

ABSTRACT

Research shows high unemployment rates are related to increased recidivism rates (Ramakers et al., 2016, p. 15). Employment-based programs teach strictly vocational skills and do not incorporate the everyday skills needed to maintain long-term work and everyday life. The aim of this project, through the creation of educational modules, was to increase knowledge in recidivism reduction interventions and address implicit biases when working with this specialized population. This capstone project created an evidence-based 12-week program at the Afya Foundation that utilized an occupational therapy framework to help returning citizens secure employment and acquire the skills to succeed outside the penal system. Educational modules were created for Afya staff and occupational therapy fieldwork students to effectively deliver and ensure the program's sustainability. Outcomes of the capstone include a successful and at