

CFBSJS Project report

Title: *Exploring Dementia Care in Corrections: An Integrative Literature Review*

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Led by Dr. Shelley Peacock (College of Nursing) the multidisciplinary research team conducted a thorough search of the research literature to examine the state of the science regarding dementia care in correctional settings. This issue is important to explore as there has been a dramatic increase in the number of aging offenders and many have the potential to develop dementia while in prison. This will impose new responsibilities for correctional administration who must adjust to providing care to aging offenders, especially those living with dementia given their physical and cognitive impairments.

While several editorial and opinion works exist on this topic, it was challenging to locate research that was conducted specific to the context of dementia care in correctional settings. In order to locate empirical, peer-reviewed research that at least discussed dementia in correctional settings, we had to alter our search criteria to be broader and include older adults as a key term. This resulted in locating 6 research articles. Key findings include (a) the need to recognize dementia as a concern in correctional settings; (b) older adults in correctional settings should be screened for dementia; and (c) recommendations for improved screening and care practices. The most significant finding however, is the utter lack of research completed with and for older adults in correctional settings (i.e., many barriers exist to gaining access to this vulnerable population). Creative efforts to enhance research in this area are imperative to guide evidence-based support and care for older adults living with dementia and related conditions who are in correctional settings. The integrative review is currently being prepared for publication in a corrections-focused peer-reviewed journal.