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To: [SAC](#)
Subject: Feedback for Jail Survey, Interview Questions, and Proposal for Data Gathering
Date: Thursday, June 16, 2022 7:45:33 PM

Proposal for Data Gathering: I am appreciative that there is effort to gather data from people in the jail. I also believe that gathering qualitative data regarding the experience of people formerly incarcerated in the jail is essential in the process of conducting a community needs assessment because these folks are not currently in the traumatic environment of the jail which lends a different perspective on what their experience was like incarcerated there, and may have some valuable perspective on what kinds of programming would have helped them.

I am confused in the proposal: will inmates be asked both interview questions and be given the survey? It seems like only the officers will be interviewed and only surveys will be given to inmates. I believe that the interview process is essential, and multiple choice survey questions will only yield certain kinds of data that have limitations as far as usefulness. Getting to hear the intelligence and wisdom of someone's experience in the jail will be important, especially if there is an intention to ask folks about what other kinds of things would have been helpful instead of incarceration (which currently isn't represented in either the survey or the interview questions).

Interview Questions/Survey:

I think all of the survey questions are helpful, but there needs to be questions in both the interview/survey about what kinds of programming beyond incarceration would support someone in not reoffending/committing the crime in the first place. As I said above, this would be better explored in an interview vs. multiple choice.

One bias I see in these questions is that many of them assume/imply that jail is the site to receive services. However I don't think that necessarily needs to be true.

I'm including some suggested additional questions to include that I believe are important:

1.
What was your experience like in the jail?

2.
How did going to jail impact your life?

What were the positive impacts of being in jail, if any?

What were the negative impacts of being in jail, if any?

4. Is there any kind of support that would have been helpful to have had before you committed the crime so that you didn't commit the crime in the first place?
5. What kind of support do you need/did you need in order to make changes in your life so that you don't get charges in the future?
6.
OPTIONAL: Why were you in Jail? What kind of charge was it?

5.
OPTIONAL: Why did you do what you did?