

Introduction

It's important to recognize the complexity of any prison system and Florida is no exception. Consider the logistical nightmare of housing people with such varied backgrounds as cultural diversities, educational levels, and social skills with ethical and moral ideologies that would shatter the most liberal communities that exist. There is always a great deal of discrepancy between that which is best for justice and for society in general.

The best possible means to prepare an inmate for his or her return to society is the introduction of programs. But a sincere effort must include all levels of administration from legislation to DOC secretary, and daily operating staff. For any educational/reform initiative to succeed, where funding alone has not yield a return on our investment, society must uproot its belief system that has been passed down by the very institution sworn to protect its moral code of justice, the courts. But a fair struggle cannot take place when people are dissuaded from seeking truth or when truth is hidden. Truth must be in following reason, not thwarting it.

Prison infrastructure was not considered for this present day eventuality, (100k inmates). As implausible as this might suggest, society has attempted to crawl out of a desperate situation in their interpretation of justice by a method of extracting ideas altogether foreign to the original intent of "judgement of one's peers".

The primitive instincts are for emotions and loose imaginings and these are the provinces of justice. Just as the fundamental principle of justice is outraged when a man or woman is condemned by popular opinion.

State correction officers are still in the infantile state where they have not as yet learned that the sequence of events are not to be interrupted by their desire of punishment. With a mind set upon that of expiation, there remains no positive end result. There is still a great deal of charlatany of state correction facilities in the construction of justice in all things combined to overcome the senses, to play upon the emotions and to subdue reason. But, for any new idea to succeed, there must be consistency in application which is an obstacle not easily overcome by prison standards.

When a business advertizes change, internal or external, of any sort, there is certainly apprehension within the rank and file. So when pieces of this change comes together there is caution surrounding those involved in this unknown. Expectations can be an expensive outlay of coordination, resources, infrastructure change and the speculative investment of success. Any number of factors come to mind for a formula that would satisfy all those involved to any limited degree of satisfaction.

To nurture and encourage one's identified potential. To initiate change in one's perspective of his or her surroundings and seek out opportunity where none might exist.

To instill a philosophy that crime is a temporary satisfaction with heavy consequences and that family can save your life.
To enact a pattern for change in attitude-behavior by the inmate to make overall prison operation constructive both for the inmate and staff and promote a sound business model.
To demonstrate a policy of change by DOC towards positive results that is conducive to social integration of incarcerated persons.

The stage has been set, foundations and parameters established to coordinate a solid base for change within the prison system. I will present opinion and facts to support DOC's responsibility to the "people" that change in the punishment of crime needs to be tempered with social and emotional learning, SEL. The path to physical freedom is but one obstacle inmates challenge. Embedded in their psyche are the hallmarks fear, anxiety, separation, failure, and the deep seated scare forevermore, "convict". In the game of life, failure is not an option but an acceptable fact in experiencing life to the fullest in the exploration of the human spirit. For it is this exploration of the unknown that we create our destiny.

Topics

Associate parallel points in education of SEL, Faith Based Program in conjunction with community survival in prison.

- A) My experience with Faith Based program, classes and how they interplay with prison life.
- B) SEL education and how it might improve overall well-being, and cooperation with other inmates and staff.

Describe pathway FDC has chosen to change attitude-behavior of inmates, I.P. initiative, officer training, I.R.A.

- A) Incentivized Program
- B) Identify, Intercede, Resource, Assessment

Dissimulate relationship is social, emotional, and stability & well-being in cultural differentiation.

- A) How I fit socially with prison life.
- B) Complications in emotional communications
- C) Cultural ideologies in conflict with prison policy and procedure.

Identify infrastructure parameters facilitating change by legislation, DOC secretary, administration and daily operating staff.

- A) Prisons inability to accommodate population demands as needs of life skill sets and re-entry opportunity.
- B) Maintaining qualified staff to teach, liabilities.
- C) Providing resources, material for education and vocational skills.
- D) Daily operating staff interpersonal ideologies

Topics

Corrolate connections of SEL and prison reform alternatives.

- A) Demonstrate SEL benefit for social cooperation to prison operation.
- B) Benefits for staff cooperation with change in attitude-behavior with long and short term goals to reduce recidivism.

Social responsibility of DOC in relation to community development, family and cultural identification.

- A) DOC's complex system to deal with 100k inmates
- B) DOC has adapted inmates for care, custody, and control but lacks the same once released from prison.
- C) Probation is Prison - must assume responsibility of care, custody, and control.
- D) Ignores family needs for integration with returning post-incarcerated.

Rap Sheet

Crime: a simplistic definition: violation of the law. Law itself is one aspect or phase of social life. Control of conduct through organized social authority.

Crime is an expression of social maladjustment.

3 classifications of criminals.

① Inborn - congenital defect, cannot distinguish right from wrong. 10 to 15% of criminal population.

② Habitual - normal person who has acquired a tendency to crime from his environment. Professional criminal. Usually above average person of intelligence.

A) More common type - occasional habitual criminal. a weak, mentally, person who drifts into crime through temptation. 40 to 50% of prison population.

③ Single Offender - commits a crime under stress or temptation. Being relatively moral and law abiding. Usually commits a crime of passion or accidental. 40 to 50% of criminal population.

There are 1,000,000.00 convictions annually in the U.S. for crimes, felonies and misdemeanors.

Rap Sheet

According to the U.S. census, as best can be determined for Florida: (Gender specific?)

There are: 149,691 people committed to serve sentences.

- 91,772 serving sentences (prison)
- 77,269 male
- 4503 female
- 55,111 white
- 26,661 black
- 53,292 state penitentiaries
- 7261 state reformatories
- 18,544 county jails
- 2675 city prisons.
- unknown in county jails awaiting trial.

64% of all prisoners are single persons. Conditions with family life have the greatest influence on crime. Other factors include:

- ① Economic crises
- ② Social isolation
- ③ Mental disease
- ④ Lack of employment
- ⑤ Poverty
- ⑥ Lack of education

3 things necessary for society to eliminate crime.

- ① Correct social conditions of all kinds - implicit biases - environment.
- ② Physical heredity by rational system of eugenics
- ③ Education from infancy up.

IMPOSSIBLE

Essay 1
pg 1

Associate parallel points in education of SEL, Faith Based Program in conjunction with community survival in prison.

Prison existence is just that. We exist from day to day. You could describe prison as a social failure based upon the isolation from moral and ethical influences. However, there are influences that try to shape and mold what should be prison. One of these influences is referred to as a Faith Based Program. I participated in such a program. Its main goal is to change the way you see yourself in relation to family, friends and your surroundings as a whole. The primary influence is religion. All Christian teaching. Their theory, that is to say Doc, is that a belief in Jesus will deliver you from evil and temptation, and give you a perspective of change in who you were to whom you need to become. Several problems with this point in view. The most obvious would be. People here have no idea who they are let alone where they want to go. The most heartbreaking stories of physical, sexual, and drug abuse, at ages 7-10 are from the most prolific of criminals, hardcore in their ideologies of what is right and wrong.

For me to socialize with them would mean that I compromise my belief system in all things family and cooperation with policy and procedure to survive among them for my own well-being and safety. I did just that!

Essay 1
pg 2

But a strange thing happened. I began to realize what was missing from their lives. Family structure. To me, family is best characterized as a social group who impose guide lines in social behavior. Identifies parameters for achieving one goal at a time. Establishes emotional fitness by expressing our feelings in a healthy attitude that would promote empathy and support from our peers and those who we look up to for leadership and strength in bonding.

From my perspective, the most debilitating aspect of Faith based teaching is that, it's not a tangible thing that most criminals wish to embrace. Look at it from their point of view. What's it gonna get me? What's in it for me? Let me explain. If they were to interview for a job, set aside a job as a minister or church organization, and you described your qualifications as one who could recite the bible front to back and understand Christian teachings, they would be impressed, I am sure. Then they would ask you what other qualifications do you have.

Don't misunderstand my message. Religion in prison, in my opinion, is a tool to try and soothe the savage beast. It's a moral framework for living in an environment encased in violence. DOC must take note of a persons social and emotional life before they can address the origins of his or her crime.

Essay 1

PJ-3

Opens up the rational possibilities of reasoning to any given problem to propel a person forward to sustain a life of living in the here and now. Inmates need to realize there is more to life than they originally thought.

The underlying problem with prison is society as a whole. Society has established a mind set that people convicted of a crime should be punished. Fair Enough! But to what degree is that punishment? Once you remove a persons freedom, and confine them in a community of like minded souls, you create a social system of lost, angry and malleable men and women, most of which are 18 to 30 yrs. of age and 45 to 80. Young minds to shape and too old to care. I came to prison at age 52. The transition was traumatic. I was a prime target for the predators. Make no mistake, these included the prison guards. I had to decide, very quickly what was more important, my pride or my life. Material objects can be replaced, simple as that. However, whenever confronted with any type of problem, it was best to stand my ground. Only once were fists flying in fury. It wasn't respect after that, far worse. Not worth it. I meant nothing. Which proved to be an advantage.

Taking any kind of classes within the system was perceived as a sign of weakness by the general population. Most prisons are populated with a mixture of gangs of all sorts, from all over the country. Affiliates all converge in the melting pot that which is Florida.

Essay 1

Pg 4

Inmates live in a social environment. Belonging is a need, the need to belong. This refers to the strong psychological and emotional need all people have to feel important, worthwhile, significant, and have value. Learning to identify our emotions in any given situation is essential to our decision making process. Emotions waxy heavily with what you are concerned about in the here and now¹. We must control our nature to react on impulse. Expressing our identified emotions can give attention to our conscious behavior and lead us through problem situations. This is what SEL is all about, social and emotional learning.

For any successful prison reform, there must be a uniform structure in principles of sustainable life skills to produce a quality post-incarcerated person that is employable, reliable, independent, and able to communicate his or her opinion of life experience in a positive way. During the 1950's, 60's, and 70's, my youth, it was a natural process to express our feelings to coordinate any effort towards a common goal. Prison on the other hand is about self-fulfillment, and instant gratification with no short or long term goals.

¹ Stanford University psychology professor James Gross defines it as "the process by which individuals influence which emotions they have, when they have them, and how they experience and express these emotions".

Essay 1

PJ.5

Today, technology is advancing at a pace unseen in my generation. Technical skills alone are not enough to secure and keep employment ².

This is the new reality, SEL, social and emotional learning. To establish a pattern of wise decisions. To understand the consequences of bad life choices BEFORE they happen. To filter our social interactions and how it effects all aspects of communicating one's emotions, feelings, and intentions. The ability to absorb different points of contrast working towards a common goal. Peter Salovey, professor of psychology and president of Yale University, and Jack Mayer, professor of psychology at the University of New Hampshire first introduced the idea of emotional intelligence as such ³.

² The Class of 2030 and Life Ready Learning in collaboration with Microsoft and McKinsey & Company's Education Learning suggest that "30 to 40% of today's jobs will require social and emotional competencies"

³ "Feelings are a form of information. They're like news reports from inside our psyches, sending messages about what's going on inside the unique person that is each of us in response to whatever internal or external events we're experiencing. We need to access that information and then figure out what it's telling us, that we can make the most informed decisions."

Essay 1

Pg. 6

I retired from the restaurant business after 30 yrs as owner/operator. One of the youngest Master Chef at age 33. My main goal in life was to improve myself, not prove myself. I've been with my wife for 39 yrs this past year and still counting. After teaching here in prison, re-entry program, RISE, (respect is everything), I always focused on one aspect of prison existence. Wasting Away! So I stressed what I thought is most important. How would you imagine yourself upon release and what tools do you need to get there. To bring realization for the inmate that your past should be just that - the past. One needs to look forward with positive attitude - behavior that is inherent in all of us if we nurture our perspective of what can be accomplished with family, friends and the basic need to belong. To secure the feelings and emotions that there are ALWAYS alternatives to everything to achieve positive outcomes.