Honors Layperson Summary and Proposal:

Juvenile Corrections

And

Developing Programs to Reduce Recidivism

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In the United States one of the prominent resources are its youth, however the United State dominates the industrial world in juvenile incarceration rates. Incarcerated juveniles create a disparity in families, schools and communities, which causes the juvenile justice system to address family unit issues, education deficiencies and at-risk communities. This thesis will deconstruct sociological and criminological theories, in order to provide a foundation for a comprehensive juvenile corrections rehabilitation program. A comprehensive juvenile corrections program will address the individual’s behavioral needs, family unit issues, educational deficiencies, as well as prepare the juvenile to return to the community as confident productive citizen. This will be documented by assessing and evaluating two comprehensive and successful juvenile corrections programs, which have reduced recidivism in their counties. Alternatively, there will be a comparison of the two successful programs with a program which is less successful due to the lack of comprehensive components and resulting higher rates of recidivism. Subsequently, there will be an evaluation of the strengths and weakness between the programs and how they connect to sociological and criminological theory. The thesis will clarify how the disparities with in families, education and communities create a pipeline for juveniles to go to prison and how implementing a comprehensive juvenile corrections program will reduce recidivism, while rebuilding fragmented family units and communities. Finally, the intention is to build a model program founded on theoretical components and designed to incorporate the components of the successful juvenile corrections programs, in order to deliver the juvenile corrections system a strong foundation for the future.