

Parenting Connection

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Webinars Offer Tips to Help Incarcerated Fathers Become Better Dads

The National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse (NRFC) produces series of resources dedicated to furthering the work of fatherhood professionals and the public at-large who are interested in supporting strong families and helping fathers become better dads. Since NRFC is an Office of Family Assistance federally-funded resource center, all resources written by the NRFC are available for free.

The goals of NRFC are to disseminate current research, provide proven and innovative strategies that strengthen fathers and families, and provide these services:

- Robust NRFC website – www.fatherhood.gov
- Media campaign that promotes the Responsible Fatherhood field and efforts of local programs
- Social media engagement
- Development and dissemination of written products that advance responsible fatherhood research and practice
- Outreach and presentations at conferences and events
- National Call Center for dads and practitioners (1-877-4DAD411)
- Virtual trainings

As part of their efforts to support the responsible fatherhood field since 2007, the NRFC has hosted a series of webinars. These webinars focus on a range of programmatic topics, including working with specific populations, evaluation support, and program implementation tools.

Materials relating to all of the NRFC webinars are available on the www.fatherhood.gov website. For the more recent webinars, you may view the video recording. For other webinars, audio recordings, presentation slides or transcripts are available.

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Three of the NRFC webinars deal specifically with issues relating to incarcerated fathers and their children. They are:

Supporting Fathers and Families Impacted by Incarceration

Original presentation date: January 25, 2017

This webinar offers tips on how fatherhood programs can work to improve outcomes for incarcerated fathers and their families and presents examples of programs that are helping fathers as they return to their families and communities.

Participants will improve their knowledge and understanding of:

- The impact of incarceration on children and families
- Barriers and challenges facing fathers as they return to the community
- Strategies to help incarcerated fathers focus on parenting, relationship and employment skills prior to community reentry
- Ways to respond to the needs of children and families of incarcerated fathers
- Programs that are helping fathers as they return to the community
- Resources for more information, including a new section of the NRFC's Responsible Fatherhood Toolkit

Presenters:

- Ann Adalist-Estrin, Director, The National Resource Center on Children and Families of the Incarcerated, Rutgers University, Camden, NJ
- Mary Weaver, Dad's Back!, Friends Outside, Los Angeles, CA
- Tina Naidoo, Executive Director, Texas Offender Reentry Initiative, Dallas, TX

Effective Strategies for Working with Fathers Returning from Prison

Original presentation date: July 12, 2012

This webinar provides ideas and resources to guide work with fathers who are returning to the community from prison. Resources are also provided that can be shared with fathers and their families.

After this training webinar, participants will improve their knowledge and understanding of:

- Federal Department of Justice prisoner re-entry priorities, supports, and guidance
- Research findings from a review of prisoner re-entry programs
- Effective strategies and lessons learned from programs having success helping fathers who are returning from prison

Presenters:

- Eugene Schneeberg, Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, U.S. Department of Justice
- Tasseli McKay, RTI International, Research Triangle Park, NC
- Marvin Charles, DADS Program, Seattle, WA

Promising Practices: Working with Incarcerated Fathers

Original presentation date: November 14, 2007

This Webinar discusses successful programs and strategies utilized by fatherhood programs in working with incarcerated fathers and their families.



Presenter:

- Ken Gosnell, Senior Director of Corrections Programming, National Fatherhood Initiative

Additional NRFC Webinars

In addition to the three webinars dealing specifically with issues relating to incarcerated fathers and their children, here is the complete list of NRFC webinars available:

2016

Employment and Economic Stability Services for Fathers
Working with Fathers in Rural Areas and Small Communities
Understanding Trauma-Informed Programming
Two-Generation Approaches to Working with Fathers
Child Support Awareness Month: A Look at How Child Support is Evolving

2015

Let's Talk About Mental Health
Working with Child Support: Continuing the Conversation
Strengthening Literacy and Father-Child Relationships through Reading
Working with Latino Dads

2014

Working with Fathers to Identify and Resolve Substance Abuse Problems
Addressing Domestic Violence: The Role of Fatherhood Programs
Outreach and Recruitment: Best Practices for Fatherhood Practitioners
How Can Fathers Address Bullying Issues with their Children?

2013

The National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse: Your Resource for Strengthening Fathers and Families in 2013
Working with Child Support: Effective Strategies from Model State and Local Partnerships
Working with Dads: Encouraging and Supporting Father Involvement from Birth through Adolescence
Working with Dads: Resources and Support for Fathers of Children with Special Needs

2012

Achieving Economic Stability: Strategies for Successfully Connecting Dads to Jobs
Fatherhood Buzz – Back to School Initiative: Effective Strategies for Increasing Father Involvement in Schools

2011

Working with Dads: Parenting Skills Development
Telling the Story: Documenting and Disseminating Stories of Program Success
Taking the Domestic Violence Conversation to the Community

2010

Beyond the Protocol: Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence Intervention
Using Data Evaluation to Improve Program Performance and Outcomes
Working with Homeless Fathers: Lessons from the Field
Integrating Healthy Marriage Skills in Responsible Fatherhood Programs



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2009

Helping Fathers Reconnect with their Families: Issues Faced by Fathers Returning from Military Service and Other Fathers Seeking to Reconnect with their Children and Families

Working with Fathers in Groups: Tips to Enhance Your Facilitation Skills

Evaluation: Tips and Tools to Document and Impact Your Work with Fathers

Working with Fathers from the Hip-Hop Culture

Working with Fathers from Rural and Small Town Communities

Responsible Fatherhood in the Context of Marriage: Promoting Healthy Marriage Activities with Couples or Single Fathers

Working with Dads Prenatally and Early Years: Encouraging Early Bonding and Addressing Health and Safety Issues

Helping Fathers Address Stepfamily and Multiple Partner Fertility Issues

Using the Internet and Modern Media to Enhance Your Fatherhood Program

2008

Promising Practices: Funding and Collaboration Opportunities with Child Support Enforcement

Earned Income Tax Credit: A Resource for Fathers and Families

Utilizing the NRFC Media Campaign and Working with Your Local Media

Fatherhood and Marriage: What's the Connection?

Co-Parenting: Helping Fathers and Mothers Work Together in the Best Interests of their Children

Working with Fathers of Special Needs Children

The Role of Fatherhood Programs in Addressing Domestic Violence

Promising Practices: Working with Teen Fathers

2007

Batterers Prevention and Intervention Services for Fatherhood Programs

Developing a Responsible Fatherhood Marketing Campaign

Recruitment and Retention: Getting and Keeping Fathers Involved in Program Services

Promising Practices: Adopting, Implementing, and Replicating Fatherhood Curricula

Program Evaluation: Essential Tips for Fatherhood Programs, Part I & 2

Promising Practices: Working with Low-Income Fathers

Anyone interested in additional resources relating to working with families impacted by incarceration may check out National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse's For Your Fathers, Incarceration and Reentry page, and search for research and resources in their virtual library.

Need Help?



Do you have any questions or need some advice on starting or improving your parenting classes, parent/child literacy program, or parent support group for offenders?

We have an email list of experienced parenting educators who are eager to help. Just send an email to jerrybednarowski@new.rr.com with your question or request and I will forward it to our email list. Then wait a few days and the helping responses will be sent to you.



Incarcerated Moms Are Invited to Make Submissions for *Amazing Moms*

United We Parent founders Hogan Hilling and Elise Cohen invite incarcerated moms to participate in the first comprehensive coffee table book about moms – ***Amazing Moms: Parents of the 21st Century***.

The book project will use stories submitted by moms of different socio-economic backgrounds, races and family structures to reveal the truths, tears and triumphs of modern motherhood.

To receive a form to fill out with instructions on how and what to submit, mail a letter to:

Hogan Hilling
P.O. Box 3763
Crestline, CA 92325

Or, you may contact Hilling by email at hogan@unitedweparent.com. You may also ask a relative or friend to contact Hilling on your behalf.

The deadline for submission is February 28, 2017. However, Hilling and Cohen Ho will accept extensions upon request. Hilling will also be happy to guide you through the whole process.

Hilling was successful in featuring dads, including incarcerated dads, in his book ***Dadly Dads: Parents of the 21st Century***. The ***Dadly*** book will feature 115 dads of various family dynamics from 11 different countries and is scheduled to debut in May 2017.

In addition to these two books under development, Hogan Hilling has authored or co-authored three other books in the *Dadly* book series:

- ***Dads Behaving Dadly: 67 Truths, Tears and Triumphs of Modern Fatherhood*** – Collection of stories from dads in USA, Canada, Australia and UK
- ***Dads Behaving Dadly 2: 72 More Truths, Tears and Triumphs of Modern Fatherhood*** – Collection of stories from dads in USA, Canada and Australia
- ***The Dadly Way: 10 Steps to More Active Fatherhood and Equal Parenting*** – Insightful information about the fatherhood movement and how to create a father-friendly environment in the parenting community, home, work and the community.

About the Authors

Dr. Elise Cohen Ho is a founder of United We Parent, Motivational Speaker, #1 Amazon Bestselling Author, professional blogger and a married mother of three. Dr. Ho holds doctoral degrees in Naturopathic Psychology and Natural Medicine, in addition to holding degrees or certifications in Sociology, Nutrition, Herbalism and other healing modalities.

Hogan Hilling is a founder of United We Parent, www.unitedweparent.com, and has appeared on Oprah. Hilling is also the author of nine published parenting books and the *Dadly* book series.

For past issues of this newsletter, parenting handbooks, program resources, and more – go to www.ceawisconsin.org



Co-Parenting Guide Gives Advice to Parents Separated by Incarceration

Posted on the University of Missouri Extension website's Families and Relationships page is *Parenting from Prison: A Co-Parenting Guide for Divorced and Separated Parents* written by David Schramm, State Specialist, Human Development and Family Science, and Christina Pucci, Graduate Student, Human Development and Family Science.

The *Guide* describes how divorce is a stressful process for families and one parent being incarcerated further complicates communication, custody arrangements, child support and relationship maintenance. Although the incarcerated parents are physically separated from their children, they can still be involved in making decisions on issues concerning their children.

Topics covered in the *Co-Parenting Guide* include:

- Effects of divorce on children, caregivers and incarcerated parents
- Co-parental communication
- How to answer children's questions like:
 - Why did Mom or Dad go to jail or prison?
 - Is it my fault Mom or Dad went to jail?
 - Where does Mom or Dad live in jail or prison?
 - What does Mom or Dad do with their time in jail or prison?
 - Can I see or talk to Mom or Dad when they are in jail or prison?
 - How long will Mom or Dad be in jail?
 - Where will I live?
 - Will Mom or Dad come home when he or she gets out of jail?
- Visitation
- Tips for families with an incarcerated parent
- Creative and fun activities to help incarcerated parents with long-distance parenting:
 - For toddlers through adolescents
 - For preschoolers and school-age children
 - For school-age children and older
 - For older children and adolescents
- Co-parenting tips for custodial parents
- Reuniting with children and re-entering society

The *Guide* stresses "Divorced or separated parents dealing with incarceration should try to do what is best for their children. Successful co-parenting requires both parents to be kind, patient and cooperative with each other. Communication and contact are essential for the long-term adjustment of parents and children. Although these tend to be difficult circumstances, parents should try to work together to meet their children's needs."

Parenting from Prison: A Co-Parenting Guide for Divorced and Separated Parents can be printed from the University of Missouri Extension website's Families and Relationships page and a copy of the guide can be mailed to the incarcerated parent so both parents can benefit from this information.

To join CEA go to: www.ceanational.org



Tell Us About Your Program

One of the goals of the Correctional Education Association's Parenting Special Interest Group is to provide a vehicle for communication among educators who are developing programs for incarcerated parents in correctional facilities or for their families in the community. You are invited to share your ideas by contributing an article for a future issue of this newsletter.

Here are some suggestions for articles:

- Share a creative lesson plan that you use in your Parenting Class
- Compile a list of books and videos you use in your program
- Describe how your parent/child book project works
- Share advice on establishing a Fathers or Mothers Fair
- Describe a training workshop that you found useful
- Describe how you involve community organizations in your program
- Describe how you have made your institution more family-friendly

Email your articles to JerryBednarowski@new.rr.com.

Mark Your Calendar

Fulfilling the Promise Conference

March 6-8, 2017

Wilderness Resort

Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin

www.uwm.edu/mcwp/programs/fulfilling-the-promise

United We Parent Conference

March 11, 2017

Cal Poly Pomona Kellogg Center

Pomona, California

www.unitedweparent.com,

International Prisoner's Family Conference

May 3-5, 2017

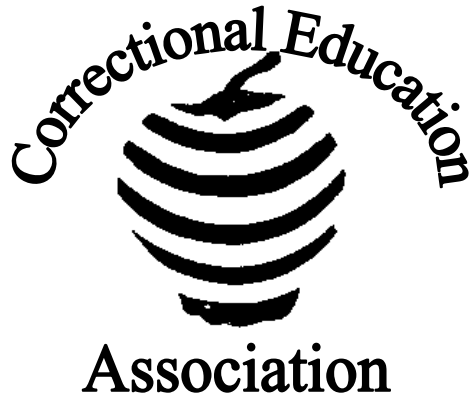
Wyndham Gardens-Dallas North

Dallas, Texas

www.prisonersfamilyconference.org



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Editor's Message:

In addition to publishing this bi-monthly newsletter, the Parenting Special Interest Group and the Wisconsin Chapter of the Correctional Education Association had published two handbooks – one for incarcerated parents and their families and the other for those who provide education and services for them.

Prison Parenting Programs: Resources for Parenting Instructors in Prisons and Jails is a "living document." That means information will continue to be added to the handbook as relevant programs and resources are identified. *Reaching Beyond Bars: A Handbook for Parents Incarcerated in Wisconsin and their Families* is updated approximately every two years, as new hardcopies are printed. As the handbooks are updated, they will be posted on the www.ceawisconsin.org, www.ceanational.org and www.fairshake.net websites.

Those who work with incarcerated parents and their families are welcome to print the handbooks or any sections of them for use with their clients. Goodwill Industries of North Central Wisconsin has partnered with CEA-Wisconsin to print hardcopies of the booklets. The hardcopies are distributed those to people who request them and to those attending workshops that the Parenting Special Interest Group presents.

If you have information that you feel should be included in either of the handbooks or would like to request a hardcopy of a handbook, email jerrybednarowski@new.rr.com.

Jerry

