

NYC Dads - 2013 Fatherhood Initiative Progress Report

NYC Department of Corrections (DOC)

Progress during 2012 - 2013

2012	2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 247 males sentenced in the Eric M. Taylor Center received child support education and assessments for downward modification. • 699 males and 345 females participated in programming focused on parenting skills and family engagement. • In collaboration with the Administration for Children Services, DOC continued to administer the Children of Incarcerated Parents Program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 416 visits were held. 750 children visited their parents. 193 fathers and 234 mothers participated in the program, totaling 427 parents. • DOC continued to partner with Human Resources Administration to provide the No Kidding: Straight Talk from Teen Parents Program to the adolescent population on Rikers Island. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Five cycles were conducted with adolescent youth. There were 114 male and 62 female participants, totaling 176 adolescents. • In conjunction with the New York Public Library, DOC continued to offer the Daddy/Mommy and Me Storybook Project to adult inmates who are parents. The program was offered in 5 facilities, totaling 57 participants. • Two new Children’s Visit Center sites were constructed, one in the Central Visit House on Riker’s Island and the other in the Vernon C. Bain Center in the Bronx. The Manhattan Detention Complex continued to feature its children’s corner that provides books to visiting children. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DOC collaborated with community partners to obtain donations to upgrade and expand the selection of toys and books available in each center to visiting children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 748 males and 381 females participated in programming focused on parenting skills and family engagement. • 384 males sentenced in the Eric M. Taylor Center received child support education and assessments for downward modification. • In collaboration with the Administration for Children Services, DOC continued to administer the Children of Incarcerated Parents Program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There were 420 visits held. 466 children visited their parents. 136 fathers and 138 mothers participated in the program, totaling 274 parents. • DOC continued to partner with Human Resources Administration to provide the No Kidding: Straight Talk from Teen Parents Program to the adolescent population on Rikers Island. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Six cycles were conducted with adolescent youth. There were 26 males and 42 female participants, totaling 68 adolescents. • In conjunction with the New York Public Library, DOC continued to offer the Daddy/Mommy and Me Storybook Project to adult inmates who are parents. The program was offered in 7 facilities, totaling 114 participants. • The Department’s reentry services Individualized Achievement Correction Network (I-CAN) launched its parenting component in July 2013. I-CAN provides detainees and sentenced inmates who are at the highest risk of reoffending with a range of services including parenting workshops, job placement, education and skills training, substance abuse treatment, psychotherapy, and housing support. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There were 106 fathers and 38 mothers who completed parenting workshops between July and December 2013, totaling 144 participants. • Five Children’s Visit Center sites continued to operate within DOC facilities. In June 2013, DOC added the Sesame Street Incarceration kit to the list of resources available to visiting families.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborated with the Osborne Association to pilot the first televisiting program for the sentenced female population on Rikers Island. The program arranged and supervised tele-visits between female inmates and family members at the Osborne Association’s Brooklyn office. Individualized coaching was offered to parents and children before and after each visit. 14 visits were conducted. • Two cycles of Fatherhood programming were held with both the sentenced adolescent population in the Eric M. Taylor Center and adult detainees in the Manhattan Detention Complex. The National Fatherhood Initiative’s “Inside Out Dad” curriculum was used to facilitate the program. There were 5 adolescents and 3 adults who completed the program in each facility respectively. • Sentenced males received parenting courses via Osborne Association’s Fresh Start program. This re-entry preparation program provided inmates instruction on parenting, culinary arts, computer literacy, job readiness and relapse prevention. There were three cycles held during June 2011 through March 2012 which resulted in 63 male graduates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOC tested all of its facilities existing videoconferencing equipment to determine capacity for expansion, and the community-based tele-visiting sites expanded to two additional locations, Osborne Association’s Bronx office and the New York Society for Ethical Culture’s office in Manhattan. Services are available in 6 facilities. Expansion to the remaining facilities will be completed in 2014. In September 2013, additional videoconferencing equipment was installed in the Eric M. Taylor Center to accommodate the expansion. Since inception, there have been 100 visits. Fifty eight visits have been held with inmates and their children and the remaining 42 have been held between inmates and service providers. • DOC and several other correctional professionals collaborated with Sesame Street to develop its “Little Children, Big Challenges” initiative which tackled the issue of incarceration. The materials aimed to raise awareness and provide parents, caregivers, and children with tools and resources that will help families cope with the separation and stigma experienced when impacted by incarceration. The materials were launched at the White House on June 12, 2013 and subsequently launched on Rikers Island during Father’s day weekend, June 15, 2013. That weekend at the Rose M. Singer and the Eric M. Taylor Centers, 238 families including 312 children participated in a meet and greet session and two presentations for incarcerated parents and their visiting children. • DOC in collaboration with the Volunteers of Legal Services’ Incarcerated Mothers Law Project provide mothers in the custody of the Department with pro-bono legal counsel on issues including child abuse, and neglect, custody, visitation, foster care, termination of parental rights, and adoption. IMLP volunteer attorneys also conduct educational workshops for incarcerated mothers on these issues in order to help them understand their legal rights and responsibilities while separated from their children. Sixty five women received consultations during the period of June 2012 through December 2013. During this period, 99 individual family law consultations were held.

Additional Successes & Best Practices

- DOC partnered with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to improve its nursery program for expectant mothers and mothers who reside with their children in the Rose M. Singer Center.

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- DOC in collaboration with Edwin Gould's Steps to End Family Violence hosted a Mother's Day celebration for women participating in its violence reduction and self-empowerment workshops. The celebration focused on motherhood and the importance of sustaining family ties. 48 women participated in the celebration.
- DOC in collaboration with Carnegie Hall's Musical Connections program piloted a Lullaby Project for residents in the nursery. This program offered mothers the opportunity to celebrate parenthood through music. The creative sessions explored the concept of a lullaby, song writing, and melody creation. Musical Connections artists and a composer provided expertise and technical assistance to each mother resulting in the creation of personalized lullabies by each parent. The lullabies were recorded and produced in a professional studio. Upon completion, each participant received a copy of the sheet music, certificate of participation, and copies of the CD for their families. The culminating event on Rikers included an album launch party for the participants and two concerts for the general population featuring Carnegie Hall artist Emeline Michel and the debut of each participant singing their lullaby. Seven mothers participated in the pilot. Due to the program's success, an additional cycle was conducted in November 2013; there were 14 participants. A total of 21 mothers participated in this program. The following link provides access to the media coverage done by WNBC on the project in April 2013: <http://www.nbcnewyork.com/video/#!/news/local/Rikers-Babies-Give-Inmate-Moms-Hope-for-Better-Lives/200821041>.
- DOC in collaboration with *K. Yamasaki*, and *Edwin Gould Services for Children and Family Services-Steps to End Family Violence* piloted a mural making project focused on parenting and the importance of the parent-child relationship. Incarcerated mothers and their children in the community were selected to participate in an art project aimed to build dialogue through art between the children and mothers as well in the community around the topic of incarcerated mothers and their children. The mural is located in East Harlem on 116th street and 1st avenue on the wall of Patsy's restaurant, a neighborhood landmark. The mothers also painted a mural designed for them by their children and others with incarcerated mothers. This mural is located in the Rose M Singer Center (female facility) at Rikers Island on the wall adjacent to the resident nursery. 11 mothers and 8 children participated in the project. The following link provides access to the media coverage done by NY 1 on the project in August 2012: <http://shar.es/zpWSj>. http://manhattan.ny1.com/content/top_stories/167479/children-communicate-with-incarcerated-mothers-through-mural

Please see the [NYC Young Men's Initiative](#) and [NYC DADS](#) websites for additional information on the progress of NYC Dads.