

Technical Information

SAMHSA

Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration

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LIVE

This webinar is now live.



It is being recorded.



Please remain muted.



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Welcome

Central East ATTC and PTTC Webinar

Behavioral Health Services for Criminal Justice-Involved Populations Part 3: Serving Children of Incarcerated Parents



*The Central East ATTC, MHTTC, and PTTC are housed at
the Danya Institute in Silver Spring, MD*

Oscar Morgan
Executive Director



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Each TTC Network includes 13 centers.



Network Coordinating Office

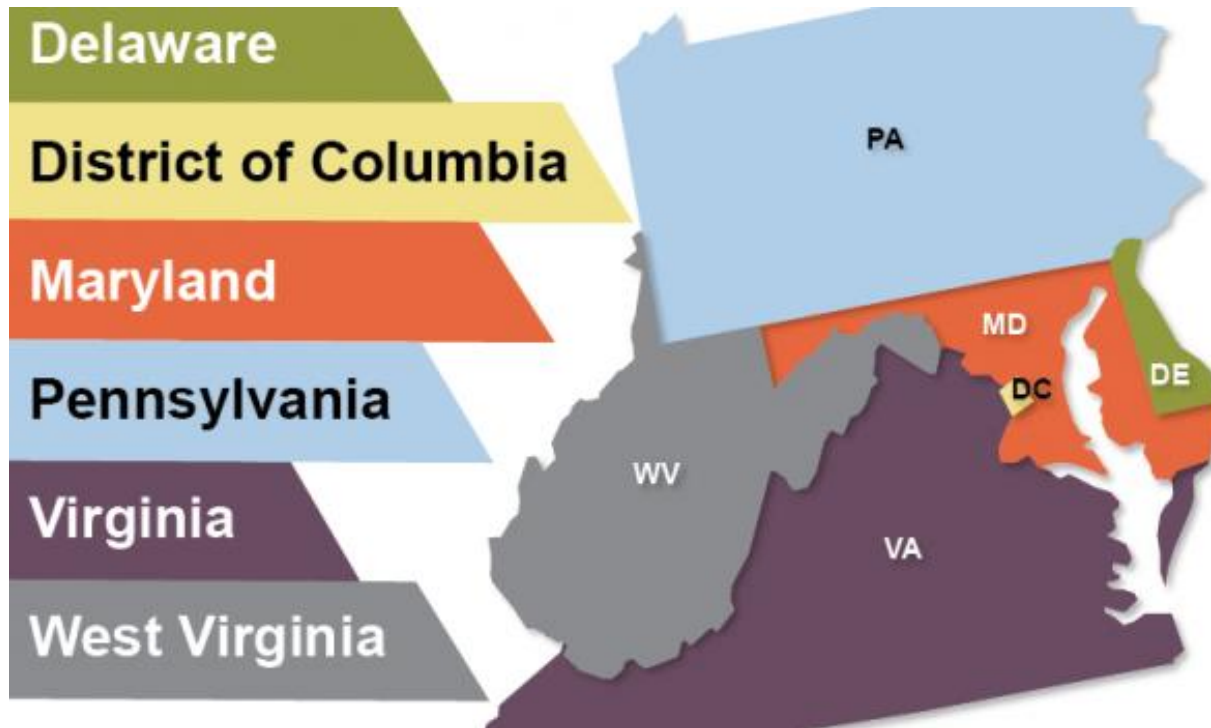
National American Indian and Alaska Native Center

National Hispanic and Latino Center

10 Regional Centers (aligned with HHS regions)

Central East Region

HHS REGION 3



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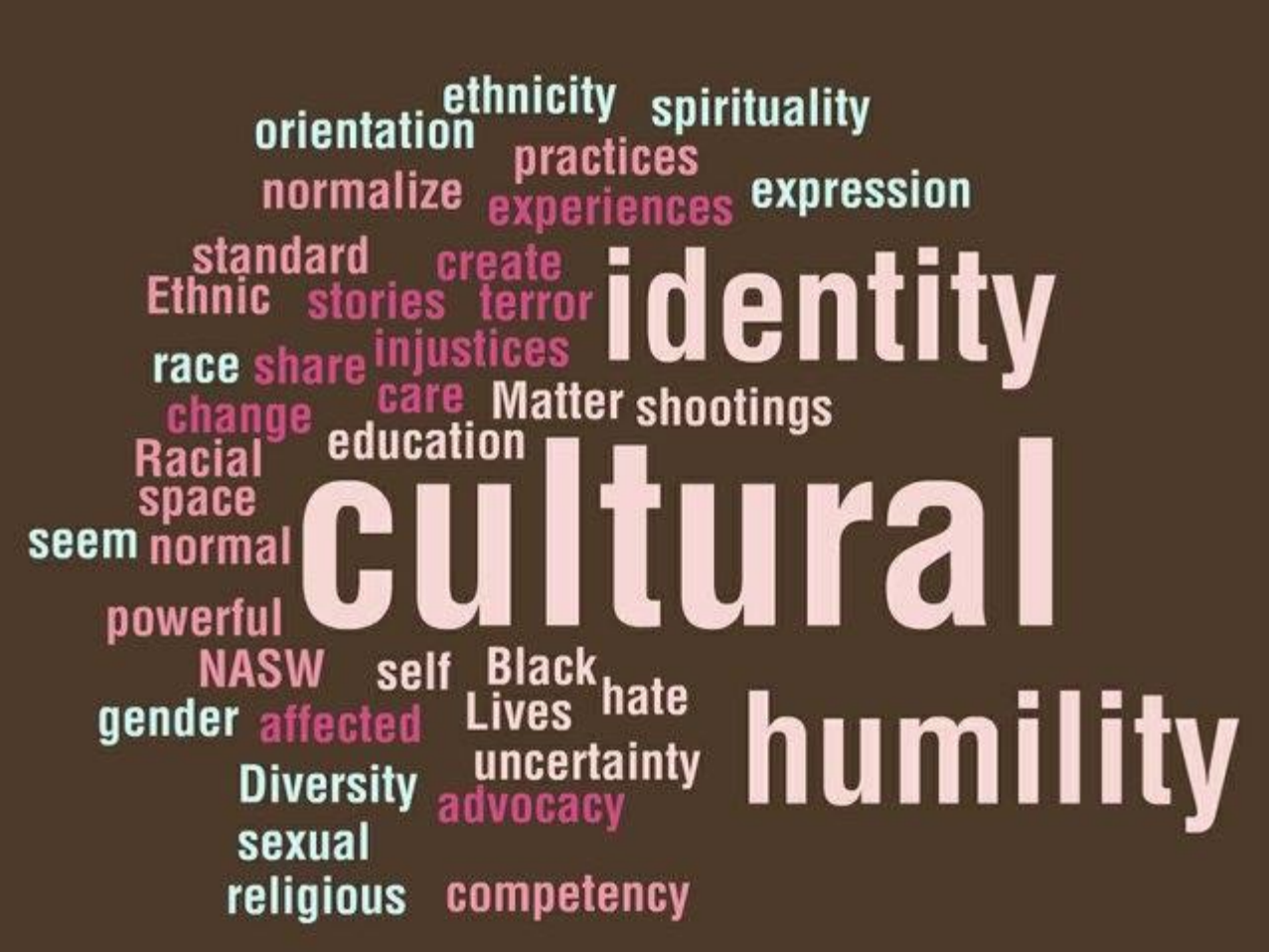
The use of affirming language inspires hope.

LANGUAGE MATTERS.

Words have power.

PEOPLE FIRST.

The PTTC Network uses affirming language to promote the application of evidence-based and culturally informed practices.



Eligibility

Behavioral health and health care providers, consumers, families, state and local public health systems and other stakeholders

Consistent with
Regional, State
and Local
Needs

No cost

Data Driven

EBPs provided
by Subject
Matter Experts



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Behavioral Health Services for Criminal Justice-Involved Populations Part 3: Serving Children of Incarcerated Parents

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March 14, 2023



Presenters



Josh Esrick
Speaker



Lauren Pappacena
Speaker

Learning Objectives

- Explain the service needs of children of incarcerated parents
- Describe the evidence-based strategies and resources that can support children and families impacted by parental criminal justice-system involvement
- Prepare for the development of new service programs
- Identify other stakeholders serving children of incarcerated parents



Children of Incarcerated Parents



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Children of Incarcerated Parents

- An estimated 5 million children in the US have had at least one parent incarcerated at least once (ChildTrends)
 - African American children almost twice as likely as White children to experience this
 - Children from households with lower socioeconomic status, lower parental educational attainment, and living in rural areas also more likely



Risks to Children

- Parental incarceration is an adverse childhood event (ACEs) (ChildTrends)
- Increases traumatic stress and leads to additional ACEs
 - Children with an incarcerated parent experience an average of 2.7 additional ACEs compared to other children with an average of 0.7 ACEs
 - Over half lived with someone with SUD



Risks to Children

- Parental incarceration can be traumatic for children, leading to increased risk of (HHS):
 - Reduced socioeconomic status
 - Poor academic performance
 - Aggressive behaviors
 - Depression
 - Delinquency
 - Substance use



Serving Children of Incarcerated Parents



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Family-Focused Programs

- Maintaining family cohesion during incarceration
- Building parenting skills
- Supporting parental re-integration
- Supporting children during the incarceration

Community Programs

- Teaching coping skills to children
- Encouraging active skill building
- Supporting the non-incarcerated parent or caregiver
- Educating providers on how to better serve children
- Helping children contact and visit incarcerated parents



Other Child Services

- Enrollment in financial support programs
- Counseling services
- Mentoring or peer support programs
- Post-incarceration family cohesion programs



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Determining Strategies (HHS)

- HHS has identified 59 promising programs for strengthening children and families; determining the most appropriate one involves:
 - Engaging non-incarcerated caregivers
 - Considering children’s ages
 - Considering a parent’s gender and role
 - Engaging in cross-system collaboration
 - Engage parents who are incarcerated and their families
 - Ensuring that families’ financial stability is being promoted



Engaging Non-Incarcerated Caregivers

- Implementing standard parent education programs (e.g., Incredible Years)
- Including caregivers in programs for incarcerated parents (e.g., Parenting Inside Out)
- Promoting caregiver participation in child visitations
- **EVIDENCE:** Few EBPs specifically target non-incarcerated caregivers; 7 programs have found evidence of effectiveness (EoE)



Considering Children's Ages

- Prison nursery programs to prevent mother-newborn separation (e.g., New Beginnings)
- Child visitation/remote access programs with flexible structure/timing depending on age (e.g., Family Connections)
- Adapting curriculum-based programs depending on age (e.g., Strengthening Families Program)
- **EVIDENCE:** Growing evidence, but mostly for mothers and young children; 15 programs with EoE



Considering Parent's Gender and Role

- Many programs are specifically for mothers or fathers
 - Though none account for whether the parent was primary caregiver pre-incarceration
- Programs for mothers most common and focus on improving family bonds (e.g., Extended Visiting), interacting with child caregivers (e.g., Motherly Intercessions), and processing trauma



Considering Parent's Gender and Role, 2

- Programs for fathers focus on ensuring visitations can be high quality (e.g., Baby Elmo) and helping newly released fathers become financially supportive (e.g., Responsible Fatherhood)
- **EVIDENCE:** Substantial evidence for programs for mothers, less for fathers; no review of differences across programs; ~17 programs with EoE



Engaging in Cross-System Collaboration

- Partnerships with social service agencies; e.g., prisons working with child support offices to help newly released fathers develop financial plans
- Drug court partnerships used as alternative to incarceration; many evaluations of drug courts overall, but few focused on impact on children
- **EVIDENCE:** Collaboration is common, but published evaluations are rare; only 3 programs with EoE



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Engage Parents Who Are Incarcerated and Their Families

- Incentivizing parents to participate in treatment programs; e.g., offering increased visitation rights or reduced sentences
- Including peers in program delivery
- Attempting to reduce program attrition through adapting program length and working to limit prison transfers mid-program
- **EVIDENCE:** Programs during incarceration have higher retention rates than community programs; 15 programs with EoE for increasing engagement

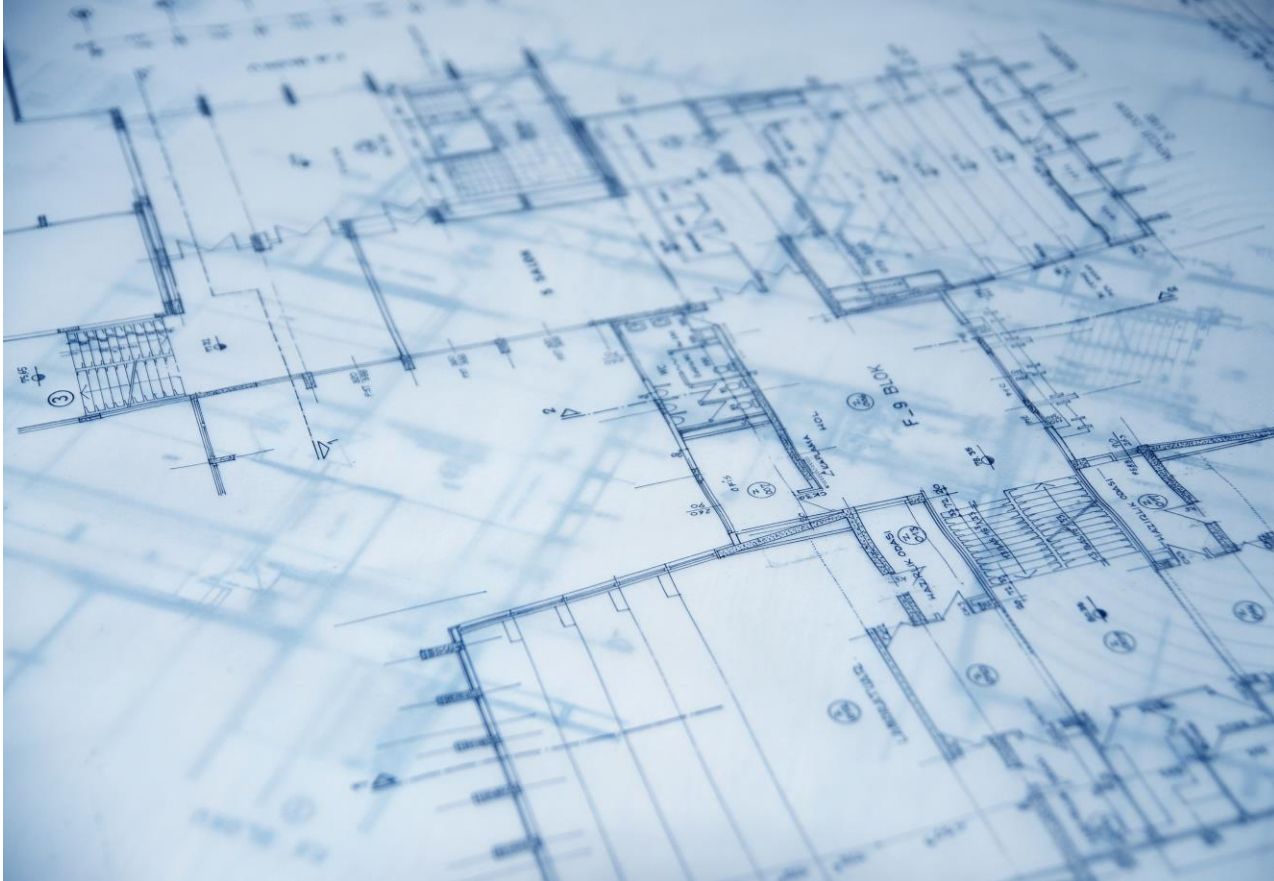


Promoting Families' Financial Stability

- Numerous programs exist to help newly released parents (and others) find employment, as well as ensure child support payments are made
- Separately, numerous child welfare programs exist (e.g., SNAP, TANF, CHIP, etc.)
- **EVIDENCE:** While many financial support programs exist, few directly tie to other programs for children of incarcerated parents and only 1 evaluation of such a collaboration has shown EoE



Planning for New Programs



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Planning for Programs

- Possible that no currently developed program meets all the needs facing an agency/population
- Programs can be developed/piloted to address goals
- Adaptation of existing programs can also be necessary due to wide variance in settings



Common Elements of Programs

- Parenting classes
- Coached phone calls
- Contact visits
- Relationship classes
- One-on-one meetings
- Post-release check-ins
- Incentives for participating



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Creating a Program (Urban Institute)

1. Identify Goals
 2. Ensure the process is collaborative
 3. Determine program components
 4. Implement the program
- ❖ Evaluate!



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Recommendations (Urban Institute)

- Need to ensure institutional and parental buy-in
- Create a voice for children in the development process
- Identify allies and strong champions
- Create collaborative bodies
- Invite diverse stakeholders to the table
- Learn from experts
- Think about ways to develop a practice



Collaboration Strategies



Collaboration Strategies

- Criminal justice and behavioral health/public health entities face collaboration challenges
- Some key strategies to address these include
 - Sharing knowledge and values
 - Identifying specific mechanics
 - Use your introduction as the first step of outreach



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Collaboration Opportunities

- Identifying avenues for collaboration can extend reach of services to this population
- Some opportunities might include
 - Develop warmlines with social service agencies for linking children to new programs
 - Participate in community outreach activities with local law enforcement
 - Attend parent teacher events to connect families to services



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You Could Use An Elevator Pitch

- #1 The Three Ws
 - Who you are
 - What you do
 - Why you do it
- #2 Benefits and Barriers
 - What you want to collaborate on
 - What are the benefits to you and them
 - What are the barriers to collaboration
- #3 Call to Action
 - What are the next steps
 - What do you need from them



Stakeholders Serving Children of Incarcerated Parents

- Court personnel
- Health and Human Services
- Non-profit organizations
- Mentoring programs
- Civil leaders and legislators
- Religious institutions
- Law enforcement
- Schools



Small Group Discussion



Small Group Discussion #1: Questions

1. What, if any, are your experiences serving this population? Any advice you would give to others?
2. How can we best raise awareness about this population's needs?
3. What are some initial steps to take to begin serving this population?
4. What do you anticipate the biggest challenges might be?



Discussion

10-Minute Discussion



Discussion Debrief



Conclusion

- Parental incarceration can significantly negatively impact children and increase risk of substance use
- Growing number of programs to support unique needs of these children and retain connections to parents
- Important to also ensure children are connected to necessary social services





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