

Project Summaries

Family ties and youth lives: Bridging gaps at Cobham for lasting change. This project addressed the challenges associated with minimal family engagement and support for youth in the Cobham Youth Justice Centre, highlighting the need for greater connection. Recommendations included establishing a structured program to enhance family involvement, facilitating regular family visits, and creating workshops that educate families about the youth justice system, fostering understanding and collaboration to improve outcomes for the youth.

Virtual bridges: Enhancing family engagement in youth justice through innovative digital spaces. This project focused on overcoming barriers to family engagement in the youth justice system due to geographical and economic constraints. Recommendations entailed developing a virtual platform that allowed real-time communication through video calls and messaging, providing resources and online support groups for families, and integrating educational materials about the juvenile justice system to empower families and involve them more effectively in their youth's rehabilitation.

A path to support: Establishing network support for incarcerated youths. This project addressed the need for comprehensive support systems for incarcerated youth to facilitate their rehabilitation and reintegration into society. Recommendations included forming collaborative networks that connected various stakeholders, such as social workers, educators, and mental health professionals, to provide holistic support, as well as implementing mentorship programs that paired incarcerated youth with positive role models from the community, promoting personal growth and resilience.

Hope beyond walls: A family-centred app for youth detention. The problem focus of this project revolved around the disconnection families felt from their incarcerated youth, which impacted both the youth's wellbeing and familial relationships. Recommendations included designing a family-centred mobile application that facilitated communication between youth and their families, provided updates on youth progress, and included resources to help families navigate the youth justice system, aiming to enhance connectivity and emotional support during incarceration.

Dear diary: Journaling a path to family connection. This project focused on the lack of emotional communication between youth and their families, which could hinder relationships and healing. Recommendations included implementing a journaling program that encouraged youth to express their feelings and thoughts, allowing them to share their journal entries with family members; running workshops that taught families how to interpret and respond to the journal content, fostering more open lines of communication and mutual understanding.

Collecting clues, connecting communities: A data proposal for Cobham Youth Justice Centre. This project focused on the insufficient data regarding family engagement and its impact on the outcomes of youth within the Cobham Youth Justice Centre. Recommendations involved developing a comprehensive data collection framework that quantified family interactions, exploring the relationship between familial involvement and recidivism rates, and utilizing this data to inform evidence-based practices that enhanced family engagement strategies in the youth justice system.

Breaking the cycle. This project addressed the recurrence of youth offending within the justice system, with a focus on breaking the cycle of reoffending. Recommendations included implementing targeted rehabilitation programs that addressed underlying issues, such as mental health and substance abuse, providing access to educational and vocational training that enhanced life skills, and fostering community partnerships to create pathways for youth engagement post-release, ultimately striving to reduce recidivism rates.

Recrafting futures: Culturally inclusive interventions for incarcerated First Nation youth wellbeing. This project focused on the unique cultural and social challenges faced by incarcerated First Nation youth, leading to a lack of culturally relevant support. Recommendations included establishing culturally inclusive programs such as traditional healing practices, art and music therapy that reflected Indigenous heritage, and fostering connections with community elders, ensuring that these interventions promoted identity, resilience, and overall wellbeing among the youth.