

1.18.4.2 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> YesEvidenceBased >> Behavior_EvidenceBased

Describes applied behavioral techniques being used in how clients are served by the local organization.

1.18.4.3 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> YesEvidenceBased >> Therapy_EvidenceBased

Describes evidence based practices used for therapy and mental illness.

1.18.4.4 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> YesEvidenceBased >> SubAbuse_EvidenceBased

Describes philosophies or evidence-based practices being used to treat substance abuse issues.

1.18.4.5 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> YesEvidenceBased >> Trauma_EvidenceBased

Describes practices for treating trauma that are evidenced based practices.

1.18.5 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> NoEvidenceBased

Describes the organization not actively being in the process of utilizing evidence-based practices.

1.18.6 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Approach

Describes the programs approach or attitude when serving clients. This could include authoritative or collaborative.

1.18.6.1 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Approach >> Individualized (+)

Describes the programming ran by the agency as being individualized depending on the client they are serving.

Individualized ■

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Describes the treatment type being provided for the client being tailored to the client.

1.18.6.2 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Approach >> Collaborative

Describes the manner and/or role the practitioner takes with the client. This could involve words like open, honest, communication, etc.

1.18.6.3 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Approach >> Authoritative

Describes the program's approach or role when working with clients.

1.18.7 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Social Support

Describes how the agency demonstrates social support to clients. This could include instrumental or expressive social support which signifies respectful listening when clients are expressing their emotions or troubles and providing encouragement for individuals to achieve their goals.

1.18.7.1 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Social Support >> None

Describes there being no social support in place for the clients.

1.18.7.2 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Social Support >> Expressive

Describes staff giving clients expressive support. This could involve listening to a client share their emotional struggles and being there for them.

1.18.7.3 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Social Support >> Instrumental

Describes a social support providers give clients that encourages them to reach their goals.

1.18.8 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Sensitivities

Describes how the agency approaches working with individuals of all different backgrounds.

1.18.9 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Training

Describes the type of training employees at the agency receive in order to work with clients.

1.18.9.1 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Training >> Ethics

Training taken by the staff that involves ethics like boundaries.

1.18.9.2 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Training >> Multicultural

Describes training that staff receive on multicultural topics like microaggressions.

1.18.9.3 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Training >> DomesticViolence

It describes training given to staff in how to deal with domestic violence clients.

1.18.9.4 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Training >> SexOffenderSupervision

Describes training given to staff in how to handle supervision of sex offenders.

1.18.9.5 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Training >> Sexual

Describes the staff at the organization receiving training about sexual assaults or sexual harrassment.

1.18.9.6 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Training >> EvidenceBasedTraining

This describes staff receiving training at their organization that falls under evidence based practices

1.18.9.7 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Training >> SubAbuse

Describes substance abuse being an area where employees of an organization are getting trained on.

1.18.9.8 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Training >> MentalHealth

Describes mental health being an area where employees of an organization are getting trained on.

1.18.9.9 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Training >> ConflictResolution

Describes conflict resolution being something that employees are getting training on.

1.18.9.10 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Training >> ProfDev

Describes the existence of ongoing training and professional development within the organization.

1.18.9.11 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Training >> TrainingLength

Describes the length of time employees are receiving training on how to do better at their job.

1.18.10 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Emotions

Describes how the agency responds to a client's emotional problems. This could involve expressive social support such as respectful listening.

1.18.11 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Structural

Describes how the agency deals with structural barriers clients may be experiencing. This could include a lack of housing, food or treatment.

1.18.12 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Measure

Describes the methods in how agencies measure success among the clients they are serving.

1.18.13 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Opposition

Describes the extent an agency has to deal with conflicting goals among other organizations for clients they are serving.

1.18.13.1 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Opposition >> Opposition_handle

Describes the methods or how the agency responds to conflicting goals different stakeholders or organizations may have for the clients they are serving.

1.18.13.2 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Opposition >> Yes

Describes a situation where there is oppositional goals between service organizations.

1.18.13.3 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Opposition >> No

Describes the organization not having to deal with opposition from other service organizations.

1.18.14 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Supervision

Describes the amount of control the agency has over the clients they are serving.

1.18.15 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Population

Describes the individuals who they are offering their services to. This could include ex-offenders, significant others, family members, etc.

1.18.15.1 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Population >> Civil

Describes the population intended for the local service being those who have a civil offense.

1.18.15.2 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Population >> Individual

Describes the individual alone, not the entire family being the intended population for this organization.

1.18.15.3 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Population >> Family

Describes family being the population that is being served by the local organization.

1.18.15.4 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Population >> Impoverished

Describes the population of the service organization being intended for those who are living in poverty.

1.18.15.5 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Population >> SmallPortion

Describes a small portion of local organization's services being provided to ex-offenders.

1.18.15.6 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Population >> Youth

Describes youth being the population the local organization is serving.

1.18.15.7 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Population >> Disqualified

Describes the type of clients with certain types of offenses that are not offered the organization's services.

1.18.15.7.1 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Population >> Disqualified >>

InnapropriateGoals

Describes an individual being barred from services who has innapropriate goals for obtaining services.

1.18.15.7.2 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Population >> Disqualified >> Repeat

Describes an individual that can no longer obtain services because they have already utilized services from the organization.

1.18.15.7.3 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Population >> Disqualified >> AdverseParty

Describes individuals barred from services that are an adverse party to the client being served.

1.18.15.7.4 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Population >> Disqualified >> Capacity

Describes the local organizations not having the capacity to deal with the challenges of serving ex-offenders as clients.

1.18.15.7.5 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Population >> Disqualified >> Safety

Describes safety being the concern for services not being offered to more ex-offenders.

1.18.15.8 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Population >> Ex-Offenders

Describes their level of willingness or effort in targeting the ex-offender population with their services. It could also describe levels of sustainability being able to maintain their services.

1.18.15.8.1 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Population >> Ex-Offenders >> BehaviorProbs

Describes clients who have behavioral issues being targeted for programming.

1.18.15.8.2 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Population >> Ex-Offenders >> MentalHealth

Describes ex-offenders with mental health diagnoses being the intended population for this service.

1.18.15.8.3 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Population >> Ex-Offenders >> ViolentOffenders

Describes violent offenders being the intended population that the local organization provides services to.

1.18.15.8.4 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Population >> Ex-Offenders >> SexOffenders

Describes sex offenders being the population that is serviced by the local organization.

1.18.16 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Eligibility

Describes the organization's selection process or their eligibility requirements when deciding who to provide services to.

1.18.17 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Referral

Describes how a client finds out about the services provided by the agency or how they are referred to services.

1.18.17.1 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Referral >> Outreach

Describes service providers going out into the community participating in outreach to individuals that might be in need of services.

1.18.17.2 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Referral >> Newspaper

Describes the local newspaper being used as advertisement for potential clients to know about and obtain services.

1.18.17.3 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Referral >> SocialMedia

Describes social media being used for individuals to know about and obtain services in the community.

1.18.17.4 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Referral >> WordofMouth (+)

Describes word of mouth being used to refer ex-offenders to services. This could involve an individual getting a referral from someone they know that is a past client.

PastClients

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Describes an individual getting a referral to a service from someone they know that has experienced the service.

1.18.17.5 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Referral >> Consequences

Describes consequences set in place by the system that proceeded an individual to seek out services.

1.18.17.6 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Referral >> CommunityPartnership (+)

Describes community partnership between organizations being used when referring an individual to services.

ServiceOrg

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Describes a referral being given to a specific service area for a client from another service organization

1.18.18 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Distribution

Describes the availability of services to the entire county no matter which area an individual may reside in.

1.18.18.1 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Distribution >> CountyWide

Describes services being offered to the whole county.

1.18.18.2 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Distribution >> Remote

Describes services offered by the organization reaching the little towns outside of Bloomington-Normal in McLean County

1.18.18.3 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Distribution >> BloNo

Describes if a majority of the individuals served by the organization live in the Bloomington/Normal area.

1.18.19 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> # of Clients

Describes the number of individuals that they provide services to. This could include ex-offenders and family members.

1.18.20 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Service Length

Describes how long the agency distributes services to the clients they are serving and when the services begin. This could start in jail and extend into the community upon release, it could start in jail and end, or it could start in the community after they have been released from jail.

1.18.21 TypesofNeeds >> ServiceName >> Funded

Describes how the agency receives money to operate their organization. This could include government agencies or non-profit local organizations that receive donations from stakeholders.

2 TypesofResources (+)

Describes the types of resources available for ex-offenders in McLean County. This could involve names or organization, or different types of activities or services that are provided.

Community Resources 🟡

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Describes contextual resources an organization may need to help individuals they are serving to be successful. This could include social ties, socioeconomics, residential instability, racial integration, more resources or a specific type of service area.

2.1 TypesofResources (+) >> Service Area

Describes the service area that is being interviewed. This could include local reentry organizations that are general reentry services, treatment, family, education, employment, public assistance and jail.

2.1.1 TypesofResources (+) >> Service Area >> Education

Describes education such as attending classes being a resource available for ex-offenders.

2.1.2 TypesofResources (+) >> Service Area >> Boundary Spanners

Describes case management services

2.1.3 TypesofResources (+) >> Service Area >> Transportation

Describes there being resources in the community in order to help clients get transportation.

2.1.4 TypesofResources (+) >> Service Area >> HumanServices

Describes the Center of Human Services in McLean County that provides services with trained therapists and counselors who provide individual and family counseling, group services, advocacy and case management in the community.

2.1.5 TypesofResources (+) >> Service Area >> HousingProgram

Describes a housing program being utilized with ex-offenders in McLean County.

2.1.6 TypesofResources (+) >> Service Area >> Budgeting

Describes budgeting as a resource or as a practice that is taught for ex-offenders in McLean County.

2.1.7 TypesofResources (+) >> Service Area >> WomenServices

Describes the organization Labyrnth and the types of women services that are provided in McLean County.

2.1.8 TypesofResources (+) >> Service Area >> JobPartnership

Describes job partnership being a resource available and provided for ex-offenders in McLean County.

2.1.9 TypesofResources (+) >> Service Area >> MentalHealth/SubAbuse

Describes mental health and substance abuse being a resource or service provided in McLean County. This could involve the organization; Chestnut.

2.1.9.1 TypesofResources (+) >> Service Area >> MentalHealth/SubAbuse >> Treatment

Describes substance abuse or mental health treatment in place in the community.

2.1.9.2 TypesofResources (+) >> Service Area >> MentalHealth/SubAbuse >> Therapy

Describes group or individual therapy being provided by local organizations in the community.

2.1.9.3 TypesofResources (+) >> Service Area >> MentalHealth/SubAbuse >> Meds

Describes the ability of ex-offenders being able to acquire medications in the community.

2.1.9.4 TypesofResources (+) >> Service Area >> MentalHealth/SubAbuse >> Peer Support

Describes the agency using peer models to work with clients who have been through similar things and can show them the way through the program.

2.1.10 TypesofResources (+) >> Service Area >> Public Assistance

Describes the agency providing money and assistance to their clients.

2.1.10.1 TypesofResources (+) >> Service Area >> Public Assistance >> Supplies

Describes the agency providing supplies such as pots and pans, linens, etc. for the clients.

2.1.10.2 TypesofResources (+) >> Service Area >> Public Assistance >> Food

Describes the agency helping clients with food.

2.1.11 TypesofResources (+) >> Service Area >> Legal

Describes the service area being offered to ex-offenders as clients.

2.1.11.1 TypesofResources (+) >> Service Area >> Legal >> Info

Describes information and education being a resource service providers give to their clients.

3 Community Context

Describes background information on the context of McLean County as a whole. This could involve relations within the community, the economy, residential stability, racial integration or segregation and resource deprivation.

3.1 Community Context >> Social Economy

Describes the socioeconomic state of the county and how that affects the agency's ability to distribute resources to clients.

3.1.1 Community Context >> Social Economy >> Poor Economy

Describes little resources or funding within the community.

3.1.2 Community Context >> Social Economy >> GoodEconomy

Describes plentiful or abundant resources or funding within the community.

3.2 Community Context >> Barriers_Org

Describes how the barriers affects their local organization. This could involve the organization not being able to meet all of clients' needs due to a lack of resources.

3.2.1 Community Context >> Barriers_Org >> Diminished/SolvedBarrier

Describes what the solved or diminished barrier would look like.

3.2.2 Community Context >> Barriers_Org >> Barriers_Client (+)

Describes how the ex-offenders they are serving are affected by obstacles that are in the way to receiving the help they need to reintegrate successfully.

Instability

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Describes the lack of structure the individual experiences living in the community. This could involve social or economic struggles.

3.2.3 Community Context >> Barriers_Org >> Barriers_Concern

Describes the severity of the barriers that prohibit individuals from receiving the reentry services they need in order to be successful.

3.2.4 Community Context >> Barriers_Org >> Barriers_Why

Describes the policy implications or structural reasons why individuals are not able to receive all of the services they need.

3.2.5 Community Context >> Barriers_Org >> Barriers_Org-Impact

Describes if the local agency has the ability to change these barriers for ex-offenders.

3.3 Community Context >> ResidentialInstability

Describes neighborhoods that have more residential turnover, homelessness and emergency shelters with individuals in the area.

3.4 Community Context >> Racial Integration

Describes McLean County having a broad range of diversity in the neighborhoods.

3.5 Community Context >> WealthSegregation

Describes the neighborhoods being divided by class or by the amount of wealth.

3.6 Community Context >> RacialSegregation (+)

Describes neighborhoods that are separated by race within the community.

Racial Segregation ▣

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Describes neighborhoods being divided by race.

3.7 Community Context >> SocialTies

Describes positive social relations within the community.

3.8 Community Context >> NegativeSocial

Describes negative social relations within the community.

3.9 Community Context >> ResourceDeprivation

Describes neighborhoods that have less resources or tools for ex-offenders.

3.9.1 Community Context >> ResourceDeprivation >> SmallTown

Describes the small towns in McLean County outside of Bloomington and Normal being in need of more resources for ex-offenders.

3.10 Community Context >> NeighborhoodDisruption

Describes neighborhoods that have more crime or instability with daily activities. This could involve words like chaotic.