Older Adults & Reentry

* This population reports more co-morbid conditions, including hypertension, decreased kidney function, and heart conditions, than compared to aging adults in the community (Skarupski, Gross, Schrack, Deal, & Eber, 2018).
* One of the most prominent adjustments older adults must make is learning to adapt to their accelerating physical and mental health. In addition, older adults have a unique reintegration process to due the loss of relationship experienced (Smoyer, Elumn, & Blankenship 2019). This leaves the older adult with an experience of loss due to the age and physical condition of their established social relationships.
* Additional research shows the combination of internal (individual) and external (family and community) resources makes for optimal reintegration (Maschi, Viola, & Morgen, 2014). Including as many factors regarding the individual and their community as possible can make for a more successful reintegration.

Holistic Approach to Reintegration:

* Resource factors include stable housing, accommodating work environments, and a steady income (Wyse, 2018).
* Network factors include previously established family or friend relationships, and the establishment of new connections to family members, friends, or groups within their community (Wyse, 2018).
* Psychosocial factors surround the feelings of overall integration into society from incarceration. The processing of these feelings can include resources such as access to medical care (physical and mental health) and access to medications (Wyse, 2018).
* All these factors influence each other and the overall process of reintegration.

NASW Code of Ethics:

* Social workers can use a variety of skills, including research and advocacy to shed light on the social injustices experienced by the incarcerated older adult. Additionally, they are tasked with the responsibility of providing services that will appropriately address the wide array of needs the older adult experiences (Maschi et al., 2014).
* “The criminal justice system is designed to punish guilty people, but social workers have independent roles based on their ethics and values to promote quality of life and rehabilitation efforts for older inmates” (Jang & Canada, 2014).

Resources

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