SR 950-32 Clinical and Applied Sociology

C. Brian Diggs

Omega Graduate School

Date: January 27, 2025

Professor

Joshua D. Reichard, DPhil, Ph.D., Eds, CCS

Assignment #1 – Core Essential Elements

1. Select One (1) Core Essential Element from the Syllabus Outline:

a. Create a 350-word original discussion paper (with cited sources) during the week of the residency. Be prepared to discuss and engage with other students during the live sessions. Post this document in DIAL.

b. Professor will check for quality of content and word-count requirements. Grade assigned will be Credit or No Credit (CR/NC).

Sociological interventions are strategies and actions designed to address social issues and improve community well-being. Public or private organizations can conduct them to effect change. Applying this concept to law enforcement involves police reform that addresses issues related to law enforcement practices, community relations, and systemic biases.

In the late eighties and early nineties, law enforcement shifted away from community policing models, which effectively limited the community's direct access to police officers on the beat. Once again, to gain the public's trust that we all have taken an oath to protect and serve, community policing, a theory of social intervention, is a good place to begin affecting changes in the relationship between law enforcement and the community. It involves engaging with community members, understanding their concerns, and collaborating to solve problems.

This attitude mandates accountability for law enforcement agents, empowers community members and the public to participate in decision-making, and prioritizes civil rights and liberties (Evers et al., 2024). As a result of police reform, law enforcement agencies have begun to adopt new policies that establish a connection with the public. Community-oriented police get to the root of the underlying causes of crime to mitigate the fear of non-law-abiding individuals (Evers et al., 2024).

Another aspect of social intervention in law enforcement is restorative justice. Restorative justice focuses on the processes that involve victims, offenders, and the community. It emphasizes accountability and making amends rather than punitive measures. As American society has reckoned with the harmful effects of mass incarceration, there has been a push to consider alternative forms of achieving justice (O'Brien, J. 2023). With restorative justice, an offender accepts responsibility for their actions and works to repair the harm caused to the victims. This approach gives victims an active voice to communicate their feelings, which helps in the healing process (O'Brien, J. 2023). Galatians 6:1 encourages believers to gently restore those caught in sin (*NIV Bible*, 2011). By applying God’s word to the criminal justice process, restorative justice practices aim to rehabilitate rather than solely punish offenders.

There has been a push to consider alternative forms of achieving justice. Restorative justice is one such method. Inspired by the traditions and practices of Indigenous peoples, restorative justice is a transformative approach to conflict resolution that offers a comprehensive means of addressing harm (O'Brien, J. 2023). It emphasizes the community rather than the single act that caused damage. Many jurisdictions and communities have turned to restorative justice to divert cases from the punitive criminal legal system (O'Brien, J. 2023).

These sociological interventions in law enforcement aim to create a more equitable and effective policing system that prioritizes community safety, trust, and collaboration. Forgiveness and reconciliation are also central. Restorative justice approaches that focus on healing relationships rather than mere punishment when appropriate can reflect biblical values.

# References

Chiji Longinus Ezeji. (2024). Innovative and disruptive policing: considering

intelligence-driven community policing as a remodeled strategy for addressing crime in contemporary society. International Journal of Business Ecosystem and Strategy (2687-2293), 6(5), 254–268. https://doi.org/10.36096/ijbes.v6i5.688

Evers, S., Husk, K., Napierala, H., Wendt, L., & Ansgar Gerhardus. (2024). Theories

used to develop or evaluate social prescribing in studies: a scoping review. BMC Health Services Research, 24(1). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-024-10563-6>

*NIV Bible*. (2011). Zondervan Pub. House.

O'Brien, J. (2023). Beyond due process: An examination of the restorative justice community

courts of chicago. J. Crim. L. & Criminology, 113, 685.