

## State Community Health Services Advisory Committee (SCHSAC)

### Children of Incarcerated Parents Work Group – Meeting 3 Summary

**Present:** Sheila Kiscaden; Bill Hutton; Roger Heinen; Brian Howard; Susan Morris; Harlan Madsen; Tyler Winkelman; Brian Kopperud; Tim Sumner; Jeanne Ayers; Ryan Erdmann; Tim Thompson; Anne Barry; Kathy Hedin, Matt Hill (for Toni Carter), Kay Naestrom; Renee Frauendienst; Tracine Asberry; Dawn Beck

**Absent:** Joan Brandt; Jackie Dionne; Toni Carter; Lee Buckley; Rebecca Schlafer; Aaron Sojourner; John Poupart; Vina Kay; Guy Bowling; Charles Dixon; Devon Gilchrist

**Staff:** Anna Lynn; Megan Waltz

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*Meeting took place at St. Paul Youth Services and was hosted by Tracine Asberry*

#### Youth panelists

(Panelists are part of the St. Paul Youth Services- Youth Power program.)

Aniyah and Simeon

#### Working group reflections on youth panel

- We need a grounding in the room with the panelists that includes some sort of social gathering/human connection prior to the panel starting
- What could we do differently (in arrest practices) – story of home being raided
- Recognize entire process is painful
- Need to focus on systems change/not individual change – it's not about what families do differently – it's about what we as a system can do to make things easier for families.
- Trusted person/not person from system often has the most impact for child (e.g. coach)
  - Systems don't support this type of work
  - Systems look at themselves instead of how we might keep families in the center: systems are self-perpetuating
  - How can we support these adults in this role?
- Trusted adults not recognized by systems as part of the "helping" team – ie basketball coach
- "Therapy is not for everyone"
- Criminal Justice must accept responsibility for change
- Children of incarcerated parents have a need for physical contact with incarcerated loved ones
- How do we maintain security but allow for this physical contact for families?
- How was loved one changed by jail/prison experience? "prison should help, not hurt"
- What about transition planning?
- Experiences in schools, support is just not there for children with incarcerated parents
- Safe place needed RIGHT NOW, don't wait.
- Emotional withdrawal of children/social withdrawal occurs because of too many questions from peers AND teachers at school
- There is an underlying emotional isolation
- There's a different reality for children and parents at visits: social and emotional
- What about early development? Our panelists were both very young at occurrence

- Distance of incarcerated loved one is difficult and limits/eliminates visiting
- Need to do a comparison of panel feedback. There were some common themes.
- Need to ask “What do your caregivers need to support you?”
- There are no structures to help caregivers
- Human/touch connection is critical – loss of connection is hurtful
- Do we treat persons who are incarcerated different based on gender?
- Could there be a buffer or “concierge” type-person to help facilitate entry/exit of visit for both incarcerated parent and child (with or without caregiver)?

## Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

### Key take-aways:



- Having an incarcerated family member is an ACE
- ACEs are common and interrelated
- High ACE scores increase risk of multiple health and social issues
- ACEs can be transmitted intergenerationally
- Protective factors for ACEs: attachment and belonging; building social/emotional capabilities; community, culture, spirituality

## Identifying current programs and practices

**Roger Heinen Presentation:** What’s happening in Washington County (see attached ppt presentation pages 5-6)

### Key take-aways:

- Context- Jail program standards are governed by 2911 Rules.
- Every sheriff gets to make decisions about jail programming based on jail population and resources.
- There is a program coordinator network across jails.
- Budget for programs vary by county- some programs are run by volunteers.
- Workgroup members are encouraged to review the attached ppt (see page 5)

## Mapping Activity: Identifying current services available in counties and jails

Participants were asked to identify what they know about in their own counties pertaining to services at both the county and jail level (see attached chart on pages 3-4 for mapping activity)

Key take-aways:

- This exercise showed that there's not a lot of connection between county commissioners and jail administrators on this issue area
- There is a need to identify best practice and focus on spread
- There are many things we think we don't have or that could be more robust across counties:

Overall

- Broad public understanding/public will around topic in order to educate on better budgeting
- 2 gen approach

Administrative Practice/ Operations

- Outreach to family/awareness of programs and services
- Communication b/t county and community programs to facilitate children getting to services
- Data on how many children of incarcerated parents are already in in the county system or connected to the county system in other programs ie WIC; MFIP; CSP; CCAP, etc.
- Capacity to identify children in system with incarcerated parents at point of arrest
- Add incarceration/ parent incarceration in the [MN CHOICES](#) assessment (assessment for long term services and supports)
- Resource Fairs for Families

Jail Policy/ Practice

- Off-site visits to make children and parents feel more comfortable.
- Caregivers need to be updated when visiting capacity is changed for whatever reason
- Allow siblings to visit siblings
- Policy about diets for pregnant women

Programs

- Programs to facilitate co-parenting between incarcerated parents and caregivers
- Evidence based parenting education
- Designated respite care for caregivers
- Caregiver aid with housekeeping, general support

Program Policies

- Child care funding for caregivers
- MFIP continuation for children when family member is incarcerated
- Can caregivers receive home visiting services?
- Co-located services (accessible during visits)
- kiosks where caregivers can apply for services on behalf of children?
- Can MFIP be available to children of incarcerated parents during the incarceration time-period?

Policy

- Time off sentencing for participation in parenting classes or treatment

### What's Currently Happening in Minnesota: Existing Programs and Services in County Jails Supporting Families?

Group	Arrest	Pretrial	Detention	Release
<b>Children</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trauma informed arrest policies and practices</li> <li>• Teddy bears</li> <li>• <a href="#">St. Cloud Children Resilience Initiative</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family/children services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free toys/blankets (during visit)</li> <li>• Probation officer screening for vaccinations</li> <li>• School readiness screenings</li> <li>• Allow siblings to visit – <b>do jails allow for sibling visits when incarcerated family member is not a parent, but a sibling?</b></li> <li>• Sesame Street materials</li> <li>• <b>MFIP to families cut off during parental detention?</b></li> <li>• Incarcerated parent reading a book and recording for child</li> <li>• Programming at Boys and Girls Club</li> <li>• Expanded visiting hours/exclusive visiting hours</li> <li>• Offsite visits</li> <li>• United Way Book Buddies Project t (e.g. Otter Tail)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Referrals for services based on parental income/other factors: WIC; MFIP; FHV</li> </ul>
<b>Incarcerated Parents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trauma informed arrest policies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family/children services</li> <li>• Prison Alternatives: Community Based Sentencing, Drug Court</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family/ Child friendly visiting spaces</li> <li>• Family home visiting in jails</li> <li>• Education programs/ resources</li> <li>• Recreation</li> <li>• Prenatal care/Doulas</li> <li>• Video/skype visits for distance</li> <li>• Hennepin County Adult Correction Facility connects inmate with family, resources, and caregivers</li> <li>• Volunteer to answer questions in lobby (previsit)</li> <li>• In person visitation</li> <li>• Fatherhood project</li> <li>• Parenting skills</li> <li>• Anger management</li> <li>• Off-site visits</li> <li>• Challenge Incarceration Program- boot camp program allows for early release (not exclusively for parents)?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exit seminar re: community/other service within 30 days of release</li> <li>• WRAP- Wellness Recovery Action Planning</li> </ul>

Group	Arrest	Pretrial	Detention	Release
Caregivers/ Families		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respite care</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exclusive visiting hours</li> <li>• Transportation Supports (Mamas Bus, Peace of Hope transportation)</li> <li>• Incredible Years Parenting Classes (e.g. Benton/Swift) (not exclusively for incarcerated parent families)</li> <li>• FHV using <a href="#">Family Futures without Violence</a></li> </ul>	Blank
Don't know where it falls:	<a href="#">Sesame Street Little Kids Big Challenges: Incarceration</a>	Goes across all of these areas.	Blank	Blank

