

# Innovative Partnerships Child Support and Reentry

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# Speakers

- Rose Bynum, Program Specialist,
   Office of Child Support Enforcement,
   U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- Deidre Bailey, Family Engagement Specialist, Virginia Division of Child Support Enforcement
- Brian Hawkins, Family Engagement Coordinator, Virginia Beach Department of Social Services
- Carmin Dean, Program Specialist South Dakota Division of Child Support
- Ronin A. Davis, Technical Assistance Manager The Council of State Governments Justice Center



# The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center

- National nonprofit, nonpartisan membership association of state government officials
- Engages members of all three branches of state government
- The CSG Justice Center provides practical, nonpartisan advice informed by the best available evidence













# National Reentry Resource Center (NRRC)

- Authorized by the passage of the Second Chance Act (SCA) in April 2008 and launched by the Bureau of Justice Assistance in October 2009
- NRRC staff have worked with nearly 800 SCA grantees, including 40 state corrections agencies.
- The NRRC provides individualized, intensive, and targeted technical assistance training and distance learning to support SCA grantees.

#### nationalreentryresourcecenter.org





# National Reentry Resource Center



#### Understanding the FBI Crime Report

Mike Lawlor and John Wetzel (right), the CSG Justice Center's Executive Board chair and vice chair, provide context for understanding the FBI Crime Report. Learn More



#### HIGHLIGHTS

- In San Francisco and Beyond, Homeless Crisis Should Not Derail Progress on Mental Illness
- PBS Newshour: Breaking the School-To-Prison Pipeline for Young Offenders One Class at a Time
- Opinion: How Federal Investments Make Us Smarter about Reducing Recidivism



## Support for Family-Focused Reentry

Since 2009 the Department of Justice has issued 5 separate types of grants focused specifically on families and reentry amounting to more than \$29 million in Second Chance Act funding.



## Support for Family-Focused Reentry

#### NRRC Fatherhood Webinar Series:

- Engaging Families in the Reentry Process
- Post-release Engagement and Retention of Fathers
- Program Sustainability
- Demonstrating Improved Outcomes for Family Members of Returning Fathers



## Child Support and Incarceration

Incarcerated for failure to pay child support

Incarcerated with an active child support order



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## Child Support and Incarceration

#### Barriers and Challenges

- Parents unaware they have a child support order
- Parents unwilling to disclose they have a child support order
- View of incarceration as "voluntary unemployment" in some states
- Modifications that require parents to be proactive
- Lack of knowledge regarding child support processes



## Child Support and Reentry

# Building partnerships and supporting programming

- Fatherhood and parenting
- Workforce/education
- Financial literacy
- Access to benefits





Rose Bynum, Program Specialist
Office of Child Support Enforcement – Region III
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services





# Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) Mission Statement

OCSE partners with federal, state, tribal and local governments and others to promote parental responsibility so that children receive support from both parents even when they live in separate households.



### Core Services

Families are served by local child support offices.

- Locate parents
- Establish paternity
- Establish and enforce support orders
- Modify orders when appropriate
- Collect and pay child support payments

OCSE ensures that child support agencies develop, manage and operate their programs effectively and according to federal law.



#### **Shared Goals**

- Public safety
- Personal responsibility
- Reconnection to community
- Sustained employment
- Reliable support payments
- Manageable support debt
- Reduced recidivism



## Flexibility, Efficiency, and Modernization in Child Support Programs Final Rule

- First comprehensive revision of the child support regulations since welfare reform.
- Amends existing regulations to incorporate evidencebased practices and innovative approaches including:
  - Strengthening procedural fairness
  - Streamlining program operations
  - Updating technology requirements to keep up with advances in automated systems (such as electronic records and filings).



# Review and Adjustment of Child Support Orders

- Requires a state to notify both parents of the right to request review and adjustment within 15 business days of learning that a noncustodial parent will be incarcerated > 180 days
- Authorizes a state to review and adjust a child support order:
  - After being notified that a noncustodial parent will be incarcerated for more than 180 days
  - Without waiting for a specific request to initiate review and adjustment
  - After providing notice to both parents
- In the final rule, OCSE added a requirement that the state's reasonable quantitative standard not exclude incarceration as a basis for review and adjustment of a child support order.



## Guidelines for Setting Child Support Orders

- Guidelines must provide that the child support order is based on the noncustodial parent's earnings, income, and other evidence of ability to pay that:
  - takes into consideration all earnings and income of the noncustodial parent;
  - takes into consideration the basic subsistence needs of the noncustodial parent who has a limited ability to pay by incorporating low-income adjustment, such as a self-support reserve or some other method;
  - if imputation of income is authorized, considers the specific circumstances of the noncustodial parent.



## Guidelines (continued)

- Specific circumstances include such factors as the noncustodial parent's assets, residence, employment and earnings history, job skills, educational attainment, literacy, age, health, criminal record and other employment barriers, and record of seeking work, as well as the local job market, the availability of employers willing to hire the noncustodial parent, prevailing earnings level in the local community, and other relevant background factors in the case.
- States have discretion to also consider custodial parent's income and specific circumstances.
- Guidelines must address how the parent will provide for the child's healthcare needs through private or public health coverage and/or through cash medical support.
- Must prohibit the treatment of incarceration as "voluntary unemployment"



#### RESOURCES

- https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/programs/cs s/fem\_final\_rule\_incarceration.pdf
- https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/programs/cs s/fem\_final\_rule\_civil\_contempt.pdf
- https://www.acf.hhs.gov/css/resource/final-ruleresources



## Deidre Bailey, Family Engagement Specialist, Virginia Division of Child Support Enforcement

Brian Hawkins, Family Engagement Coordinator, Virginia Beach Department of Social Services







# Club Reinvent

"When you know better, you do better"





# What is Club Reinvent?

Started in 2013



 Collaborative initiative designed to assist with barriers

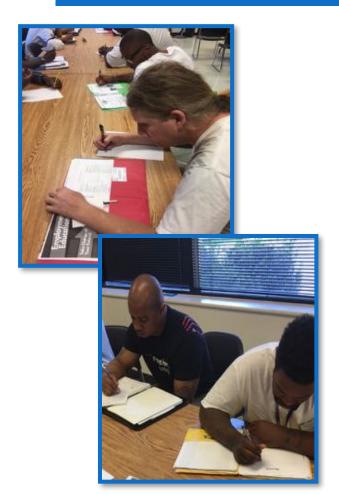


 Provides peer support and professional guidance





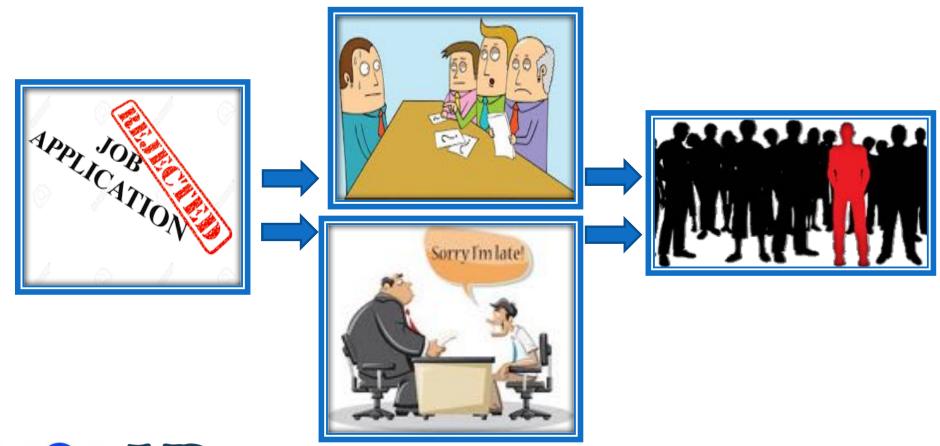
# "Time is free but it's priceless. Spend your time wisely."



#### TWO HOUR SESSIONS

- Job readiness skills
- Budget, finance, and credit building
- Educational opportunities
- Child support related matters
- Team building

# "Practice does not make perfect. Only perfect practice makes perfect." ~ Vince Lombardi



## Job Search Contact Requirements

- 6 contacts each week
- Register with 4 temp agencies
- Register with the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) & Workforce Development Center



















# "The Wall of Fame"



# Preparation + Opportunity =

Employment



# Transportation Assistance





#### Teamwork makes the dream work

**Opportunity Inc.** 

**Norfolk Works** 

211 / The Planning Council

The UP Center

**Mission United** 

**Step Up** 

**Dress For Success** 



VA Employment Commission

**Father's In Training** 

VA Beach & Norfolk Reentry Council

VA Beach Sheriff's Dept.

Tidewater Community College

**Dept. of Corrections** 



#### CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS MATTER

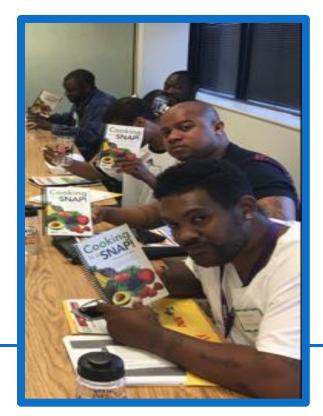
- Required to make payments by the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of each month
- Encouraged to take small steps and increase payments until the full obligation is met
- "Any payment is better than no payment"
- Work on creating a habit to make consistent payments







# Fuel for the body and mind











# "Boys make excuses, men accept responsibility"



# A Program With A Long-Term Impact

#### Peer Support





#### Restoration of Rights



"It's not that you fell, it's what you did once you got up"



## For More Information



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### Carmin Dean, Program Specialist Division of Child Support South Dakota Department of Social Services

**South Dakota Department of Social Services** 





## Lutheran Social Services (LSS) Program

- ▶ FY2014 SCA Young Fathers Reentry grant
- Pre-release parenting classes and case management
- Post-release case management, employment support, and group workshops
- Other services include addressing intimate partner violence, cognitive behavioral interventions, and referrals to address behavioral health needs.

## Child Support Partnership with LSS

- Child support is centrally managed at the state level
- ▶ LSS provides case management and supportive services
- Program participants have licenses reinstated or not revoked while active in program
- Program participants exempt from regular payment or verifiable work requirements while in program
- Program notifies child support of lack of compliance

a Department of Social Services

# Questions and Answers

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## Resources

- U.S. Office of Child Support Enforcement
  - https://www.acf.hhs.gov/css
- OCSE Newsletter: Child Support Report
  - https://www.acf.hhs.gov/css/newsletter-sign-up
- OCSE Final Rule Resources: Flexibility, Efficiency, and Modernization in Child Support Programs
  - https://www.acf.hhs.gov/css/resource/final-rule-resources
- National Conference of State Legislatures: Child Support and Incarceration
  - http://www.ncsl.org/research/human-services/child-supportand-incarceration.aspx





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