

Supporting Incarcerated Parents and Children: Implementation of Parenting Inside Out in Dane County Jail

Pajarita Charles, PhD

Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work, UW-Madison March 23, 2023

Collaborations

- Cross-sector partnerships are needed to address complex social problems
 - Mitigate harm to justice-involved families

Collaborations between correctional institutions and other stakeholders is key



Partnerships in Practice





Partnership Development

Collective effort with interested parties





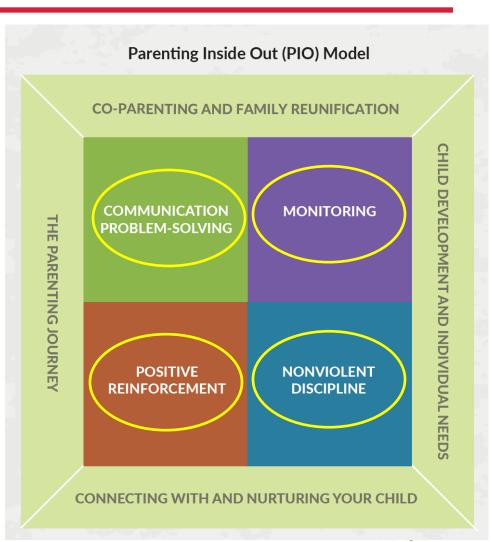
- School of Social Work
- UW-Extension
- School of Human Ecology

- 2018: National Institute of Corrections—Family Connections pilot site
- Goal: implement evidence-based, family-focused practices including parenting skills programming --Parenting Inside Out



Parenting Inside Out

- Evidence-based parenting skills curriculum
- Designed specifically for incarcerated parents
- Outcomes focused: roles, skills, behaviors
- Strengths-based & Learner-focused



Three Objectives

1

Give parents skills to be effective parents whether they are parenting from inside an institution, or in the community 2

Reduce the impact of parental incarceration on the child by maintaining parent-child contact

3

Reduce recidivism through building family connections



Second Edition





Curriculum Versions

PIO-24
Jails*

PIO-48
Community Reentry

PIO-60
Prisons

PIO-90
Prisons

*Used in Dane County Jail





Worksheet 1.3



PIO Topics



- Lesson 1 Getting Acquainted
- Lesson 2 Effective Speaking Skills
- Lesson 3 Effective Listening Skills
- Lesson 4 Effective Problem-Solving Skills
- Lesson 5 Bonding Through Play and Reading
- Lesson 6 The Child's Job and the Parent's Job
- Lesson 7 Nurturing Your Child's Temperament
- Lesson 8 Structure Through Family Routine
- Lesson 9 Directions and Encouragement
- Lesson 10 Rules, Rewards and Consequences
- Lesson 11 Timeout and Privilege Removal
- Lesson 12 Going Home: Your Children and You



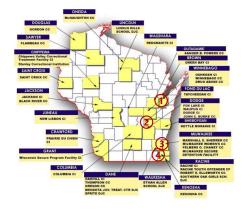
- 7 weeks (twice per week)
- 26 hours total
- Cohort 11 for men (10 fathers/cohort)
- Cohort 1 for women (4 mothers)
- Pre- and post-test data collected from participants



Partnership Expansions

- New Family Connections Social Worker position at jail
- PIO in the community and in 4 DOC state prisons





- Child-Friendly Visits: PIO+
 - Collaboration with DCSO, UW-Madison & Arts + Literature Laboratory
 - First implemented pre-COVID and re-introduced in 12/2022
 - Now offered first Saturday of every month
 - PIO graduates and their children
 - Support by Dr. Poehlmann, myself, and volunteer students











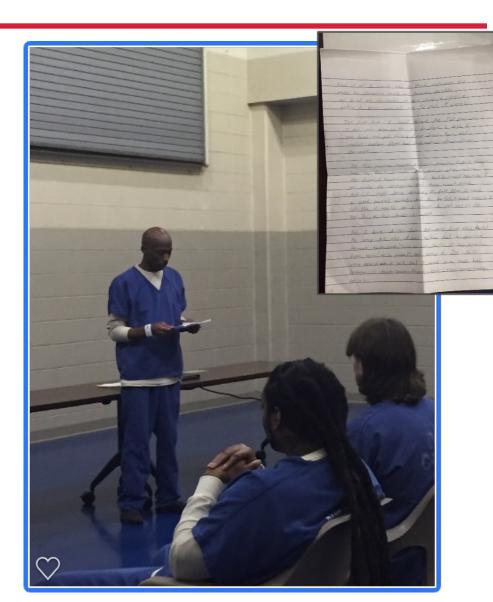
Child-Friendly Visits at Dane County Jail



Response from Parents







Thank you!

Pajarita Charles

paja.charles@wisc.edu

608-263-3834

https://familywellbeingandjustice.com/



Home Research & Projects Publications Prospective Students People News Links Contact

Lab for Family Wellbeing & Justice

Affecting Change Through Research, Training, Advocacy, and Reform

