



Joseph C. Cornwall Center  
for Metropolitan Studies

You are cordially invited to a  
**Cornwall "Brown Bag"\* Luncheon Seminar**

Sponsored by

The Joseph C. Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies, Rutgers University

**Joel M. Caplan, Ph.D., Assistant Professor**  
**School of Criminal Justice**  
Rutgers University – Newark Campus

Presents:

***"Parole Release Decisions in New Jersey: The Impact of Public Input and the Needs of People Who Provide It"***

Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2009  
Time: 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.  
Location: Cornwall Center, Rutgers University,  
47 Bleeker Street, Newark, NJ

Dr. Joel Caplan is an assistant professor in the School of Criminal Justice at Rutgers University his research focuses on social controls, particularly public safety and corrections. He studies the intersection of criminal justice policies and practices and the effects on various stakeholders such as victims, offenders, practitioners, and the public-at-large.

Public input at parole hearings was recently found to have no significant impact on release decisions in New Jersey. Within this context, key stakeholders may become increasingly frustrated with parole boards if their opinions are actively solicited but their expectations are repeatedly not met. New research is underway to identify the needs of victims and non-victims at the tail-end of the Criminal Justice process through a content analysis of their written and verbal input to parole board members. When considered more broadly than as only a mechanism for influencing parole release decisions, input may be the best means of identifying concerned stakeholders who are most in need of support services. A more responsive parole system could improve its own legitimacy by addressing the needs of the relatively small but vocal cohorts of victims, inmates, their families, and the general public who choose to participate. Dr. Caplan will be discussing these issues.

Due to limited seating RSVPs are required.

Responses will be taken on a first come first serve basis.

RSVP to Irene Welch - 973-353-1750 Ext. 3869 or irenew@rutgers.edu

By Wednesday, March 4, 2009

\*Beverages and dessert will be provided.