

# FAMILY REUNIFICATION/STABILITY

**CHAIR: PHYLLIS NANCE, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES**

**CO-CHAIR: KEVIN BREMOND, DIRECTOR, FIRST 5 ALAMEDA COUNTY FATHERS CORP**

## OVERVIEW

THE FAMILY REUNIFICATION/STABILITY SUBCOMMITTEE AIMS TO REDUCE BARRIERS TO FAMILY REUNIFICATION AND THE IMPACT OF INCARCERATION ON THE FAMILY THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF BEST PRACTICES. THIS SUBCOMMITTEE SUPPORTS AND PROMOTES PROGRAMMING WHICH EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY ENGAGEMENT AND FAMILY-CENTERED CASE MANAGEMENT, AND CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE, TRAUMA-INFORMED POLICIES WITH A FOCUS ON IMPROVING OUTCOMES.

## ABBREVIATED STRATEGIES

- S1 - UTILIZE THE CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS BILL OF RIGHTS AS A GUIDING FRAMEWORK
- S2 - TRAINING FOR REENTRY PROVIDERS
- S3 - FAMILY REUNIFICATION ACTION PLANS
- S4 - PATHWAYS TO LEADERSHIP FOR CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS AND RETURNING PARENTS
- S5 - FAMILY IMPACT STATEMENT
- S6 - INCREASE CAPACITY OF SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEMS
- S7 - LEARNING COMMUNITY FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS AND CORRECTIONAL STAFF/LEADERS
- S8 - CULTURALLY RELEVANT EDUCATION AND SUPPORTS
- S9 - CHILD FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENTS
- S10 - PROVIDE MULTIPLE FORMS OF COMMUNICATION ACCESS
- S11 - HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RETURNING PARENTS
- S12 - INCREASE AND PRIORITIZE CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES
- S13 - EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FISCAL YEAR 2020/2021

### **Contracting of Family Reunification Providers (S3, S6, & S11):**

Services offered by Asian Prisoner Support Committee (APSC)/Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA), Centerforce, Tri Cities Community Development Center to assist returning clients assimilate back into their families and communities

### **Fatherhood Partnership and Father-Friendly Network (S6):**

The Fatherhood Partnership Mini-Grants Program was launched and funded eight organizations to offer Father-specific parenting education and support groups. Additionally, the Father-Friendly Provider Network (FFPN) continued to meet. The FFPN convenes service providers monthly, September through May, to provide training on topics specific to the needs of fathers. The FFPN seeks to build the capacity of service providers to effectively serve and support the needs of Fathers and Father-figures

### **Domestic Violence Prevention and Culturally Relevant Programming (S8):**

Alameda County Probation maintains a Domestic Violence caseload supporting clients in their rehabilitation through referrals to Court Mandated Domestic Violence Prevention programming. The County works with a myriad of Domestic Violence Prevention providers that offer Batterers Treatment Services to target population. Additionally, Centerforce, contracted Family Reunification service provider, offers culturally relevant parenting classes to the targeted population

### **Essential Housing Services (S11):**

Family Reunification service providers offered housing stipends to families hosting a returning family member. Housing services were offered in partnership with Community Development Agency (CDA) and community-based service providers. The selection of housing service providers was expanded through implementation of the "housing pool" Request for Proposal (RFP) process.

### **Increase and Prioritization of Education and Employment (S13):**

Employment services and programs offered by eight (8) contracted service providers. Clients were offered bonuses to further incentivize program completion. Increased subsidized hours, allowing up to 520 hours of subsidized work leading to permanent job placement. Program participants were offered up to 100 hours of job training for skill development, resume building, and pre-employment workshops, paying \$15.00 per hour. Educational services and higher education services were also offered through contracted providers.

## SUBCOMMITTEE PRIORITIES

FISCAL YEAR 2021/2022

- Establish a Fatherhood group, which emphasizes the importance of healthy co-parenting relationships (S8 & S9)
- Identify and increase housing opportunities for returning parents (S11)
- Develop training material on the Child Support Program (S12)
- Establish partnership with Alameda County Workforce Development Board to provide referrals for employment for non-custodial parents with barriers to paying child support (S12 & 13)
- Increase employment services and subsidized hours for returning parents (S13)

