



Healthcare Quality and Access for Justice-Involved Women

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Background

From 1980-2019, the population of incarcerated women in the United States has grown approximately 550% - twice the rate of growth in men's incarceration during the same period.¹

- Black and Latina women are disproportionately affected, with rates of incarceration 2.3% and 1.5% higher than those of white women, respectively.¹
- 75% of incarcerated women are of childbearing age, 61% are mothers, and nearly 4% are pregnant.¹
- Incarcerated women face healthcare challenges such as limited access to reproductive health services and high rates of mental health issues.

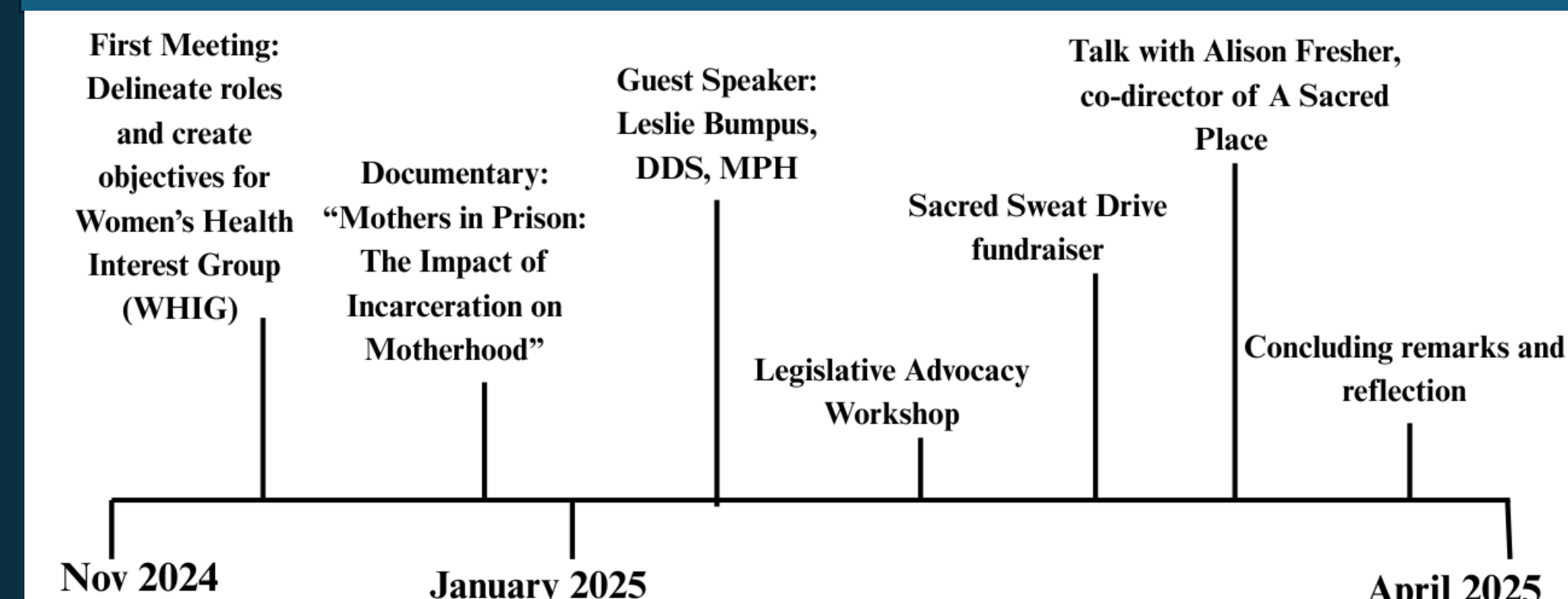
There is minimal legislation protection for the healthcare rights of incarcerated women.²

- 48 states do not provide HIV screenings in prisons.
- 41 states do not require prenatal nutrition counseling or education.
- Shackle use is unrestricted in 13 states and can be used during pregnancy and labor.

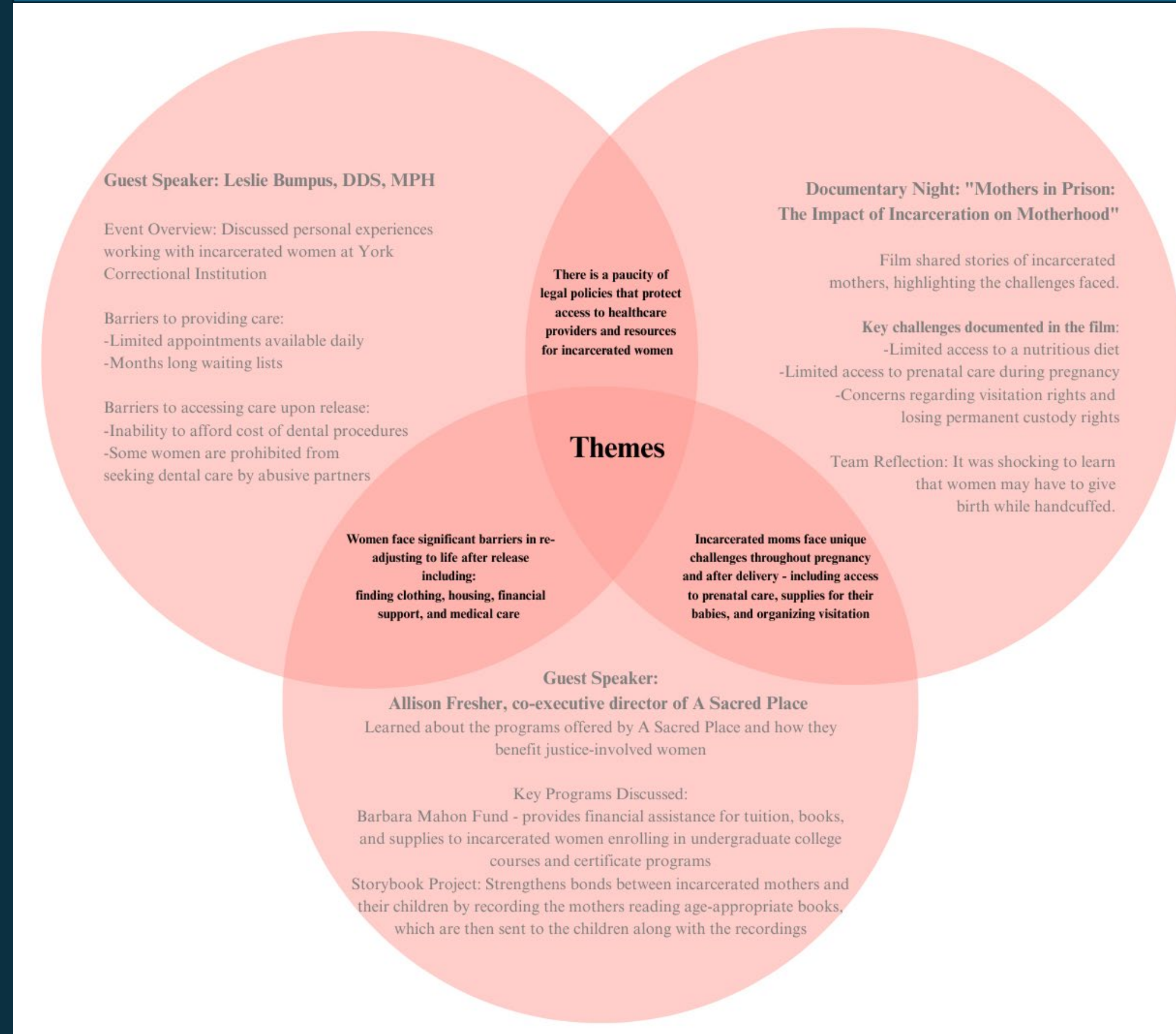
Objectives

- Explore the healthcare experiences of justice-involved women through community engagement, expert learning, and advocacy activities.
- Learn from experts about the provision of care of incarcerated women, including their access to resources and treatment options.
- Engage in advocacy events related to protecting reproductive rights to better understand how laws are enacted and how to advocate for patients in the justice system.
- Identify service projects to directly support incarcerated women.

Methods



Results



Community Outreach: A Sacred Place – Sacred Sweats Drive

- A Sacred Place is a local NPO dedicated to supporting incarcerated women in Connecticut.
- WHIG partnered with A Sacred Place by creating a multi-institutional fundraiser to donate sweatsuits for incarcerated women via the Sacred Sweats Drive.

The Sacred Sweats Drive was created to address the issue that incarcerated women are released with only the clothing that they had on at the time of the arrest. The Drive provides sweatsuits to support newly-released women.

- WHIG raised \$440 in donations through fundraising in our respective schools.
- WHIG was awarded \$350 in grant funding.
- All funds went towards the purchase of over 40 sweatsuit sets.

Conclusions

Team Member Final Reflections:

"My most impactful takeaway was the barriers and difficulties that healthcare providers face in treating incarcerated women."
"We were all respectful of each other's time and created a non-judgmental environment for people to feel comfortable sharing their opinions."
"Our diversity of life experiences and ideas made for interesting perspectives that taught me so much."

Thank you to our mentors Candice Quarella, MD, Maggie Manning, PsyD, Shanthi Rao, MSW, and the UST staff for their contribution to the WHIG this year, and to the WHIG members for their great work.

Please scan the QR code for our references. -->



Legislative Advocacy and Testimony Workshop Hosted by UConn MSFC x REN x Planned Parenthood

- Specific skills reviewed: Writing and delivering testimony
- Discussed upcoming legislature regarding reproductive health-related bills
- 3 testimonies submitted for: S.J. No. 35 RESOLUTION PROPOSING A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT CONCERNING DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX UNDER THE EQUAL PROTECTION CLAUSE

Interprofessional Team Highlights:

- Group Dynamics: Five academic institutions represented
- Strengths: Engaging events, opportunity to explore themes not addressed in other aspects of our training
- Challenges: Scheduling across exams, clinical rotations, and holidays