



CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS
Trauma, Toxic Stress, and Protections

Findings of an interdisciplinary SCHSAC work group and the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association




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Background - Olmsted County Commissioner, Sheila Kiscaden

- Wilder Research
- AMC Task Force
- SCHSAC Workgroup
- Partnership with MSA

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Overarching Study Question:

- What is the role of Counties with the children of incarcerated parents?

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Parental Incarceration = ACE
Adverse Childhood Experience for Child



Most commonly reported ACE by youth in the Minnesota Student Survey.

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Partnership with the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association

Comments and Observations:
Bill Hutton, Executive Director,
Minnesota Sheriffs' Association

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What We Learned:
Children Of Incarcerated Parents in Minnesota



SCHSAC Work Group 2019

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Minnesota's Children of Incarcerated Parents:

- Are generally not supported/identified by service systems
- Are traumatized; need emotional support
- Need a relationship and contact with parent/caregiver
- Crave physical contact with the parent
- Find visiting parents in jail confusing and stressful (policies seldom consider child and caregiver needs)
- See parent role as critical "Our children still need us."
- Feel stigmatized; suffer in silence, isolation

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Key Conclusions:

- Counties have a unique opportunity to break the cycle and change outcomes
- Attention to children should start at point of arrest through pretrial, incarceration and community re-entry
- Counties can provide services and supports that build resilience for these children and families
- County Sheriff, public health, social services, child protection, corrections, community organizations all have a role

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Levels of Change

- 1 • AWARENESS
- 2 • ATTITUDES
- 3 • ACTIONS

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Next Steps

Phase 2 approved by SCHSAC and MSA:
 Joint project: SCHAC and Minnesota Sheriffs' Association
 - Co-chairs: Bill Hutton, Minnesota Sheriffs
 Dawn Beck, Olmsted County

Actions and Strategies for Phase 2:
 Build the Change Strategy
 Information and Awareness Sessions
 County Learning Communities: NIC Practices

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Build the Change Strategy

- Engage those with lived experience
- Promote Multi-disciplinary, local focus strategies
- Prototype and learn new practices from arrest through re-entry
- Promote family-friendly visiting
- Encourage data collection and research

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Information and Awareness

- Partnership with the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association and Local Public Health Association
- Professional Conference Presentations
- Encourage/support research and evaluation
- Work with Local Champions: awareness leads to action

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Change county practices:

- Use a Continuous Improvement Approach
- Document lessons learned
- Share best practices

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Legislative Needs or Interests?

- Are there issues or concerns you wish us to address?
- Are there ways we can inform or assist your committee or communities?
- Questions?

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Minnesota's Call to Action...



Build Resilience For Children, Families,
Communities

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