

Introduction

Methodology

Themes that emerged

Introduction

As a result of mass incarceration, prison conditions have deteriorated.

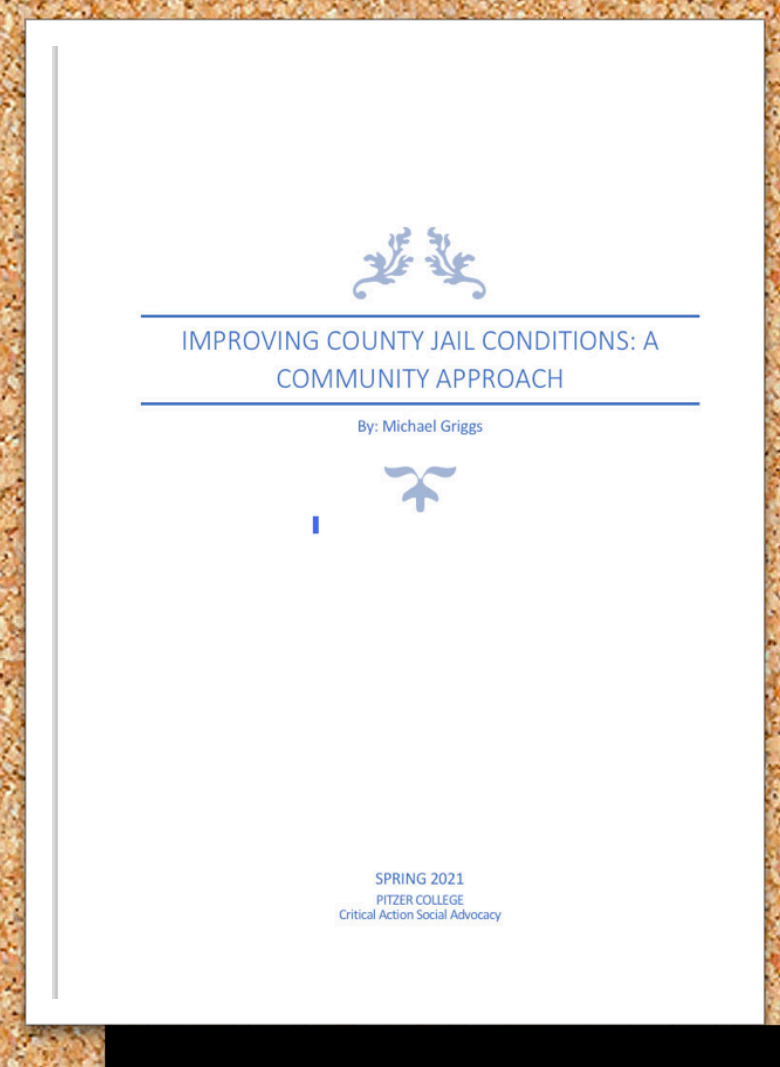
Legislative reforms, shifted the problem facing prisons to county jails.

This is abundantly clear in Riverside county. Who is now under medical oversight due to inadequate medical services? County? These mandates. Conditions have not improved.

This paper will apply a critical lens to society by, as we challenge the world we want, to make the world we want to see.

Research question

How can community help improve the conditions inside county jail?



Three Semi Structured Interviews

- two starting over staff
- chair person of inmate family council.

Transcription of letters sent from county jail

Oversight mechanisms have little effect

Conditions inside county jails are deplorable

Settings

My first Day @ West Valley Detention Center

- Home depot
- bradshaw home furniture
- New balance
- tristar industries

No matter:

- The fact that I was convicted 12 years ago
- I am a student attending a prestigious liberal arts college
- Not on probation or parole
- Have had some "success"

Nothing can remove the lifelong stigma associated with a criminal conviction, and the life long ramifications it can have on those who possess one.

Organizations like SOI and RAOUON:

- Act as a support system for the formerly and currently incarcerated
- reach: letter writing campaign
- housing
- Participatory Defense
- Civic Participation
- support services

Incarceration is a demeaning process, it strips people from their dignity, separates people from their community/families and once released, the government offers little assistance

That is why community based organizations are so important. They provide the services that the gov. is unable or unwilling to provide.

SOI

RAOUON

"The goal of StartingOver Inc is to catch people, embrace them, support them and uplift them"

RESULT:



ANALYSIS OF THE DATA

Brizilian philosopher Paulo Friere author of pedagogy of the oppressed says: critical pedagogy, is a primary step towards challenging oppression through authentic relationships based on mutual learning, critical reflection, reciprocity. It is a community based educational model that aims to deconstruct hierarchies of power and knowledge by reconstructing common knowledge. (Knowledge of the people formed by lived experience) it is a consciousness raising process that mobilizing communities towards grassroots social change. - Paulo Friere

Tessa describes this as accompaniment or accompaniment in english, which involved sharing and participating with a community in their ways of being from an epistemological situation that honors the knowledge and lived experiences of the community. - Tessa Hicks Peterson

In her book: Healing Justice Bell hooks says "healing justice is healing ourselves so that we may connect and strengthen our combined capacities to advocate for justice, recognizing our strengths as individuals and as collectives. One of the strengths of communities is their ability to love, support assist members so they can survive injustice and trauma. -Bell hooks

Litirature review



Mass incarceration is a not intentional effort of omnipotent rulers:

- a symptom of a capitalistic driven society
- a mechanism to punish the poor, his basic theory is: those who abide by this capitalistic driven society are praised and rich and the poor are punished and go to prison

Incarceration is:

- A new form of slavery.
- removes all of the rights that civil rights movement fought to gain
- strips people of humanity
- profit driven



AUDACIOUS VISION

Transition practice recognizes that the future can guide us and that we are not constrained to the present or the past.

Q: What do we want and how do we want it?

EMBODIMENT

Transition practice recognizes that embodiment is crucial to ensure that we have access to all the resources we need.

Q: Who do we need to be doing about the world we want and need? What do we need to do to ensure practice is for the people who reflect the vision?

RADICAL CONNECTION

Transition practice recognizes that everything gets done through relationships and nothing gets done without them.

Q: How do we make choices that bring us what we want, while connecting forward and organizing ourselves?

STRATEGIC NAVIGATION

Transition practice recognizes that the three foundational transition practices create strategic navigation practice.

Q: How do we make choices that bring us what we want, while connecting forward and organizing ourselves?

VISION & COMMITMENT PRACTICES

- Core purpose
- Wholeness
- Integrity
- Accountability
- Future narrative
- The long view

EMBODIMENT PRACTICES

- Board awareness
- Practice space
- Concrete and visible
- Agency
- Rhythm
- Relational Power
- Creativity and play
- Integrating habits and well-being towards health

RELATIONSHIP PRACTICES

- Margins to Center
- Intentional and explicit
- Relational and
- Radical connection and care
- Build the "Bigger Us"
- Build trust with change when we need
- Build capacity
- Interdependence
- Integration of making space to heal from harm.

NAVIGATION PRACTICES

- Many Paths up the Mountain
- Big Lies
- Shared and Action
- Learning by doing
- Learning as we go and adjusting as we learn
- Disciplines
- Stories of navigation
- Leadership for the
- Translating values into technical implementation

Next Steps

- create working group, with accompaniment in mind. Honoring and Acknowledging, the lived experience of the community this includes families, friends, formerly incarcerated and currently incarcerated people.
- look at IEG as a template of what works, and work collaboratively to improve and adapt! this model on the county level to achieve transformative change
- Identify stakeholders (who would be interested in supporting this initiative)
- board of super visors
- sheriff
- Captains of facilities
- If identified, create pilot model to prove feasibility

If county does not support:

- Identify state lawmakers who are champions for social change.
- work with them to draft policy initiative which would force implementation

I highlight these quotes because the most salient data I obtained during this internship did not come from statistical analysis, numbers or reports. It came from the real experts, in meaningful conversations with people with lived experience, the formerly incarcerated, staff and families of those most affected by mass incarceration.

Conversations

Hearing the stories and reflecting on the themes that emerged allowed me to reflect deeper on my own lived experience in jails and prisons. Tessa calls this becoming critically conscious, by becoming critically conscious, you can begin to dismantle the narratives and systems that cause the suffering.

With this in mind continued my internship more intentional about my conversations, how we might mobilize our personal stories and lived experience towards improving the lives incarcerated through grassroots change.

What I Say:

What I tried to accomplish throughout this literature review is to highlight the injustice and human suffering that has been brought about by the denial of freedom.

Whether incarceration is a new form of slavery or Jim Crow, or a symptom of the capitalistic society; one thing is certain: incarceration has been and continues to be a tool of separation. (credit to sophia)

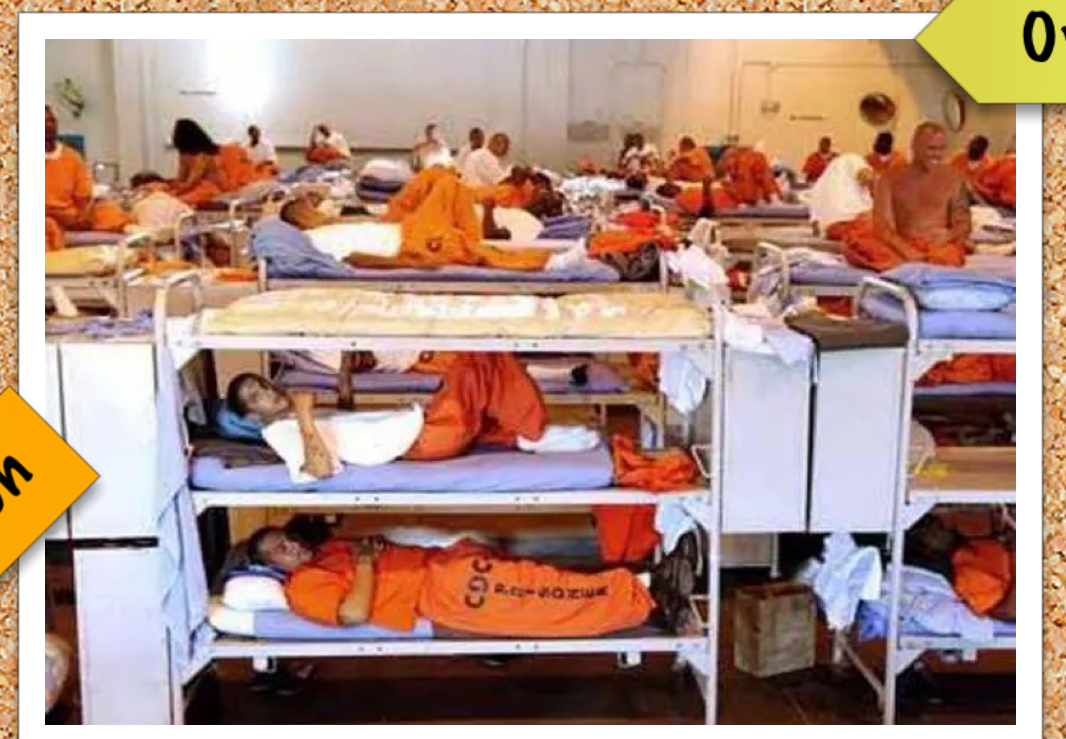
Separation black from white, rich from the poor, the rights from individuals and individuals from families and communities.

MY POSITION IS SIMPLE. NO RADICAL REFORM OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM CAN BE COMPLETE WITHOUT COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT. I CONTEND THAT SERIOUS AND SUSTAINED ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN COMMUNITY AND CORRECTIONS WOULD NOT ONLY IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THOSE HELD WITHIN ITS CONFINES, BUT ALSO WORK TO THE BENEFIT OF THE SHEERFS, A&E, AND THE COMMUNITIES.

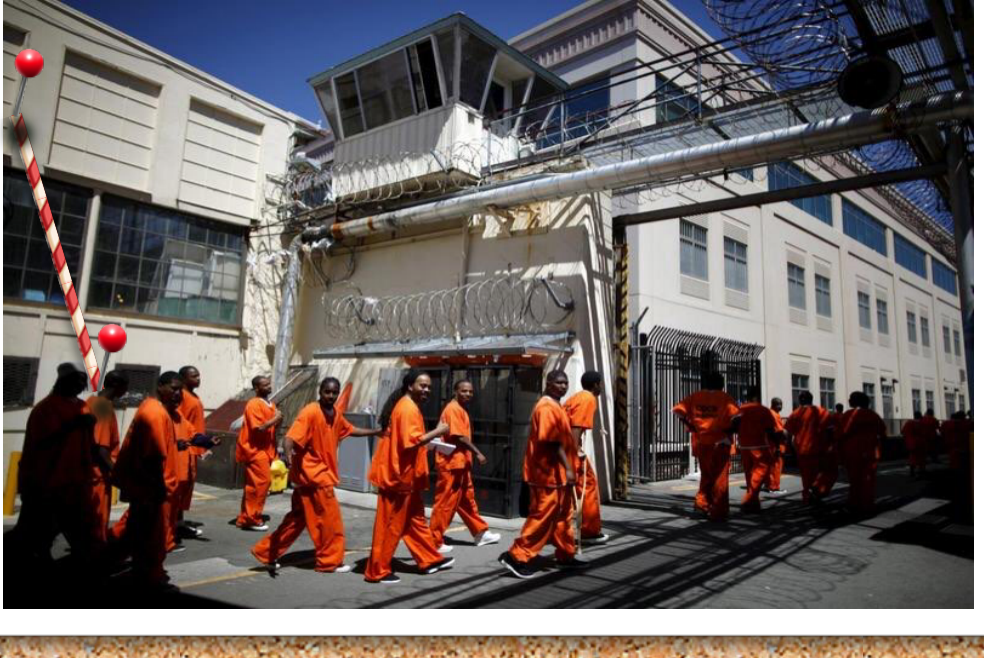
Overcrowding

76,000 California inmates now eligible for earlier releases

Eventually it became apparent that though on crime was not working and that despite crime rates going down, incarceration rates still rose

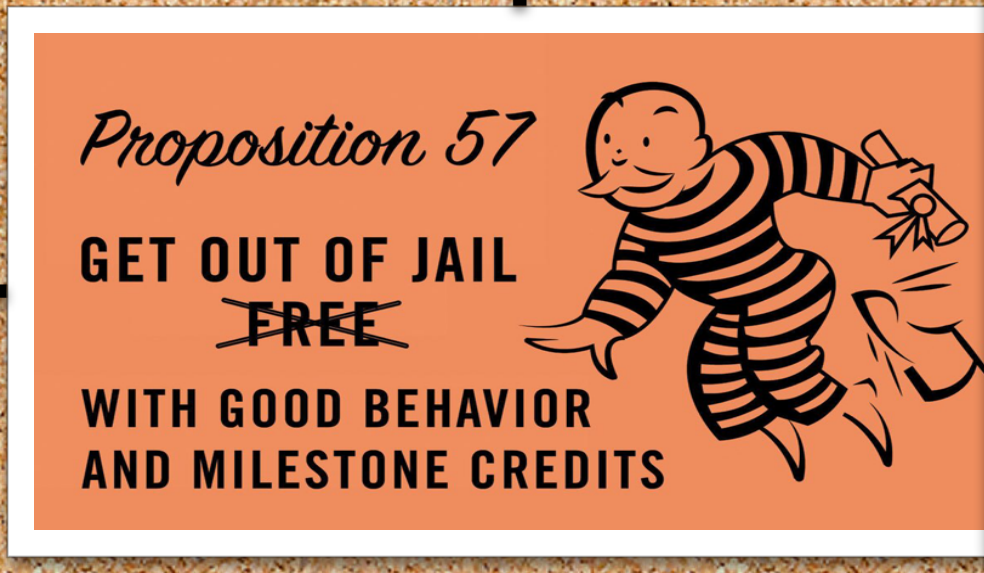


How California reduced its inmate population to a 30-year low



Brown v. Plata

In 2011, in the case of *Brown v. Plata*, ordered the state of California to aggressively reduce its prison population by releasing as many as 58,000 inmates over the next two years.



AB 109 Realignment in California - County Jail vs State Prison

