



National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse (NRFC) Webinar Series July 2012 Webinar



Effective Strategies for Working with Fathers Returning from Prison

July 12, 2012

12:30 – 2:00 pm (EDT)

Presenters:

**Eugene Schneeberg, Center for Faith-Based & Neighborhood Partnerships,
U.S. Department of Justice**

Tasseli McKay, RTI International

Marvin Charles, DADS Program, Seattle, WA



National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse Overview

- The **National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse** is an Office of Family Assistance (OFA) funded national resource for fathers, practitioners, programs/Federal grantees, states, and the public at-large who are serving or interested in supporting strong fathers and families.
- NRFC Director: Kenneth Braswell, Sr.
e-mail: kenneth.braswell@gmail.com
- NRFC Manager: Patrick J. Patterson
e-mail: patrick.patterson@icfi.com



National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse Overview

- Our goals are to provide, facilitate, and disseminate current research , proven and innovative strategies that will encourage and strengthen fathers and families, and providers of services via the following priorities:
 - Robust NRFC Website – www.Fatherhood.gov
 - Annual Media Campaign that will the promote Responsible Fatherhood field and efforts of local programs (***Fatherhood Buzz***)
 - Social media engagement



National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse Overview

NRFC Priorities Continued:

- Development and dissemination of written products that will advance the responsible fatherhood research and practice national agendas
- Outreach and presentations at conferences and events
- National Call Center for Dads and Practitioners (**1-877-4DAD411**)
- Virtual Trainings (like today's Webinar)



Presenters for this Webinar:

- **Eugene Schneeberg**
Director, Center for Faith-based and
Neighborhood Partnerships - U.S. Department of
Justice, Washington, DC
- **Tassalie McKay**
RTI International, Durham, NC
- **Marvin Charles**
D.A.D.S Program, Seattle, WA



Webinar Objectives

Our objectives for this Webinar are to share and increase attendees understanding of:

- Federal Department of Justice Prisoner Re-entry priorities, supports, and guidance
- Research findings from a review of Prisoner Re-entry programs
- Effective Strategies and Lessons Learned from a program that is successfully helping fathers who are returning from prison



Effective Strategies for Working with Fathers Returning from Prison



Eugene Schneeberg, Director
Center for Faith-Based and
Neighborhood Partnerships,
United States Department of Justice

partnerships@usdoj.gov

(202) 307-0588

<http://www.ojp.gov/fbnp>



An Urgent Need: The State of Father Absence

- 24 million children live without their biological fathers in their lives (this is more than 1 in 3 children).
- 1 in 43 American children have a parent in prison
- 39.3 percent of single-mother families live in poverty, but only 8.8 percent of father-present families live in poverty.
- Without fathers, adolescents are:
 - at a higher risk of teen pregnancy
 - Women who experienced three or more changes in her family environment: 5x more likely to have an early pregnancy.
 - significantly more likely to engage in criminal behavior
 - 2002 DOJ Survey (n=7,000): 39% of jail inmates lived in mother-only households; 46% had a previously incarcerated family member; 20% experienced a father in prison or jail.
 - more likely to use drugs
 - Children – 2 parents, poor relationship with dad: 68% more likely to smoke, drink, or use drugs
 - Children -- Single mother household: 30% higher risk than those in two-parent households.

DOJ CFBNP Priorities

- **Mission:** *Lead DOJ's efforts to:*
 - *Develop partnerships*
 - *Provide relevant information to faith-based and community organizations*
 - *Expand their participation in DOJ initiatives.*
- **Priority Focus Areas:**

- *Preventing Youth & Gang Violence*



- *Promoting Responsible Fatherhood*



- *Effective Prisoner Reentry*



President Obama's Administration is committed to this issue.

President Obama grew up without his father and believes being dad is his most important job.

Throughout his Administration, President Obama has joined with fathers around the country through the President's Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiative to send a strong message about personal responsibility while supporting dads who want to be there for their kids.



"Of all the titles I've held in my life - lawyer, prosecutor, judge, U.S. Attorney, and, now, Attorney General - the one I'm most proud of is "father." As fathers, we have an opportunity today, as we do every day, to act responsibly in the lives of our own children."

-- Attorney General Eric Holder

The President's Fatherhood Pledge, part of President Obama's Fatherhood & Mentoring Initiative.

A screenshot of a web form titled 'Take the President's Fatherhood Pledge'. The form includes a text box for a pledge, followed by input fields for Name, Mobile #, City, Email, State (with a dropdown menu), and Zip. There is a checkbox for 'Send me updates by' and a 'Please don't send me updates' option. Below the form is a CAPTCHA section with a 'Math question *' and a 'Take the Pledge!' button. The footer of the form features the White House logo and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services logo.

NBA all-star Dwayne Wade has also been actively involved with this issue.



Promoting Responsible Fatherhood

*Every father taking responsibility for his child's
intellectual, emotional and financial well-being.*

*Every father taking responsibility for their child's
intellectual, emotional and financial well-being.*

June 2012



White House Report on Fatherhood

- http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/fatherhood_report_6.1_3.12_final.pdf

The Fatherhood Inter-agency Working Group

11 federal partners:



U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission



U.S. Dep't of Agriculture



U.S. Dep't of Commerce

Corporation for
NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE

Corporation for
National &
Community Service



U.S. Dep't of Education

U.S. Equal Employment
Opportunity Commission



U.S. Dep't of
Housing & Urban
Development



U.S. Dep't of
Health and Human
Services



U.S. Dep't of
Justice



U.S. Dep't of
Labor



Office of National
Drug Control Policy



U.S. Dep't of
Veterans Affairs

Several focuses:

- Promoting fatherhood involvement
- Creating and sustaining stable families
- Intervening during early childhood
- Reconnecting disconnected fathers
- Research and evidence-based practices

Fatherhood Heroes & Champions of Change

The White House honored ten Fatherhood Champions of Change who each contributed incredible work in the fields of fatherhood and low-income men and boys.



The 2012 Fatherhood Champions of Change (left to right, top to bottom): Roland C. Warren, Joseph T. Jones, J. Michael Hall, Dr. Michelle Mickle Foster, John Sowers, Carey Casey, Dr. Stacey Bouchet, Bob Johnson, Jerry Tello, & Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner

Fatherhood Heroes were honored for their role promoting responsible fatherhood in their families and communities.

Four events honored the Heroes in four different cities: DC, Dallas/Fort Worth, Orlando, & Los Angeles.

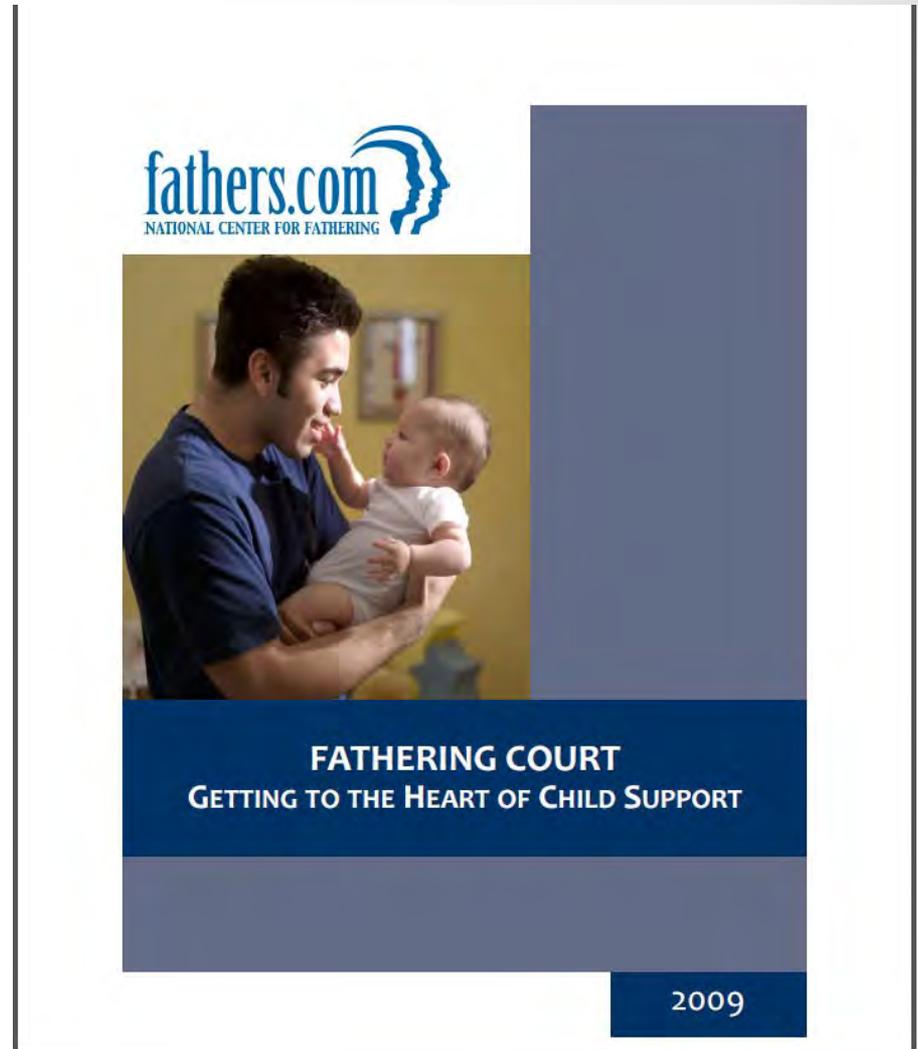


Fatherhood Courts

DOJ funded the operation of several fatherhood courts, which call upon partnership among community stakeholders to provide supportive services and case management.

Program increased responsible fatherhood through:

- Increased time spent with children
 - Increase in child support payments
- Improved community resources



[http://www.fathers.com/documents/fatheringcourt/Fathering Court Booklet Final.pdf](http://www.fathers.com/documents/fatheringcourt/Fathering_Court_Booklet_Final.pdf)

InsideOut Dad™

A Program for Incarcerated Fathers

FROM THE PUBLISHERS OF THE LONG DISTANCE DADS™ PROGRAM



www.fatherhood.org

*Involved fathers are important to their child's development and well-being. But how can dads be good dads when they are separated by incarceration? The InsideOut Dad™ program provides practical and innovative ways to help overcome the physical and psychological challenges that incarcerated fathers face **Inside** (while incarcerated) and **Out** (after release).*

InsideOut Dad™ is a curriculum for incarcerated fathers that bridges the gap between the inmate father and his children. Through the program, inmate dads deal with their pasts in order to discover their futures—and the possibility that they can parent differently from their own, often absent, fathers.

Because over 96 percent of all prisoners will be released someday (more than 650,000 this year alone), this preparation for release is vital. History shows that 66 percent of these prisoners will return within 3 years. Those prisoners who have strong connections to family, however, are far more likely to embrace freedom and have a crime-free future. InsideOut Dad™ helps prisoners prepare for reentry into society as they learn more about themselves as men and as fathers.

InsideOut Dad™ consists of 12 one-hour core sessions designed to address the specific needs of incarcerated fathers. The curriculum is modeled closely after NFI's successful 24/7 Dad™ curriculum, and includes 24 optional sessions that coordinate with the core topic areas. These extra sessions allow facilitators the flexibility to add to their program—which makes InsideOut Dad™ ideal for use in both short and long-stay facilities.

185v3.0-092105



Contact Information

For more information, or to discuss implementing

InsideOut DAD™

please contact us at

(301) 948-0599 or

corrections@fatherhood.org

The 12 Topics:

- Ground Rules
- About Me (Self-awareness)
- Being a Man
- Spirituality
- Handling Emotions
- Relationships
- Fathering
- Parenting
- Child Development
- Discipline
- Fathering From the Inside
- Closing

An optional topic, "Reentry: Being a Dad on the Outside," is also included.

InsideOut Dad™ provides the tools you need to help incarcerated fathers become involved, responsible and committed dads.



Each curriculum kit includes the Activities Manual, Facilitator's Guide and enough Fathering Handbooks and evaluation Instruments to run your first InsideOut Dad™ group.



**National
Fatherhood
Initiative™**

Center for
**FAITH BASED and
NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIPS**



**National
Responsible
Fatherhood Clearinghouse**



U.S. Dep't of Health and Human Servs. Fatherhood Grants



- *\$119 million in funding to promote healthy marriages and responsible fatherhood. 59 grantees must use fatherhood program funding to promote responsible fatherhood.*

U.S. Dep't of Health and Human Servs. Child Support Reform



- *Focus on evidence-based practices to incentivize states to improve outcomes for children in foster care and others who are receiving child welfare services.*

U.S. Dep't of Labor Transitional Jobs Grants



- *\$39.7 million in grants to help individuals with significant barriers to employment—special focus on low-income non-custodial parents and ex-offenders*

U.S. Dep't of Justice Second Chance Act Grants



- *With a focus on recidivism and successful re-entry, the Act authorizes demonstration grants, mentoring grants, reentry research and the creation of the National Reentry Resource Center.*



Second Chance Act Grants

- Mentoring Programs – Providing Support for Ex-Offenders and their Children in New Mexico
- *Frankie was motivated to get clean by the possibility of losing his son. About 18 months before his release, he signed up for mentoring through PB&J Family Services. The group brought Frankie's son—seven at the time of his dad's incarceration—to the prison for regular visits and supported them during and after visits. His PB&J mentors and caseworkers have helped Frankie focus on his sobriety—and he's now been clean for four-and-a-half years. In addition to providing parenting classes, PB&J has helped Frankie as a father: "They prepared me to face up to everything I've done."*

Reentry Mythbusters

REENTRY MYTH BUSTER!
On Parental Rights
A Product of the Federal Interagency Reentry Council

MYTH: Child welfare agencies are required to terminate parental rights if a parent is incarcerated.

FACT: Important exceptions to the requirement to terminate parental rights provide child welfare agencies and states with the discretion to work with incarcerated parents, their children and the caregivers to preserve and strengthen family relationships.

The Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) requires state child welfare agencies to initiate termination of parental rights if a child is in foster care for 15 out of the previous 22 months, unless one of several exceptions apply. The ASFA exceptions to the mandatory filing rule that are most relevant to incarcerated parents include:

- at the option of the State, the child is being cared for by a relative; and
- the State agency has documented in the case plan... a compelling reason for determining that filing such a petition would not be in the best interests of the child.

These exceptions provide child welfare agencies with flexibility to work within the requirements imposed by ASFA by recruiting relatives as caregivers for children and by developing carefully written case plans that document, as circumstances warrant, that the severance of the parent-child relationship would be contrary to the child's best interests.

Because they are in federal statute, the exceptions provided in the law are available to every state, though not all use them in practice. Some states and the District of Columbia repeat the exceptions in their state statutes, emphasizing their applicability. These states include (as of February, 2010): Alabama, Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

For More Information:
Child Welfare State Policies
http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/state/
Child Welfare Statutes
http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/statutes/groundterm.cfm

What is a REENTRY MYTH BUSTER?
This Myth Buster is one in a series of fact sheets intended to clarify existing federal policies that affect formerly incarcerated individuals and their families. Each year, more than 700,000 individuals are released from state and federal prisons. Another 9 million cycle through local jails. When reentry fails, the social and economic costs are high — more crime, more victims, more family distress, and more pressure on already-strained state and municipal budgets.
Because reentry intersects with health and housing, education and employment, family, faith, and community well-being, many federal agencies are focusing on initiatives for the reentry population. Under the auspices of the Cabinet-level interagency Reentry Council, federal agencies are working together to enhance community safety and well-being; assist those returning from prison and jail in becoming productive citizens, and save taxpayer dollars by lowering the direct and collateral costs of incarceration.
For more information about the Reentry Council, go to: www.nationalreentrysourcecenter.org/reentry-council

A collection of fact sheets to clarify federal policies that affect formerly incarcerated individuals.

Available at:

http://www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/documents/000/1090/REENTRY_MYTHBUSTERS.pdf

Useful links

- Federal Interagency Reentry Council
 - <http://www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/reentry-council>
- National Reentry Resource Center
 - <http://nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/>
- Second Chance Act Mentoring Grants
 - <http://nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/about/second-chance-act>
- DOJ Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships
 - <http://ojp.gov/fbnp>
- Funding Opportunities
 - <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/solicitations.htm>

Family Strengthening Work with Reentering Fathers, Co-parents and Children

Lessons from the National Evaluation of Responsible
Fatherhood, Marriage and Family Strengthening Grants for
Incarcerated and Reentering Fathers and Their Partners
(MFS – IP)

Tasseli McKay, RTI International



Why Focus Family Strengthening Services on Reentering Fathers and Their Children?

- Estimated 1.7m children in US with an incarcerated father – increase of 77% 1991-2004.
- They face separation, stigmatization, disruption in the home environment, loss of family income.
- Although most incarcerated fathers have some contact with their children, many barriers to contact are evident.
- Few programs exist to support healthy parenting among incarcerated and reentering fathers.
- Attempts to meet need complicated by gap between correctional agencies and organizations providing family support services.
- Parenting classes (most common family strengthening service) received by just 11% of all fathers in state prison.
- Positive co-parenting relationships key to parent-child contact and healthy parenting, but typically not a focus of programs serving incarcerated fathers.

The MFS-IP Initiative

- 12 grantees funded by DHHS/ACF/OFA.
- Grantees came from a variety of sectors:
 - Correctional agencies
 - Human services agencies
 - Community-based non-profits/FBOs.
- Service delivery settings varied:
 - All grantees delivered services in one or more correctional facility.
 - Most grantees also delivered services in the community (to partners and/or released men).
- All sites served incarcerated/reentering fathers in committed romantic or co-parenting relationships.
- Some sites enrolled fathers approaching release and focused on helping families through reentry.
- Some sites focused on recently incarcerated men.
- All sites provided parenting services in the context of services to strengthen the co-parenting relationship.



MFS-IP National Evaluation

- National evaluation was funded jointly by OFA and the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE).
- Implementation study: annual site visits/phone calls with all 12 grantees.
- Impact study: baseline, 9, 18 and 34 month follow-up with 2,010 incarcerated men and 1,480 partners in a subset of sites.



Preliminary Baseline Data from MFS-IP Study: Relationship and Parenting Status

	Men (2,010)	Women (1,480)
Marital/Relationship Status		
Married	25%	25%
Committed romantic partner	68%	61%
Co-parenting only	7%	14%
Romantic relationship with partner prior to incarceration	83%	81%
Parental Status		
At least one child under 18	86%	81%
Median number of children	2.0	2.0

Preliminary Data from Impact Study Baseline Survey: Frequency of Parent-Child Contact During Incarceration

	Father Report	Coparent Report
Ever talks on the phone with child	68%	75%
Ever sends mail to child	80%	80%
Ever receives mail from child	59%	67%
Ever receives photos of child	89%	87%
Ever receives personal visits from child	54%	61%

Frequency of contact varied widely by site: for example, 22% of fathers in MN reported ever receiving a personal visit, compared to 64% of fathers in NY

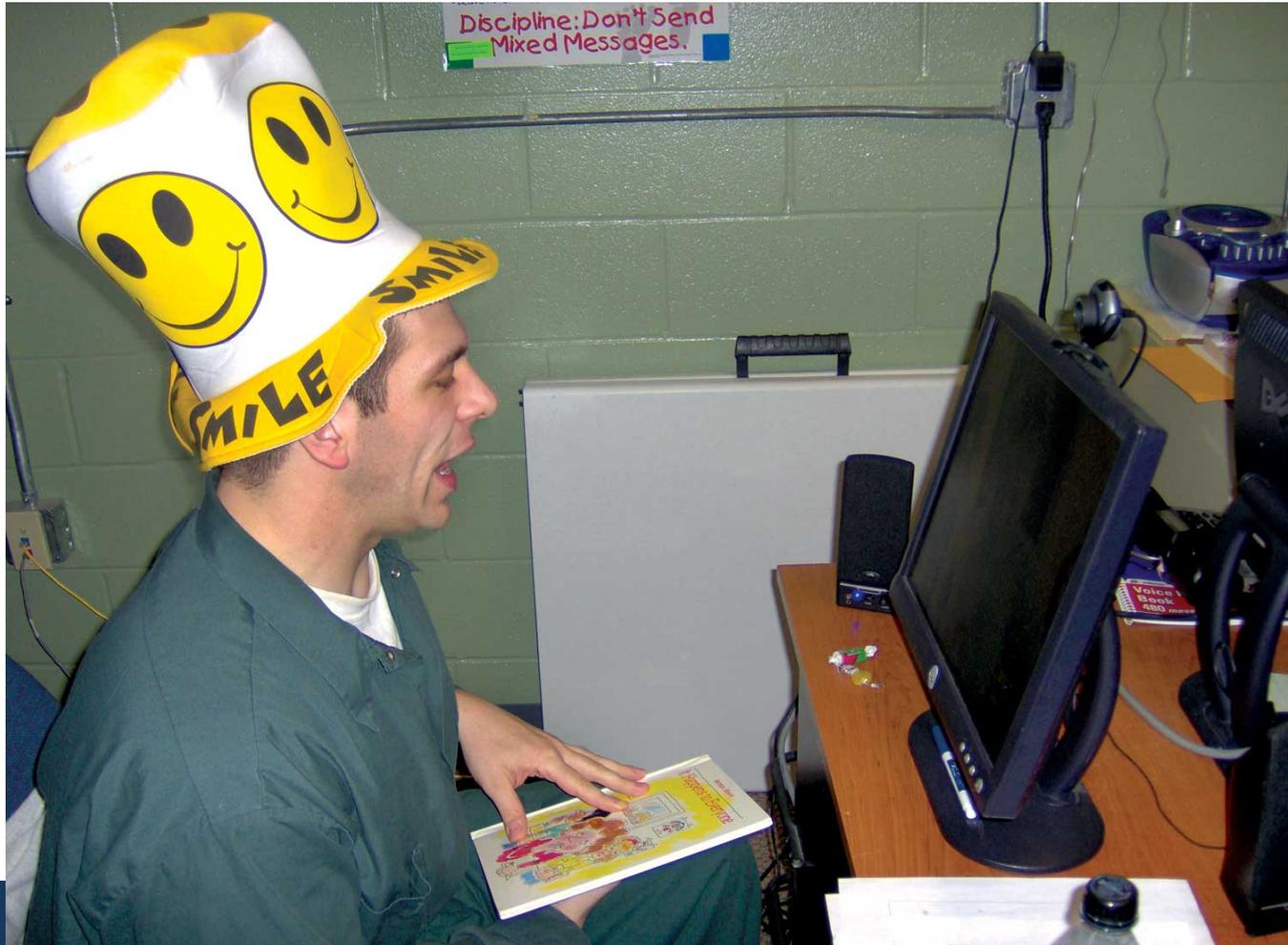
Preliminary Data from Impact Study Baseline Survey: Barriers to Parent-Child Contact

- Based on both fathers and co parent reports, the following barriers were most likely to be identified as affecting parent-child contact during the father's incarceration:
 - “The prison is located too far away, or is too hard to get to because of transportation issues”
 - “The prison is not a pleasant place to visit, or not a place you want the child to see [you/him]”
 - “The cost of calling or receiving calls is too high, or you do not have access to a phone”

Parenting Supports

- Parenting education (offered in almost all sites)
 - Multi-session courses, typically in a correctional setting
 - Typically offered for fathers only
 - Based on commercial or original parenting curricula.
- Support for in-person visitation
 - Child-friendly visitation centers
 - Parent coaching and parent-child activities during visitation
 - Help with visitation logistics and/or expenses.
- Help with child support and parental rights
 - Establishing or maintaining parental rights
 - Reducing child support orders
 - Reducing or eliminating arrears
 - Restoration of driver's license
- Assistance maintaining long-distance contact with children
 - Audiotape and DVD recording
 - Video visiting
 - Letter-writing supplies.

Parenting Supports (cont'd)



Relationship and Family Strengthening Services Delivered

- Focus on co parent relationships was a key feature.
- Relationship education (provided in all sites)
 - Single-weekend seminars taught inside correctional facilities, couples or fathers only.
 - Multi-session courses in facility or community.
 - Some sites augmented with counseling and/or coaching.
- Case management for fathers or couples
 - Pre- and post-release.
 - Sites differed in frequency, intensity, referral approach.
- Economic stability services
 - Financial literacy classes.
 - Job readiness and GED preparation classes.
 - Vocational skills assessment.
 - Job placement assistance.
- Other support services
 - Group cognitive behavioral therapy
 - Life skills classes.
 - Empowerment training.

Lessons Learned

- Emphasize benefits to children when recruiting parents for family strengthening programming.
- Support positive parent-child contact during incarceration via child-friendly visitation opportunities, audio book/DVD recording, letter writing support, etc.
- Focus on parenting skills relevant to incarcerated men (e.g., fathering from prison, reuniting with children on release).
- Enhance parenting through skill-building exercises.
- Reinforce parenting education via support groups or the creation of a subculture outside of the classroom.
- Plan for and continuously adapt to institutional constraints.
- Assist co-parents and other caregivers with challenges to in-person visitation for themselves and their children:
 - defray costs
 - assist with facility approvals.
- Support co-parents and other caregivers through skills-building and other special activities.
- Involve co-parents in relationship education courses.
- Involve co-parents and other family members in planning for reentry (e.g., family group conferencing sessions).
- Build healthy partnerships with:
 - Correctional agencies
 - Community-based organizations
 - Domestic violence agencies.
- Solicit and incorporate participant feedback.

Conclusions and Next Steps

- The final implementation report will document strategies that enabled grantees to meet the unique challenges of delivering couples-based family support to justice-involved families.
- Impact study follow-up data will be useful in understanding:
 - What happens to family structures and parenting arrangements during the reentry process.
 - Whether participation in family strengthening programming during a father's incarceration impacts child well-being, parenting behavior, provision of material support, or frequency of parent-child contact after release.
 - Factors that influence parenting and relationship outcomes among families affected by incarceration.

Study Resources and Contacts

- Publications to date available at <https://mfs.rti.org>
- For more information about the National Evaluation of the MFS-IP grants, contact:
 - Linda Mellgren (linda.mellgren@hhs.gov)
 - Erica Meade (erica.meade@hhs.gov)
 - Anupa Bir (abir@rti.org)
 - Christine Lindquist (lindquist@rti.org)
 - Tasseli McKay (tmckay@rti.org)

Effective Strategies for Working with Fathers Returning from Prison

Putting a Face on the Absent Father

Marvin Charles
Divine Alternatives for Dads Services (DADS)
Seattle, WA



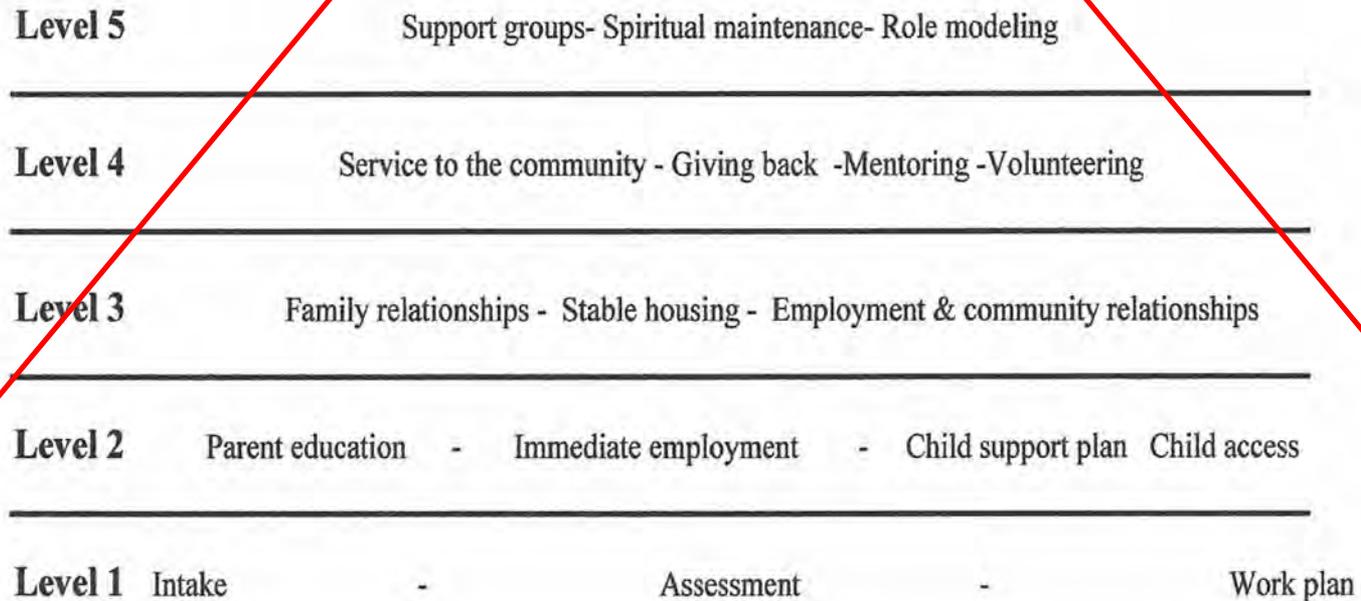
Issues dads face when returning from prison

- Reconnecting with children.
- Relationship with mother(s) of children.
- Child support.
- Housing.
- Getting a job – with a living wage.
- Avoiding the “old crowd.”
- Developing social skills.
- Training for better employment.

What We Do

- Teach fathers to successfully navigate the Child Support and Judicial system.
- Support fathers in gaining confidence to reestablish themselves in lives of their children.
- Facilitate father support groups.
- Assist in the development of parenting plans.
- Network - to provide opportunities for social skills development.
- Network - to provide opportunities for employment and training.
- Provide advocacy.

DAD



We make a community difference:

- Increased number of Fathers actively involved in the lives of their children.
- Increased number of Fathers who maintain employment.
- Increased number of stable nuclear families.
- Increased number of Fathers providing a stable family environment, including home ownership
- Increased numbers of fathers becoming first time home owners.



The Effects

- Reduced Rates of Recidivism.
- Increased numbers of parole /probation completion.
- Higher Rates of Consistent Child Support Payments.



Community benefits:

- Stronger Fathers equal healthier communities.
- Less spent to house recidivating fathers in prison.
- Less burden on state revenues due to increased child support payments.
- Less juvenile justice involvement by children with active fathers..
- Graduates of D.A.D.S. maintain employment, get married, buy homes and become contributing, tax paying citizens.

Fact

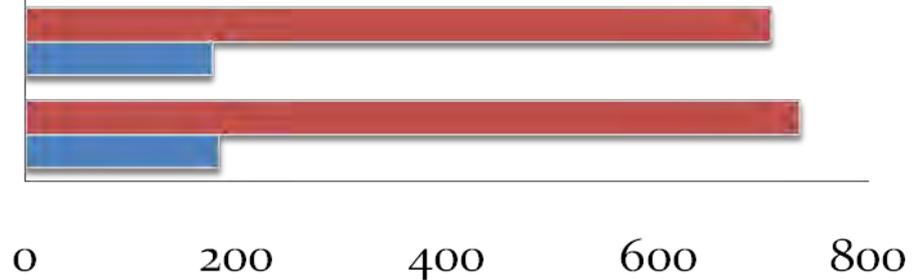
- *"The racial dimension of incarceration is inescapable," says New York Rep. Carolyn Maloney. "Half of our prison population is African American, yet they represent just 13 percent of the population as a whole."*

The average cost of housing one inmate is estimated at \$31,170 a year. ...



*Quarterly and yearly
Results:
2008-2009*

Children served at DADS
Men served at DADS



■ Yearly ■ Quarterly

D.A.D.S. Works

- It helps fathers create stronger families and contribute to healthier communities.
- It saves taxpayers money because participants no longer cycle in and out of prison.
- It spares the state the related costs of juvenile detention, drug and alcohol treatment and the life-long costs of school dropouts.
- D.A.D.S. graduates get jobs, marry, and buy homes.



For more information

Marvin and Jeanett Charles
Divine Alternatives for Dads Services
5709 Rainier Avenue South
Seattle, WA 98118.

206-722-3137

marvinpastor@msn.com

Website: www.aboutdads.org

