Washington State Department of Corrections -

Innovative Programs to Support Children and Families of those Incarcerated
Introductions

Family Services Unit

- Statewide Children’s of Incarcerated Parent’s Specialist
- Community Corrections Specialists (4 statewide)
  - Outreach
  - Family Connections
- Parenting Inside Out QA Specialist - Evidenced Based Parenting program in all facilities facilitated by DOC staff volunteers
Objectives

- Promote the creation and use of family connection outreach efforts.
- Highlight parent child centered programs that impact intergenerational incarceration.
- Promote partnerships that address the complicated needs of children with incarcerated parents.
Washington State Statistics

- 12 Prisons
- 13 Work Releases
- 19,457 inmates
- Average age 39
- Average Stay 24 months
- Recidivism rate 31%

- 107 Field offices
- 18,490 people on supervision
Incarceration-WA State Overview

12 prisons
- 10 male
- 2 female

Total population 19,457
Work release 573
Male 91.7%
Female 8.3%

Average age 38.7
Average length of sentence-
2 to 5 years (25%)
Sentenced over 10 years (24%)
Return to Prison Rate-
(3 year period) 31.4%
Caucasian 70.6%
Black 18.4%
Benefits of maintaining contact

- Two predictors of recidivism: age and family connections.
- Family members provide both social control and social support, which inhibit criminal activity.
- Prosocial contact with supportive family members increases success after release.
Family Services Video
Family Outreach - First Time Inmates

- Outreach program began in 2015
- Targets families experiencing incarceration in WA for the first time.
- Uses emergency contact information
- Pro-active family engagement approach is the first of its kind.
- Resolves issues at the lowest level
- Provides family with DOC contact for future needs
- Outcome Measure under Results DOC tracks effort.
Enhancing Partnerships
Rate of Outreach with Family Members (SP04.b)
Family Friendly Activities and Events

- Participation by Prisons, Work Release and Community Justices Centers
- Annual proposals- Offender Betterment Funds
- Community engagement and support
- Normalized, fun visits for children: Summer barbecues, family game night, father daughter dances, back to school fun day, day with dad and holiday programs
- Inmate participation and support
Family Friendly Activities and Events Cont’d
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National statistics related to children of the incarcerated

- More than 2.7 million children in the U.S. have an incarcerated parent.
- That is 1 in 28 children
- Approximately 10 million children have experienced parental incarceration at some point in their lives.
- Approximately half of the children with incarcerated parents are under 10 years old.
80% of inmates report having 1.91 children

Approximately 30,000 children have incarcerated parents

Note that these numbers exclude jails and federal prisons
Impacts on Children of Incarceration

- At greater risk of feeling shame, guilt or anger
- Effected by the stigma of incarceration; therefore, silenced
- Subject to stereotypes & subconscious negative assumptions
- May be unaware of the parents incarceration
- Qualifies as an Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE)
Parent Teacher conferences

Provide a unique opportunity to:

➢ Engage in their children education
➢ Create a relationship with their child's teachers
➢ Offer support to the child, teacher and caregiver
➢ Child perceives a team working together, as a team, in their best interest.

➢ Family Services Role
➢ Outcomes
Kids United By Incarceration Camps

- DOC created and sponsors the Kids United by Incarceration (KUBI) camp for kids who have a parent incarcerated in a Washington State Prison.
- Partnership with the Girls Scouts of Western Washington and YMCA of Eastern Washington.
- Three-day experience for kids ages 8 to 12 years.
- DOC corrections staff from across the corrections continuum volunteer as camp counselors.
- Provides an outlet to address shame, guilt and isolation.
Summary

- Brief overview of Washington State Department of Corrections and national statistics
- Research related to family contact and the reduction of recidivism and prison violence.
- Overview of WA DOC Family Services Unit
QUESTIONS ?????
Contact Information

Carrie Kendig
Family Services Manager
Carrie.Kendig@doc.wa.gov
360-725-8745

William “Bill Copland
Family Services Specialist
William.Copland@doc.wa.gov
509-734-5676