

# Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

## Using Distance-Based Child-Parent Engagement Strategies in Correctional Facilities

This project was supported by Grant No. 2020-CZ-BX-K001 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the SMART Office. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

# **Virtual Meeting/Conference Recording Notice**

This event will be recorded and posted online for training purposes.

# Reentry Week | April 26–30, 2021

#ReentryMatters | #ReentryWeek | #ReentryWeek21

During Reentry Week, the National Reentry Resource Center (NRRC) will be your home for resources and virtual events.

# Speakers

- **Milo Dittrich**, *Corrections Programs Manager, The Pathfinder Network*
- **Lisa Hall**, *Correctional Case Management Administrator, Oregon Department of Corrections*
- **Sheri Sandoval**, *Director of Corrections Programs, The Pathfinder Network*
- **Brandi Harrison**, *Project Manager, Forensic Services, Allegheny County Department of Human Services*
- **Amy Kroll**, *Administrator of Re-entry Services, Allegheny County Jail*
- **Valerie Carpico**, *Senior Policy Analyst, The Council of State Governments Justice Center*

# The Second Chance Act (SCA)



- The Second Chance Act supports state, local, and tribal governments and nonprofit organizations in their work to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes for people leaving incarceration.
- The Second Chance Act has supported over \$500 million in reentry investments across the country since it passed in 2008.
- Passed in 2018, the Second Chance Reauthorization Act builds on and strengthens the initial landmark legislation.

# **The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center**



## **Mission**

The CSG Justice Center develops research-driven strategies to increase public safety and strengthen communities.

[www.csgjusticecenter.org](http://www.csgjusticecenter.org)

# **CSG Justice Center Training & Technical Assistance**

## **Second Chance Act Category 3: Behavioral Health, Housing, and Family Supports**

- Improving Reentry for Adults with Co-occurring Substance Use and Mental Health Disorders
- Improving Reentry for Adults with Substance Use Disorders
- Pay for Success Initiative: Outcomes-Based Contracting to Lower Homelessness

# **CSG Justice Center Training & Technical Assistance**

## **Second Chance Act Category 3: Behavioral Health, Housing, and Family Supports Cont'd**

- Pay for Success Initiative: Outcomes-Based Contracting to Lower Recidivism
- Addressing the Needs of Incarcerated Parents with Minor Children
- Strengthening Relationships between Young Mothers and Their Children

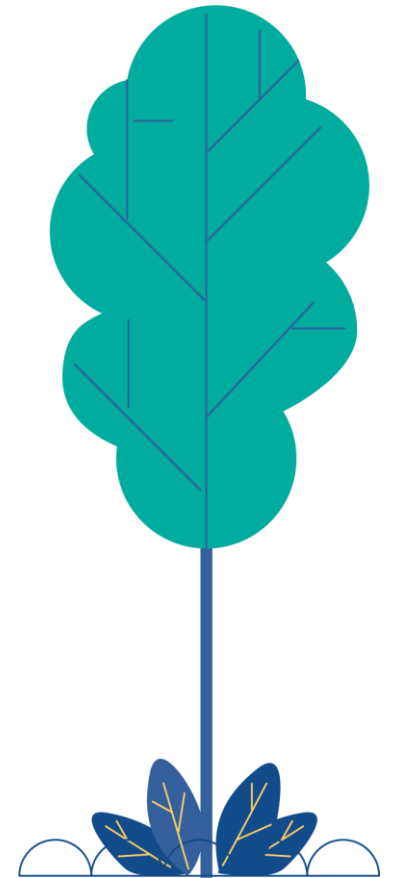


# Agenda

1. Overview of the SCA Addressing the Needs of Incarcerated Parents and Their Minor Children Grant Program
2. Using Distance-Based Child-Parent Engagement Strategies in Correctional Facilities
3. Questions and Answers

# **SCA Addressing the Needs of Incarcerated Parents and Their Minor Children Grant Program**

Supports activities that foster positive family engagement between incarcerated parents and their children within detention and correctional facilities and implement programs and services that support the children of incarcerated parents to reduce the likelihood of antisocial behaviors and future involvement in the juvenile justice system.



# OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

PARENTING INSIDE OUT (PIO) PHASE II:  
ENHANCED VISITATION PILOT PROJECT

# **Parenting Inside Out (PIO) Phase II: Enhanced Visiting Pilot Project**

- PIO Phase II is an advanced skills development and parent-child visiting program that builds upon the evidence-based Parenting Inside Out ® curriculum.
- With a strengths-based and holistic approach, the program supports incarcerated parents in developing parenting skills and working towards parenting goals.
- The program also provides support, materials, and resources for children and caregivers.

# Program Goals



- Increase communication, enhancing the parent-child relationship
- Increase positive family engagement
- Mitigate the impact of parental incarceration on children
- Enhance safety within institutions for adults in custody and correctional staff



# Project Scope and Population Served

## *Prior to the Pandemic (March 2020)*



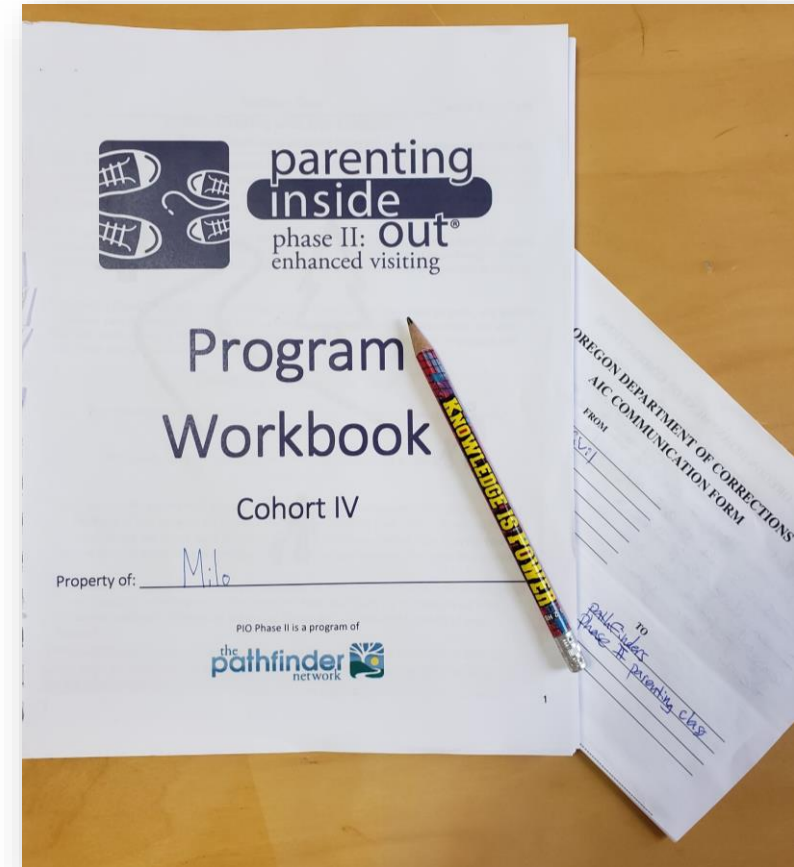
- Monthly enhanced visits
- Group parenting workshops
- One-to-one coaching
- Children and caregivers' support

# The COVID-19 “Pause-and-Pivot”

- Professional and personal visiting suspended
- Oregon wildfire prison evacuations
- Coordination with OJJDP program manager and technical assistance advisor

# The COVID-19 “Pause-and-Pivot”

- Temporary use of Department of Corrections confidential legal call lines and Adult in Custody (AIC) phone system
- In-person classroom materials converted to packets and delivered by intra-agency mail and regular mail
- Increased contact with caregivers and children





# Current Model

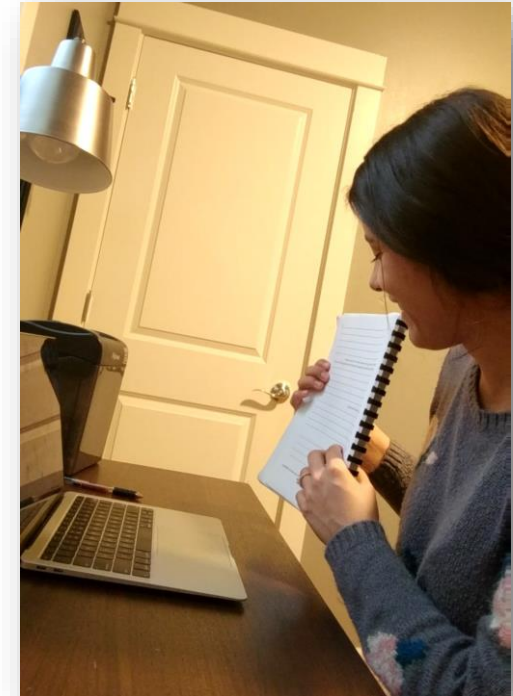


- Focus on individualized 1:1 interventions and curriculum
- Weekly video coaching
- Bound participant workbook for individuals or groups
- Weekly video (or phone) calls between parent and child
- Eligibility pool open to other institutions

# Moving Forward in Person or from a Distance

## ✓ Continuing 1:1 Coaching and Facilitation

- Acknowledge the pandemic
- Prepare for changes
- Keep it simple
- Individualize and offer choice points
- Use a trauma-informed lens
- Partner with the parent to center the child
- Stay curious; be open to new ideas
- Create opportunities for reflection and feedback



*Video coaching/facilitation*

**\*\* PRACTICE \*\* PRACTICE \*\* PRACTICE \*\* PRACTICE \*\***

# Moving Forward in Person or from a Distance

## ✓ **Supporting Parent-Child Engagement**

- Individualize and offer choice points
- Use a trauma-informed lens
- Self-care & self-regulation; preparing for transitions
- Partner with the parent to center the child
- Stay curious
- Celebrate milestones
- Create opportunities for reflection and feedback



# Moving Forward in Person or from a Distance

## ✓ Connecting with Caregivers and Children



*Incarcerated PIO2 father celebrating a birthday with son and son's grandmother (caregiver) via video call*

- Acknowledge the pandemic
- Welcome the child's and caregiver's perspectives
- Individualize and offer choice points
- Use a trauma-informed lens
- Stay curious; be open to new ideas or different ways to do things
- Show gratitude and grace
- Create opportunities for reflection and feedback

# Distance-Based Programming

- System design and capacity
- Resource allocation and security features
- Contractual obligations and restrictions
- Grant modifications and alternative funding sources
- Participant identity, culture, language, and learning styles
- Institutional culture
- Partners and stakeholders



**CONSIDERATIONS**



# **Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, Family Support Program**

# **Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, Family Support Program**

The purpose of this project is

- To reduce recidivism among a target population of 210 men and women who are serving a sentence in the county jail and are assessed at medium-high risk of reoffending; and
- To improve critical outcomes for their children, including reduced child protective services and juvenile justice involvement.

# Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, Family Support Program

## *Goals*

- **Increased family well-being and decreased child protective services involvement**
  - Participants have an increased understanding of child development, nonviolent discipline techniques, and parenting skills, as well as improved problem solving. Also, families are connected to resources during the parent's incarceration.



# Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, Family Support Program

## *Goals cont'd*

- **Increased child well-being and decreased juvenile justice system involvement**
  - Families maintain connections to the incarcerated parent, and children of incarcerated parents have support to address the trauma of parental incarceration.

# **Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, Family Support Program**

## *Goals cont'd*

- **Reductions in recidivism and incidents of violent crime for incarcerated parents after release**
  - Families are reintegrated and participants complete reentry service plans to address criminogenic needs.

# Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, Family Support Program

## *Grant activities*

- Parenting classes inside the jail, using an evidence-based curriculum
  - Participants in these classes also participate in coached telephone calls with family and in-person family visits
- Expanded family communication through visits, calls, and free video visits between individuals in the jail and their children and families

# Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, Family Support Program

## *Grant activities cont'd*

- Supportive services and home visits for children and families while parents are in jail and after release
  - Family support specialists and a peer specialist support families in understanding the jail's processes for calls, visits, and releases and in obtaining transportation to visits, so they are more likely to communicate regularly with the incarcerated parent.

# Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, Family Support Program

## *Grant activities cont'd*

- Supportive services and home visits for children and families while parents are in jail and after release
  - The staff regularly visit with family members to help them address any urgent issues—both directly (e.g., enrollment in income supports and contact with schools) and through referrals to early intervention services and behavioral health services. In addition to supporting families in meeting the children and youth's educational, health, and other needs, the staff prepare them for their parents' return from jail.
  - The family support specialists are a resource to caregivers who want to improve their own parenting skills, and a continuing support to caregivers and parents in the months after release.

# Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, Family Support Program

## *Eligibility*

- People who are assessed as medium-high risk, are sentenced (with minimum 90 days until release), and will be released on probation or parole; detained individuals with minor charges can also be considered for eligibility
- Parents/caregivers of minor children who are eligible for legal contact with child
- Allegheny County residents
- No minimum education requirements

# Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, Family Support Program

## *Use of technology: remote visitation*

- Coached Phone Calls
  - ❑ Staff are present on phone calls between parent and child using a special handset to provide support and coaching in real time
- Virtual Coached Visits
  - ❑ This grant expands visitation to include coached virtual visits where families come to the Mercy offices in the community and visit virtually with the incarcerated parent who is in the Reentry center at the jail. This also provides an option to families who are unable to visit in person due to work or other barriers.

# Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, Family Support Program

## *Use of technology: remote visitation cont'd*

- Tablets
  - ❑ Beginning in September/October 2020, all people in the jail received a tablet which can be used to make phone calls and video visits.
  - ❑ Although there are fees for calls and video visits, our Jail Oversight Board has voted to add \$50 monthly to each person's tablet account to help them maintain connections with families during the pandemic.
  - ❑ The program is working toward a process where staff-coached calls and visits using the tablets can resume at no cost to participants or families.
  - ❑ Once contact visits can resume, the tablets will continue to allow for increased opportunities for connection.



# Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, Family Support Program

*Use of technology: distance-based strategies*

- Parenting classes facilitated remotely in a live virtual format using Microsoft Teams
  - ❑ Participants are seated in socially distanced chairs in the large gymnasium on their level and watch the facilitator on a large screen.
  - ❑ The facilitator teaches the classes from the community but can see and hear participants and answer questions/facilitate conversations in real time.

# **Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, Family Support Program**

## *Use of technology: cost*

- Leveraged existing equipment/funds and purchased additional equipment using COVID-19 relief funds

# **Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, Family Support Program**

## *Lessons learned*

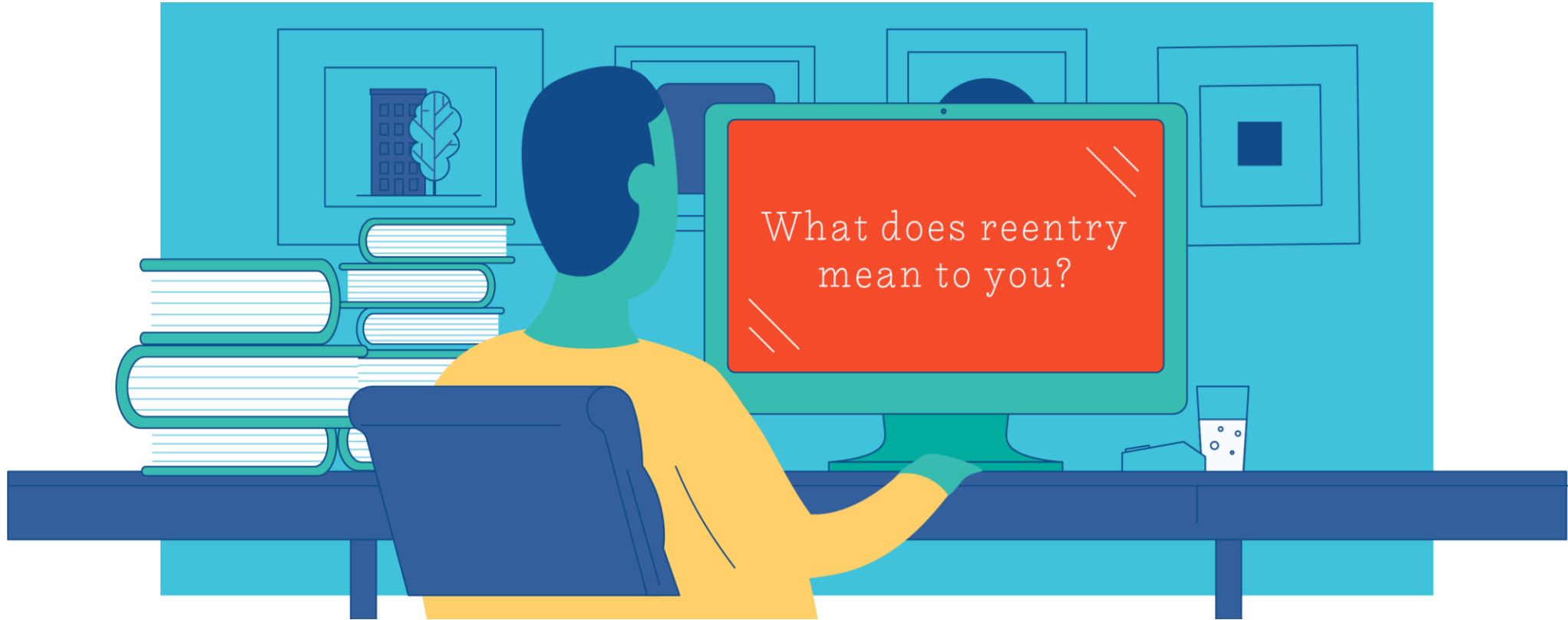
- **FLEXIBILITY, PERSISTENCE, and ADVOCACY** are key to keeping services going and increasing opportunities for contact with families through technology.

# Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, Family Support Program

## *Lessons learned*

- Take incremental steps
  - Example: coached phone calls led to contact visits
  - Keep moving in a positive direction
- When planning to use new technology, use a corrections lens to anticipate barriers and work through them in the planning stage

# [www.NationalReentryResourceCenter.org](http://www.NationalReentryResourceCenter.org)



The primary mission of the NRRC is to advance the knowledge base of the reentry field.  
**The NRRC serves as a convener and coordinator of SCA grantees.**

# Track News and Updates on Social Media

**#ReentryMatters**

**#ReentryWeek**

**#ReentryWeek21**



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