Promoting Family Resilience in the Face of Parental Incarceration

Join the National Conversation on Child Abuse and Neglect

National Child Abuse and Neglect Technical Assistance and Strategic Dissemination Center
Presenters

Guest Speaker

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Children of Incarcerated
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Welcome: Elaine Voces Stedt
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Neglect
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Moderator: Nilofer Ahsan
Lead, Knowledge and Partnerships
CANTASD
History of SFCIPP

- Formed in 2000—responsible for creating the Children of Incarcerated Parents Bill of Rights
- Leading coalition in the county that brings together public and private sector organizations to create policies and practices that improve the lives of children with incarcerated parents
- Strong partnership with systems and community based organizations
Parental Incarceration and ACES

Parental incarceration is recognized as an adverse childhood experience (ACE). It is distinguished from other ACEs by the unique combination of trauma, shame, and stigma. Parental incarceration increases the risk of a child living in poverty or experiencing household instability, independent of any other factors present in that child’s life.
Key Intervention Points

At time of arrest
- Preventing unnecessary removal
- Creating stability for child

At sentencing
- Looking at family issues at the time of sentencing

While a parent is in prison
- Supporting visitation and contact

At release/re-entry
- Re-establishing connection
- Supporting re-unification
Poll

• Does an arrest mean that a parent is not fit to take care of their children? Why or why not?
• What are your challenges in creating greater access and pathways for family unity before, during, and after incarceration in jails or prisons?
• What do you need to better support families impacted by incarceration?
Options for Action: Creating a Family Impact Statement (FIS)

• Used by the San Francisco Adult Probation Department, FIS are meant to establish an understanding by those responsible for sentencing of the impact of incarceration on the family unit.

• Philosophy—Familial incarceration has a long-term impact on families and communities. This impact should be taken into consideration when sentencing individuals who are attached to family units.
Thank You & Next Steps

- Download the handouts to learn more. Click on the files in the “Handouts” box on your screen.

- Do you have innovative programming or strategies for supporting families impacted by incarceration? Tell us about your work. Send an e-mail to hello@CANTASD.org with “Families Impacted by Incarceration” in the subject line.
Resources

• Supporting Children and Families of Prisoners
• Reunification and Visits With Parents Who Are Incarcerated
• Child Welfare Practice With Families Affected by Parental Incarceration
• Working With the Correctional System and Incarcerated Parents - podcast
Participant Feedback

Thank you for your participation!

How useful was this session?

Additional Comments: hello@CANTASD.org