

**REPORT OF THE
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH,
MENTAL RETARDATION AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE ON**

Children of Incarcerated Parents Project

**TO THE GOVERNOR AND
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA**



HOUSE DOCUMENT NO. 70

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
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Preface

TO: The Governor and the General Assembly of Virginia

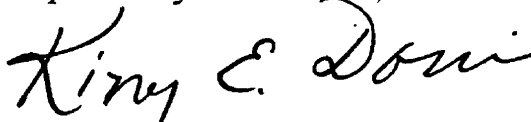
House Joint Resolution No. 413 directed the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, in cooperation with the Departments of Social Services, Education, Corrections, Youth and Family Services to develop, and deliver in-service training which promotes awareness of the impact of parental incarceration on children.

House Joint Resolution No. 425 directed the Office of Prevention and Children's Resources of the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services in cooperation with the Departments of Corrections, Social Services, Education, Youth and Family Services, Health and the Virginia Parole Board to develop and disseminate age-appropriate information on the phases of the criminal justice system for children of incarcerated parents.

House Joint Resolution No. 427 directed the Office of Prevention and Children's Resources of the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services in cooperation with the Departments of Corrections, Social Services, Education, Youth and Family Services, and local law enforcement agencies to develop materials explaining the criminal justice system and sources of public aid for caretakers of children of incarcerated parents.

This document provides a final report on progress made on these three projects as of December 31, 1993.

Respectfully submitted,



King E. Davis, Ph.D.
Commissioner

<p>Steering Committee</p>

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The committee wishes to extend its appreciation to Jim Mustin from
the Department of Corrections for his invaluable assistance in
consultation and issue development.

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Executive Summary

In December of 1992 the Virginia Commission on Youth reported that the most significant finding of their study of the needs of children of incarcerated parents was the absence of information regarding the number and conditions of those children in Virginia whose parents are incarcerated. The legislature responded quickly and thoroughly, requiring the development of an interagency initiative to identify, educate and serve these children, and those adults who have responsibility for them, in a systematic way. In doing so, Virginia has placed itself in the forefront of the nation in meeting the needs of this group of children.

Prior to passage of the package, the Substance Abuse Services and Prevention Offices of the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services (DMHMRSAS) had initiated a project to develop a needs assessment, training manual and training program regarding service delivery to children whose parents are incarcerated. A representative was requested from each named agency in House Joint Resolution No. 413 to join the state steering committee for that project. The steering committee has also provided oversight for the development of the literature called for under HJRs 425 and 427.

While not specifically mandated by legislation, the implementation of a needs assessment is a necessary first step to the development of appropriate literature and training models. The Office of Prevention and Children's Resources of the DMHMRSAS has contracted with the Prison Visitation Project to conduct the needs assessment, and to provide data and conclusions for incorporation into both the literature and training manual. The state steering committee has received regular reports on the project.

At the same time the DMHMRSAS requested the Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents of Pacific Oaks College to complete a training manual for Commonwealth of Virginia human services professionals working with children of offender populations and/or with their caregivers. This training manual is scheduled for completion in March of 1994.

The state steering committee is also developing the literature for children of incarcerated parents and their caregivers and has adopted an interagency dissemination plan for that literature. As of this writing the literature for children, their caregivers and the trainings for professionals are in progress. The committee has developed a time line which calls for completion of the needs assessment in November of 1993, (now completed), the literature in December of 1993, and pilot trainings from the training manual to be conducted throughout the state by the end of June 1994.

Yet, the completion of these three tasks is truly only a beginning. Pilot programs could be developed based upon the models offered in the trainings. Literature will need to be distributed according to the dissemination plans, those plans evaluated, and modified if they are not successful. Additional initiatives may be developed to address some of the needs as they are uncovered.

The steering committee agreed that there is a need for continued cooperation among agencies, and the importance of follow-up actions to the development of the literature and training models. Therefore the state steering committee for Children of Incarcerated Parents

Recommends that the Departments of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, Social Services, Education, Corrections, and Youth and Family Services continue their support of the state steering committee for children of incarcerated parents for an additional year, and that the committee periodically report its findings to the Commission on Youth.

Introductory Chapter

The Virginia Commission on Youth December 1992 Study of the Needs of Children Whose Parents are Incarcerated represented a systemic approach to an underserved population of seriously at risk youth. Virginia has not previously served these children in an attempt to meet their specific needs. In fact, these children have not even been counted or identified in any manner. As a response to the needs presented in the 1992 study, the legislature passed a systematic package of initiatives. In doing so, Virginia has placed itself in the forefront of the nation in meeting the needs of this group of children. The legislation includes:

House Joint Resolution No. 413 which directed the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, in cooperation with the Departments of Social Services, Education, Corrections, Youth and Family Services to develop, and deliver in-service training which promotes awareness of the impact of parental incarceration on children.

House Joint Resolution No. 425 directed the Office of Prevention and Children's Resources of the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services in cooperation with the Departments of Corrections, Social Services, Education, Youth and Family Services, Health and the Virginia Parole Board to develop and disseminate age-appropriate information on the phases of the criminal justice system for children of incarcerated parents.

House Joint Resolution No. 427 directed the Office of Prevention and Children's Resources of the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services in cooperation with the Departments of Corrections, Social Services, Education, Youth and Family Services, and local law enforcement agencies to develop materials explaining the criminal justice system and sources of public aid for caretakers of children of incarcerated parents.

These three resolutions form the basis of the information in this report.

The package of initiatives also included SJR 204 which calls for the development of a mechanism to accurately count the children, SJR 216 which requires standards and training for law enforcement officers and HJR 206 which provides for the development of an information packet for inmates which explains custody laws and foster care. These initiatives are not covered in this report. However, they remain significant because of the extensive sharing and cooperation among the members of the various study teams.

Prior to passage of the package, the Substance Abuse Services and Prevention Offices of the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services had initiated a project to develop a needs assessment, training manual and training program regarding service delivery to children whose parents are incarcerated. A representative was requested from each named agency in House Joint Resolution No. 413 to join the steering committee of that project.

Completion of the literature for children and their caretakers (HJRs 425 and 427) and development of a mechanism to accurately count the children (SJR 204) required the cooperation of essentially the same set of agencies, and consequently the committee combined these tasks. Additionally, members of the committee sit on steering committees for HJR 206 and SJR 216 thereby providing necessary ongoing communication and cooperation.

The DMHMRSAS had determined that to accurately develop a training program to meet needs of children of incarcerated parents, it was first necessary to assess those needs. DMHMRSAS worked with the Prison Visitation Project and the Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents at Pacific Oaks to conduct a needs assessment and to develop a prevention manual.

The Prison Visitation Project, (PVP) is a non-profit organization which seeks to prevent prisoners from returning to crime by promoting strong family ties. The PVP agreed to

- assess the emotional and physical needs of children of incarcerated parents
- identify and analyze services directed at improvement of family and child functioning and child prosocial development
- identify prison and jail visitation arrangements and procedures and

- provide training on these findings to local community service boards and other service providers in five regions across the state.

The Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents at Pacific Oaks, (CCIP) is a child advocacy program of Pacific Oaks College and Children's Programs, a nationally recognized upper division and graduate institution specializing in child development and the training of professionals who work with children. The CCIP worked with DMHMRSAS to

- develop an array of curriculum (programs) in a "how to" manual format focusing on self esteem and values development servicing a broad age range of children of incarcerated parents within the community service board arena
- recognize and incorporate the unique regional, urban, and cultural differences in the individual community service boards located in the commonwealth and of the children serviced
- develop an evaluation plan and instruments to assess program effectiveness for use by communities.

Additionally, the DMHMRSAS Office of Prevention and Children's Resources designated a project coordinator to develop the literature for both children and their caretakers, and to provide staff support and technical assistance to the steering committee, the contractees, and the service professionals in the field.

The Virginia initiative for serving the needs of children of incarcerated parents is the first of its kind in the U.S. Although many local or regional models exist across the nation, there is no other state which has legislatively provided for identification, education and services for these children throughout the entire state. The state steering committee has remained aware of our significance in developing a national model as we have proceeded.

The state steering committee has met regularly since spring of 1993. Accomplishments of the committee and of the professionals for which they provide oversight and direction follow:

The committee or members of the committee have:

- Developed a list of topics to be covered in the literature for children and their caregivers
- Surveyed organizations nationwide for sample literature and model programs
- Attended an international conference addressing this issue
- Conducted interviews with inmates, children and caregivers
- Adopted a dissemination plan for the literature for children in cooperation with agencies which will implement the plan
- Provided technical assistance in the development of the needs assessment instrument
- Provided an initial status report to the Commission on Youth
- Refined the needs assessment methodology based on input from the Commission on Youth
- Developed a timetable for making training and services available
- Met with professionals who serve the children
- Developed a list of service providers desiring training as it becomes available
- Provided technical assistance to service providers
- Provided technical assistance in the development of a methodology for counting the children
- Collected data on youth committed to DYFS who are biological parents

The committee is in the process of

- Completion of the literature for children and their caregivers
- Oversight of the project tasks

The Prison Visitation Project has:

- Met with Dr. Denise Johnston from the Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents to coordinate responsibilities for the project
- Met with Department of Corrections administrators and prison wardens to obtain approval for human research review to interview state inmates.
- Developed a needs assessment instrument in the form of a two-part survey

- Met with researchers at the Department of Criminal Justice Services to review the instrument
- Tested the questionnaire
- Completed a timeline for completion of the needs assessment and training pilots (Appendix B)
- Conducted interviews at three jails and two prisons
- Interviewed caregivers by phone
- Provided preliminary data and anecdotal preliminary findings to the committee
- Obtained and reviewed service provider listings for the purpose of identification and compilation of specific services available
- Collation of service provider information
- Organization of information according to Community Services Board regions
- Review and compilation of data on prison visitation procedures

The Prison Visitation Project is in the process of:

- Completion of survey results
- Interviews of children at Greensville prison
- Surveying selected service providers
- Review of training manual with DMHMRSAS staff
- Selection of pilot sites for initial trainings
- Completion of pilot trainings in cooperation with DMHMRSAS using the curriculum provided by the Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents.

The Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents has

- Provided comments and recommendations on the needs assessment
- Met with the Prison Visitation Project to coordinate responsibilities for the project
- Conducted original research and a review of the literature which will be incorporated into the training manual
- Developed a list of topics and major areas of concern which the manual will cover
- Assembled appropriate documentary resources and information from the national networks of program

specialists in this area for integration into manual curriculum models

- Submitted a final draft of the training manual for review by DMHMRSAS and the state steering committee.

The Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents is in the process of

- Integration of original materials, outside documentation and local data into the training manual
- Development of the evaluation plan and instruments for incorporation into the manual
- Completion of the training manual

The following chapters offer details of the accomplishments listed.

Needs Assessment

While not specifically mandated by HJR's 413, 425 and 427, the implementation of a needs assessment is a necessary first step to the development of appropriate literature and training models. The Prison Visitation Project is still in the process of the completion of that study. A summary of the questionnaire is contained in Appendix C and preliminary results are contained in Appendix D. The final report was completed during November of 1993, and a summary of the final results are incorporated into this report .

Preliminary anecdotal findings which were shared with the state steering committee include:

- there is a larger than normal number of special needs children in the population
- in general the caregivers are voicing a sense of difficulty in caring for the children
- when the child is living with his or her natural mother there is much less disruption than for those children who have been placed with their grandmother
- relatives other than the child's natural parent experience a greater degree of hardship
- many of the families have moved frequently so that at times it has been difficult to locate the caregiver
- the majority of parents in jail plan to live with their children when released
- the vast majority of parents in jail report drug or alcohol abuse
- middle school and high school-aged children show more anger and less acceptance than were younger children.

These preliminary results suggest a need for a wide variety of family services. Some of these services should be directed at the incarcerated parent since it is expected that most incarcerated parents will eventually be returning to the family unit. It is expected that the final survey results will further clarify how children are affected by parental incarceration, particularly in terms of issues of intergenerational incarceration, and how successful interventions can be utilized in Virginia.

Development of Literature for Children

Age-appropriate literature for children of incarcerated parents on the phases of the criminal justice system must address issues and answer their questions in ways and language which they can understand.

Children frame their questions about the criminal justice system in very basic ways. They wish to understand arrest procedures by wondering whether the police who took their parent away is a villain, whether their parent has been harmed, and whether the parent will ever come home again. Additionally, children wonder about their own safety. They look at pretrial custody by wondering where their parent is. The sentencing phase leads to further questions about what crime was committed by their mom or dad, if the commission of the crime means that the parent is a bad person, or that the parent does not love the child anymore.

Once the parent has been sentenced the aspects of incarceration become a focus for the child who now fears for their parent's welfare and is likely to imagine horrible visions of life in jail or prison. The children want to know: "Is mom being fed? Does dad have to wear striped pajamas? Will mom survive? Will I survive?" They further have questions about their role in the parent's incarceration i.e., "Is it my fault?" Depending upon children's ages, they wonder if they can visit, bring presents, or even come to live at the institution. Children also often wonder what to tell their friends and classmates.¹

These questions come up time and time again as concerns for children throughout the national literature. Additionally, these concerns were identified by inmates and children's caregivers in Virginia.

Visitation is the best means of answering the child's most pressing questions, and yet that visitation can be frightening, especially for young children who are denied contact with their parent who is being held at a local jail. Visitation procedures and

¹How Can I Help? Working with Children of Incarcerated Parents, Serving Special Children, Volumes I and II© 1993, the Osborne Association

rationales for those procedures need to be explained so that the child knows what to expect.

The parole hearing is viewed by children of incarcerated parents as the magical moment when mom or dad will return. When the parent is turned down for their first parole request the child's hopes are dashed, because, in fact, the child's main question to his or her parent has been throughout all phases of the criminal justice process: "When are you coming home?"

The literature, titled "When are you coming home? ... Questions and answers for kids with a parent in jail or in prison." will address these issues through a question and answer format, and will address the questions and feeling that children have when their parent is incarcerated. Since many of the questions cannot be specifically answered for every individual through a piece of literature, the booklet will also address how children can get their questions answered.

The format of the literature will be intentionally designed to encourage incarcerated parents to share the information about incarceration with their children. This will allow the parent to help provide the answers which are specific to their case and to help foster family ties. Strengthening family ties has been demonstrated beyond a shadow of a doubt to significantly increase the chances of success for offenders upon their release.²

The literature will draw heavily on the results of the needs assessment, interviews with parents, children and caregivers, and on available national literature.

² Explorations in Inmate-Family Relationships, Holt, N. and Miller, D. Research Division , Department of Corrections, State of California, January 1972, pgs 60-64

Development of Literature for Caregivers

Many of the issues which are of prime concern for children must be addressed through their caregivers. For example, it is often the responsibility of the caregiver to inform the child of the parent's whereabouts and the reasons for the incarceration (if the child is indeed told the truth).

Topics to be covered in the caregivers literature include:

1. Overall phases of the criminal justice system:

Arrest, pre-trial custody, sentencing, incarceration and parole will be detailed for the purpose of helping caregivers understand the procedures for each as well as clarifying common misconceptions.

2. Reasons and methods for telling children where their parents are and why:

Although parents and caregivers may believe that they are protecting the child by denying that the parent is in prison, it is likely that deception will make the situation more traumatic for the child. ³

3. Reasons and methods for maintaining contact between parent and child:

Both prisoners and their families benefit from maintaining contact.⁴ Maintaining such contact can be difficult due to transportation issues and lack of familiarity with Department of Corrections operating procedures. This section will include a checklist for visitation, information on communicating by mail and phone, and means of locating support and information.

4: Sources of public aid:

Many of the stresses for caregivers are enhanced by poverty. A resource list for public aid will be included in the booklet.

³Family and Corrections Network Research and Background, a source book on families of offenders, James William Mustin Editor, © March 1987 pp. V.B.2

⁴How Can I Help? Sustaining and Enhancing Family Ties for Children of Incarcerated Parents, Serving Special Children, Volume II pp. 6-8© 1993, the Osborne Association

Dissemination of Literature

The state steering committee adopted the following approach to dissemination of the literature for children:

Widespread distribution of the literature will require a number of insertion points through various agencies as resources become available.

I. Department of Corrections:

A. Institutions

1. Reception Centers: Since the issue of parental separation will often be most sharply felt at entry to the state system, the material should be made available at Reception Centers, especially at the women's prison.
2. Inmate orientation: When inmate orientations are given, the pamphlets should be made available.
3. Counselors: Counselors should have a supply of pamphlets. The counselor could give pamphlets to inmates when the need arises or when requested. Also the inmate could give the counselor the address and the counselor could mail information to the caregiver or child.
4. Visiting Rooms: It is recommended that prison and jail visiting rooms have displays set up with copies of pamphlets available for anyone to "Take One." Pamphlets should be distinctive in color and shape so security can easily identify what is being passed. An alternative for some facilities would be to make the material available to visitors during visitor intake.
5. Whenever Department of Social Service literature on child custody is distributed, the children's literature should be included in the packet at that time.

B. Community Corrections

1. Probation and Parole (P&P) officers and Community Diversion Incentive (CDI) workers: These employees should have a supply of pamphlets. These should be given to inmates when the need came up or when requested.
2. P&P/CDI Waiting rooms: A display should be set up in the waiting room of P&P/CDI offices.

C. Training:

1. Department of Corrections employees should initially be familiarized with the pamphlets by including the topic in in-services training and by briefing unit heads at their statewide meetings.
2. New employees should be reached by including the topic in their respective basic skills training programs.

II Jails

A. Visiting Rooms: Many prison and jail visiting rooms should have displays set up with copies of pamphlets available for anyone to "Take One". pamphlets should be distinctive in color and shape so security can easily identify what is being passed. An alternative for some facilities would be to make the material available to visitors during visitor intake.

B. Local Mental Health: Community Services Boards: CSB workers go into most jails to provide services to inmates. They should be provided with pamphlets to distribute to interested inmates.

C. Training: Most jails are run by Sheriffs, and those that are not often have Sheriffs on their boards. Presentation time before the Sheriff's Association, and in the Sheriff's Association magazine has been requested in order to explain the usefulness of the pamphlets and ask their support for distribution of pamphlets in jails.

III. Department of Education

1. Schools: Distribution of literature for children should be accomplished at those times when children or caregivers identify themselves as part of the target population. A major concern of distribution through the schools is the issue of confidentiality, and consequently the best avenue appears to be through guidance staff.

IV. Community Agencies

1. Community Services Boards (CSBs): Local CSBs have already been identified as providing services to inmates and their families.
2. Additional Agencies: Awareness of the needs of children of incarcerated parents will lead to more and more identification of these children within community programs. Virginia's Headstart program has already indicated that an informal survey shows all their programs serving some families of offenders. Likewise, the Commonwealth Girl Scout Council has indicated that their programs are discovering serving these children as well. All such agencies should be provided with copies of the literature for their use.

V. Distribution of Literature to Caregivers

1. Literature would be distributed to caregivers through all of the above mechanisms.
2. Care should be taken to ensure that inmates and caregivers are given access to the same information; therefore, the custody packets distributed by DSS should also be given to caregivers, and the caregiver literature should be provided to inmates.

Training Manual and Program

The Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents (CCIP) of Pacific Oaks College is in the process of completing a training manual for Commonwealth of Virginia human services professionals working with children of offender populations and/or with their caregivers. This manual will be designed to prepare users to:

- understand theoretical issues underlying the status and needs of children of incarcerated parents and their caregivers;
- become familiar with national, regional and local policies that directly affect this population;
- work within the guidelines of local agencies that provide services to offenders, their children and their children's caregivers;
- perform accurate and comprehensive assessments of the individual needs of children of prisoners, including the related needs of their caregivers;
- assess community services for applicability to the needs of these children and their caregivers;
- develop case management plans that address these needs in order of their importance to the well-being of the child; and
- work with other individuals and agencies in creating, implementing, expanding and/or evaluating developmentally appropriate services for children of incarcerated parents and their caregivers.

The manual will include a comprehensive overview ("curriculum") of categories of programming for these populations, with examples of effective models that have produced successful outcomes among the children and/or their caregivers.

Finally, the manual will include evaluation instruments to allow user agencies to determine the effectiveness of manual-based trainings.

A review of the literature, their original research, and their experience in serving over 3000 individual clients since 1990, suggests that there are three major factors that distinguish children

of offenders from their high risk peers and lead to intergenerational incarceration:

1. Traumatic events in childhood:

These include but are not limited to prenatal exposure to drugs, parental substance abuse, domestic and community violence, and parental crime, arrest and incarceration.

2. Parent/child separation:

A primary role of parents is to help children deal with stressful events and master trauma. When a traumatic event includes parent/child separation, children also lose their helper, and their ability to address and master trauma is seriously impaired.

3. Inadequate quality of care, largely due to poverty:

In addition to contributing to multiple placements and caregiver stress following parent/child separation, extreme poverty precludes the stable, nurturing home environment that children need to survive early traumas without sequelae.

Based on these findings, the CCIP will address each of the above issues in developing the manual. It is expected that activities based upon the manual will result in improved outcomes in one or more of the above areas. Secondary outcomes, such as improved self esteem and decision-making skills, commonly occur as a result of these primary achievements.

Upon completion of the manual and integration of local data from the Prison Visitation Project needs assessment, pilot trainings will be conducted at five regional locations, under the auspices of the DMHMRSAS, Office of Prevention and Children's Resources.

Conclusions

As of this writing, the literature for children, their caregivers and the trainings for professionals are in progress. It is expected that these projects will be completed by March of 1994.

Yet, the completion of these three tasks is truly only a beginning. Pilot programs should be developed based upon the models offered in the trainings. Literature will need to be distributed according to the dissemination plans, those plans evaluated, and modified if they are not successful. Some information which has been collected has not yet been analyzed or considered for incorporation into the overall project. (See DYFS Teen Parents Survey, Appendix E)

Additional initiatives may be developed to address some of the needs as they are uncovered. The committee is not prepared to offer firm recommendations at this time, but would note that many options should be considered for possible implementation. Possibilities for future study include, but are not limited to:

- development of pilot programs in community settings, in schools and/or at jails and prisons
- support for and replication of already existing programs serving children of incarcerated parents and their caregivers
- outreach efforts to enhance public awareness of the needs of children of incarcerated parents
- expansion of resources to provide for child-centered visitation alternatives at jails and prisons
- legislation to offer alternative sentencing options for custodial parents
- consideration of alternatives to foster care

Certainly as the first state in the nation to address this group of children's needs in a systematic way, we must continue to lead the way in development of successful strategies to meet those needs. Continued interagency cooperation must be fostered for successful development, implementation and evaluation of these efforts.

Recommendations

The steering committee agreed that there is a need for continued cooperation among agencies, and the importance of follow-up actions to the development of the literature and training models. Therefore the state steering committee for Children of Incarcerated Parents

Recommends that the Departments of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, Social Services, Education, Corrections, and Youth and Family Services continue their support of the state steering committee for children of incarcerated parents for an additional year, and that the committee periodically report its findings to the Commission on Youth.

Appendix A

House Joint Resolutions

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA--1993 SESSION

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 413

Requesting the Departments of Social Services, Education, Corrections, Youth and Family Services, and Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to develop and deliver in-service training which promotes awareness of the impact of parental incarceration on children.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 9, 1993

Agreed to by the Senate, February 16, 1993

WHEREAS, there are an estimated 30,694 children in the Commonwealth whose parents are under some form of correctional supervision; and

WHEREAS, these children are students in local schools and are often recipients of services from other public and private service agencies; and

WHEREAS, these agencies are frequently unaware of the status of the parents; and

WHEREAS, communication between correctional and community-based agencies serving the child is limited; and

WHEREAS, approximately seven percent of all children in foster care have parents who are incarcerated; and

WHEREAS, mental health providers do not routinely work with the children whose parents are court-ordered into treatment; and

WHEREAS, no training curriculum for system professionals exists that deals with the impact of parental incarceration; and

WHEREAS, the provision of descriptive information will help professionals better understand the causes behind the behaviors they observe and will facilitate the sharing of expertise across professions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Departments of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, Social Services, Education, and Youth and Family Services, with the cooperation of the Department of Corrections, are requested to develop and deliver in-service training to service professionals which will promote awareness of the impact of parental incarceration on children.

The Departments are requested to report on the status of this project to the Commission on Youth by December 1, 1993, and shall complete their work in time to submit their report to the Governor and the 1994 Session of the General Assembly in accordance with the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA-1993 SESSION

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 425

Requesting the Children's Resource Center of the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, in cooperation with the Departments of Corrections, Social Services, Education, Youth and Family Services, Health, and the Virginia Parole Board, to develop and disseminate age-appropriate information on the phases of the criminal justice system.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 5, 1993

Agreed to by the Senate, February 23, 1993

WHEREAS, the 1992 General Assembly requested the Commission on Youth to study the needs of children whose parents are incarcerated; and

WHEREAS, the study estimates that there are over 30,000 children in Virginia whose parents are under some form of correctional supervision; and

WHEREAS, the Commission on Youth has observed that many of these children go unserved primarily for lack of being properly identified; and

WHEREAS, many of the issues confronting children of incarcerated parents are similar to those of children experiencing other forms of parental separation; and

WHEREAS, these problems place the children at high risk for future delinquency, school failure and substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, the Commission found that the absence of information available to children which explains the phases of the criminal justice system hindered their ability to understand and successfully adapt to their parents' incarceration; and

WHEREAS, national research has suggested a correlation between children's lack of accurate information regarding their parent's imprisonment and acting out and delinquency; and

WHEREAS, private foundations have identified children of incarcerated parents for specific public education efforts as specific populations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Children's Resource Center of the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, in cooperation with the Departments of Corrections, Social Services, Education, Youth and Family Services, Health, the Virginia Parole Board, and local law-enforcement and prison visitation programs, is requested to develop age-appropriate materials for children of incarcerated parents which explain the various phases of the criminal justice system. The Children's Resource Center is further requested to investigate sources of private foundation funding for the printing and dissemination of the material and to develop a plan for the dissemination through local schools, departments of social services, circuit and district courts, jails and correctional facilities, and law-enforcement agencies.

The Children's Resource Center is requested to report on the status of the project to the Commission on Youth prior to the 1994 Session of the General Assembly and to the Governor and the 1994 Session of the General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA--1993 SESSION

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 427

Requesting the Children's Resource Center of the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, in cooperation with the Departments of Corrections, Social Services, Education, and Youth and Family Services, and local law-enforcement agencies, to develop materials explaining the criminal justice system and sources of public aid for caretakers of children of incarcerated parents.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 7, 1993

Agreed to by the Senate, February 16, 1993

WHEREAS, an increasing number of women who are primary custodial parents are entering the correctional system; and

WHEREAS, the individuals who become caretakers due to parental incarceration are often ill equipped to meet additional financial and parenting responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, caretakers of children of incarcerated parents are often unfamiliar with the workings of the criminal justice system and are thus impaired in explaining the system to the children; and

WHEREAS, on September 1, 1992, there were 2,496 children, representing 1,597 cases, who were receiving AFDC because their parents were in prisons or jails; and

WHEREAS, caretakers of these children are often unaware of the public assistance which they are eligible to receive on behalf of the minor children; and

WHEREAS, by meeting needs of the caretaker with respect to available resources in the community and financial support, the needs of the children of incarcerated parents are also supported; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Children's Resource Center of the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, in cooperation with the Departments of Corrections, Social Services, Education, and Youth and Family Services, and local law-enforcement agencies, is requested to develop information on the phases of the criminal justice system and sources of public aid for the caretakers of children whose parents are incarcerated. The Children's Resource Center is further requested to investigate sources of private foundation funding for the printing and dissemination of the material and to develop a plan for the dissemination through local departments of social services, schools, and circuit and district courts.

The Children's Resource Center shall report to the Commission on Youth on the status of the project prior to the 1994 Session of the General Assembly in accordance with the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems or the processing of legislative documents.

Appendix B

**Timeline for Availability of
Trainings and Services**

Timeline for Availability of Trainings and Services:

Needs Assessment:

Complete needs assessment instrument	8/93
Complete interviews with incarcerated parents	6/93-8/93
Complete interviews with caregivers	8/93-9/93
Complete interviews with children	9/93-10/93
Deliver findings to CCIP	11/93

Literature Development:

Dissemination plans adopted	9/93
Literature completed	1/94
Literature printed and disseminated	3/94

Training Program

First draft of manual	11/93
Final draft incorporating needs assessment	12/93
Development of training test instruments	2/94
Submission of final edited & revised manual, including test instruments, to DMHMRSAS	3/94
Pilot trainings conducted in five VA HPRs	3/94 - 6/94

Appendix C

Needs Assessment Questionnaire
Summary

Needs Assessment Development and Summary:

The needs assessment is a two part instrument:

Part one is a 27 item survey for identified incarcerated parents. It incorporates questions extrapolated from the Glick Study, the Study of the Female Offender (American Correctional Association), the Commission on Youth's study (House Document 32), and an extensive literature review on the topic of children with incarcerated parents.

The primary purpose of interviewing parents was to identify the whereabouts of children and their caregivers and obtain written permission from parents to contact caregivers. Such consent is necessary as this population tends to be wary of "outsiders" making inquiries. The parents understanding of the purpose of this study and confidentiality assurances helped pave the way to more honest responses from caregivers.

Additional information obtained from parents include: general demographic information, offense, length of sentence, prior incarcerations, substance abuse history, age and sex of child, residence of child prior to parental incarceration, presence of child at arrest, caregiver relationship, decisions for child placement and custody status.

Part two is a 28 item survey for caregivers, with additional child-specific developmental pieces. Questions were drawn from the following developmental assessment tools: The Hawaii Early Learning Profile (HELP), First Steps, the Denver II, and From Crib to Kindergarten: A Guide to Your Child's Development.

The HELP is an assessment of cognitive, language, gross motor, fine motor, social and self help skills for ages birth to 3 years of age. The First Steps is a screening tool distributed by several local governmental agencies which was developed by the Virginia Interagency Coordinating Council and the Richmond Infant Council. The Denver II screening was also used for age groups birth through 6 years. Along with Denver II, Crib to Kindergarten: A Guide to your Child's Development is distributed by the Virginia Department of Education through the Divisions of Special Education programs and Pupil Personnel Services.

The questions for the latency, preadolescent and adolescent stages were drawn from five different instruments within the source "Measures for Clinical Practice," edited by Kevin Corcoran and Joel Fischer.

The age groupings are as follows:

Birth up to 3 months
Age 3 months up to 6 months
Age 6 months up to 9 months
Age 9 months up to 12 months
Age 12 months up to 15 months
Age 15 months up to 18 months
Age 18 months up to 24 months
Age 2 years 1 month to 3 years
Age 3 years 1 month to 5 years
Age 5 years 1 month to 12 years
Age 12 years 1 month to 18 years.

The interviews have taken place at three local jails and two prisons. The interview sites were Richmond City Jail, Alexandria, Jail, Roanoke City Jail, Greensville Correctional Center and the Virginia Correctional Center for Women.

The interviews of incarcerated parents took place in person, with a scripted introduction. The interviews of caregivers took place over the phone, and were preceded by a letter of introduction and a copy of the parent's signed permission form allowing the PVP to contact the caregiver.

Copies of the scripts, permission forms, letters and all questionnaires are available from the DMHMRSAS, Office of Prevention and Children's Resources by contacting Candace Powlick, Project Coordinator.

Appendix D

Needs Assessment Conclusions

NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF CHILDREN
WHOSE PARENTS ARE INCARCERATED
Preliminary Findings

This study is intended to provide service providers with a general overview of issues that can be addressed when working with incarcerated parents, children and caregivers. The findings, as reported by the individuals who completed the survey questionnaire, pertain only to the study participants and are not representative of the total population. For example, the ethnic diversity in the sample does not match the population in Virginia's prisons and jails, because this assessment was based on availability sampling. The limited information on cultural diversity issues may indicate the need for further study.

Based on preliminary analysis of data reported by parents and caregivers of children, it appears that most family members have experienced varying degrees of stress and dysfunction during the period of incarceration and could benefit from individual and family intervention. One of the most interesting findings from this study is that a high percentage of parents reported plans to reside with their children after parole. This would indicate that incarcerated parents should be included in any type of services that might be considered for these families. Specifically, parents reported a high rate of substance abuse problems with only half having received treatment services in the past for their abuse problems.

Many caregivers of children appeared to have difficulty meeting financial obligations and accessing services in their community that can assist with basic needs such as medical care, housing, transportation and child care. Additionally, the majority of caregivers reported that they did not know where to go in their community for assistance with parenting or stress management information. This would indicate that caregivers could benefit from education about community resources and support services to help link them with resources that would address their individual needs.

The overall population of children in this study could benefit from services at each developmental stage, since many children showed some characteristics that are associated with developmental delays. Three year old and younger children could benefit from early intervention either in infant programs or specialized preschool programs. Information could be made available to caregivers and

parents which would assist them in their search for public schools and intervention programs. Caregiver/infant-toddler groups might be considered to provide caregivers with some support and education about the needs of children in their care.

The children aged 3 to 5 years could benefit from more therapeutic intervention to help them cope with the separation from parents. Play therapy groups with children and the incarcerated parent in conjunction with caregiver support groups might be one option to consider. This group could also address the issue of visitation and how caregivers can help children cope with that potentially stressful process.

For older children, ages 5 to 12 years, clinical interventions such as individual and group sessions could be offered to help children work through the confusion, anger, depression and fear which may surround parental incarceration issues. Providing support to the caregiver and parent at this stage may also help them respond to possible acting out behaviors associated with older children in this stage

Adolescent children also could benefit from similar types of individual or group counseling. Parent/adolescent groups run inside the prison in the pre-release stage and in the community at the post-release stage could have particular value in helping families prepare for and cope with reunification.

VISITATION FOR FAMILIES & CHILDREN

STATE PRISONS

Each state prison facility permits visitation between inmates and family or friends every Saturday, Sunday and all state holidays. Visiting hours are usually between the hours of 8:30AM and 3:00PM. Generally, inmates are allowed a minimum of one hour per visiting day with visitors. If space is available, families are permitted to visit for longer periods of time. Because of persistent overcrowding in visiting areas some prisons, such as Deep Meadow Correctional Center, only allow inmates to receive visitors on one weekend day. These inmates are assigned to either a Saturday or Sunday visiting day. Visitors may call the inmates institutional counselor to find out which day the inmate has been assigned. Visitors who utilize a prison transportation program which only operates on Saturdays may find that their availability to visit conflicts with the inmate's assigned day. In these cases, the inmate can make a request to the prison warden that his day be changed.

Inmates must submit a list of adult (18 years and older) visitors' names, addresses and social security numbers to the warden for approval. Generally, inmates have an opportunity to update their approved visitors list every quarter. Visitors under the age of 18 (with the exception of an inmate's spouse) are not required to be listed on the inmate's approved visiting list. However, all children visitors must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian who is on the inmate's approved visiting list. Some facilities adhere more stringently to this policy than others. Visitors who are planning to accompany a child on a visit and are not that child's parent or guardian should contact the facility to find out if they need prior approval from the warden or written authorization from the parent or guardian.

Visitor Registration

Upon arrival at the prison, all visitors 18 years old and older are asked to present a pictured identification card, i.e. driver's license or any other official document bearing a picture and signature. All visitors, including children, are searched before entering the visiting area by an electronic scanning device and a pat-down frisk. A pat-down frisk is conducted by an officer of the same sex as the visitor and entails running the hands over the outline of the body,. In many cases, visitors may be asked to remove their shoes so that the officer can inspect the inside and sole of the shoes. Visitors accompanying small children wearing diapers may also be asked to change the child's diaper with one provided by the facility.

Most prisons only allow visitors to take a maximum of \$10.00 cash money into the visitation area for the purchase of food from the vending machines. A few field units and one major institution, James River Correctional Center, allow food to be brought into the visiting room. These facilities have strict guidelines as to the types of foods and containers that are permitted. Visitors should contact these facilities for a list of approved items. Inmates are not allowed to receive any property, packages, money or other items through visitation. If visitors wish to leave money for an inmate, they can have the money put into the inmate's account before entering the visitor registration area.

Dress Code

Visitors are encouraged to take great care that they dress appropriately for visiting. More visits are denied for inappropriate dress than for any other single reason. The Department of Corrections has established the following guidelines for visitor dress:

No bare feet. Footwear is required.

No clothing that exposes sexual organs. The body must be covered. Hem, slits, or splits may not exceed 4 inches above mid-knee.

Underwear is required. Females must wear bra and panties. Males must wear underpants or undershorts.

No halter tops, tank tops, or tube tops. No shorts on visitors over 12 years of age.

No pocketbooks, handbags, wallets, or headgear are allowed in the visiting room. Lock these items in a locker or car.

Males dressed as females will not be admitted.

Visiting Room Environment

Most prison visiting areas are large rooms with tables and chairs where inmates and visitors can sit and talk. This is known as contact visiting. Officers are usually stationed at one end of the room with other officers posted at various points around the perimeter of the room. During warm weather months, outside visiting areas are usually available for those visitors seeking relief from the noisy and usually overcrowded inside areas. Many facilities have adopted no smoking policies in visiting areas or limit smoking to outside or other designated areas. Vending machines are available for soft drinks and snack foods. Visitors are encouraged to bring money for vending machines in coin form as the available change making machines are oftentimes broken or out of change.

Very few prison visiting rooms offer special areas or activities for children. Augusta, Southamptom and Greenville (Unit C) Correctional Centers, for example, provide childrens' play areas within the main visiting room. These designated spaces offer toys and games when children tire of adult conversation. Greenville Correctional Center - Unit A provides a separate room adjacent to the main visiting area where families can spend visiting time together involved in play and learning activities for their children. This program is run by a community agency that provides paid and volunteer staff who initiate and supervise activities and provide informal role modeling and assistance to families.

Many inmate organizations such as the Jaycees or GUIDE programs offer picture taking for inmates and visitors on visitation days. Inmates can purchase picture tickets in advance of visiting days or visitors can buy pictures (usually \$2) with cash. For children, pictures represent a tangible reminder of their visit and that their parent is ok.

In most cases, visitation in a prison setting is allowed without barriers, i.e. glass partitions, between inmates and visitors. In

cases where the inmate is in segregation, visitation may only be allowed on a non-contact basis through a glass partition with a telephone. These visits are generally shorter than contact visits due to staffing and space limitations.

Every facility has a brochure or handout describing the rules and conditions of visitation. Inmates are provided copies to send to their visitors. Also, copies are usually available for visitors at the visitor registration area.

LOCAL JAILS

All local jails are independently operated by the local sheriffs' offices; therefore, visitation procedures vary from one jail to the next. Generally, jails offer visitation on a non-contact basis through glass partitions with telephones. Visiting days can range from daily to only during warm weather. Families should contact the local facility where their loved one is incarcerated to find out about visiting procedures.

PROGRAMS OFFERING TRANSPORTATION FOR VISITATION

Prison Visitation Project, Inc.

5 North 5th Street

Richmond, VA 23219

Contact: Susie White, Executive Director

804-643-2401

Offers transportation from Richmond to Powhatan, Deep Meadow, James River, Buckingham, Dillwyn, Nottoway, Brunswick, Greenville, Southampton, Mecklenburg, Augusta, Staunton Correctional Centers; Baskerville Unit 4 and Virginia Correctional Center for Women. Trips are run on a rotating schedule.

New Life Prison Visitation Ministry

Alexandria, VA

Contact: Steve & Denise Parke

703-534-0501

Offers transportation from Northern Virginia to Powhatan, Deep Meadow, James River, Virginia Correctional Center for Women, Buckingham, Dillwyn, Nottoway, Brunswick, Greenville and Southampton Correctional Centers. Trips are run on a rotating schedule.

**Community Resources for Children
with Incarcerated Parents and Families
(by Community Services Board Region)**

Region 1

Child-Parent Center

202 N. Loudon St, Suite 310
Winchester, VA 22601
703-662-7732

Parenting classes are offered to families who are referred from the court system or the mental health department.

Harrisonburg-Rockingham Community Services Board

(Jail Based)
1241 North Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
703-434-1941

Substance abuse education and support groups are offered for family members with someone incarcerated for substance abuse. This is offered through the prevention department as part of an intensive outpatient therapy program.

Region Ten Community Services Board (Planning District 10)

(Jail Based)
413 East Market Street
Suite 103
Charlottesville, VA 22901-5352
804-972-1802

Recently started a pre- and post-incarceration therapy community at Albemarle/Charlottesville Joint Security Complex for males and females to deal with family issues.

Valley Community Services Board

(Jail Based)
110 West Johnson Street
Staunton, VA 24401
703-887-3200

Family support groups are offered for family members of inmates who are participating in a substance abuse day treatment program. Additional support to the inmates include education of outpatient concepts and funds for therapy and education.

Region 2

Arlington County Community Services Board

(Jail Based)
1801 North George Mason Drive
Arlington, VA 22207
703-358-4907

Offers a support program for female inmates and family members with substance abuse issues.

Offender Aid & Restoration - Fairfax

(Jail Based)
4153 Chainbridge Road
Fairfax, VA 22030
703-273-1662

Offers family support groups for family members of inmates, which meet twice a month. Two parenting classes are offered within the jail to female inmates.

Prince William County Community Services Board

(Jail Based)
8033 Ashton Avenue
Manassas, VA 22110
703-792-7700

Plans to begin parenting classes for males and females in the Prince William Adult Detention Center on December 1, 1993 and also plans to begin a support group for children of incarcerated parents.

Region 3

Blueridge Community Services Board

Elm Plaza Building
301 Elm Avenue, SW
Roanoke, VA 24016-4026
703-345-9841
703-982-1427

Offers parenting and stress management classes in the community. Family Anonymous and Children of Alcoholics' Groups are offered through the Substance Abuse Department.

Central Virginia Community Services Board

2241 Longhorn Road
Lynchburg, VA 24501
804-847-8050

Parenting and stress management classes are offered throughout the community on an ongoing basis. Children in the middle school age group are seen in the Children of Alcoholics' Groups. Adolescents are seen in the Using and Abusing Substance Abuse Groups. The school system also identifies adolescents who have general acting out issues.

Danville-Pittsylvania Community Services Board

245 Hairston Street
Danville, VA 24540
804-799-0456

Offers a pilot program for school aged children in Violence Prevention. This program targets issues regarding a variety of abuses, gun safety, loss and grief issues.

Dickenson County Community Services Board

(Jail Based)
P.O. Box 309
Clintwood, VA 24228
703-926-1680

Offers inmate and family interventions on an as needed basis.

Family-Life Services

18 Cleveland Ave
Martinsville, VA 24112
703-632-0550

Re-opening of the Youth Center in the Spring of 1994 for all adolescents. Provides individual and family counseling and coordinates services with VA Cares, a transitional program for offenders released on parole.

Lynchburg Community Action Group

1310 Church Street
Lynchburg, VA 24504
804-846-27789

Offers ex-offenders employment, career and family counseling.

Piedmont Region Community Services Board

24 Clay Street
Martinsville, VA 24112
703-632-4669

Offers parenting classes and support groups for families in transition. Crisis situations are seen within 48 hours.

Region 4

Chesterfield Community Services Board

P.O. Box 92
Chesterfield, VA 23832-0092
804-768-7201

Offers parenting and stress management classes on an ongoing basis. Individual and family counseling for inmates and ex-offenders with substance abuse issues are offered through the Substance Abuse Department.

Crater Infant Program

2008 Wakefield Street
Petersburg, VA 23805
804-862-9940

Offers interventions with children and caregivers regarding issues of developmental delays, loss and bonding in addition to other issues of incarceration.

Goochland - Powhatan Community Services Board

(Prison Based)
P.O. Box 189
Goochland, VA 23063
804-556-5400

Through the MILK (Mothers/Men Inside Loving Kids) program they provide individual counseling and educational services to the incarcerated parent.

Headstart of Virginia

Virginia Commonwealth University
Richmond, VA 23220
804-371-8603

Offers early intervention with acceptance priority for children whose parents are incarcerated. Parenting and family management education is offered to parents on a monthly basis.

Henrico Area MH&R Services Board

(Jail Based)
10299 Woodman Road
Glen Allen, VA 23060-2798
804-261-8500

Offers a stress management program for incarcerated women in the Henrico County Jail.

Offender Aid & Restoration - Richmond

2nd & Franklin Streets
Richmond, VA 23219
804-643-1186

OAR provides Parent Education Groups, Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous and literacy tutors in the Richmond City Jail and jails in the surrounding counties. Chesterfield County offers an Alternative to Domestic Violence Program for women. OAR coordinates services for the family and inmate to assist with the transition upon release.

Petersburg Counseling Services

24 South Adams Street
Petersburg, VA 23803-4593
804-733-1030

Offers outpatient counseling services to children referred to them from court and legal services.

Prison Visitation Project

5 North 5th Street
Richmond, VA 23219
804-643-2401

Provides transportation to 14 institutions from Richmond on Saturdays; offers childrens' activities during the waiting period; offers support groups on a monthly basis; manages the Parent-Child Center at the Greensville Correctional Facility - Unit A which provides educational activities and parental support on visiting days as well as parenting classes during the week; coordinates visitation with incarcerated mothers and children at the Virginia Correctional Center for Women.

Richmond Community Services Board

900 East Marshall Street
Room 160
Richmond, VA 23219
804-780-5876

Offers groups at Albert Hill Middle School, beginning in 1994, for the 12-14 age group covering decision making, feelings and clarification of behavior. A Critical Debriefing team meets on an as needed basis to deal with school aged child abuse, grief and loss issues regarding sudden death and violence.

Virginians for Child Abuse Prevention

224 East Broad Street
3rd Floor
Richmond, VA 23219
804-775-1777

Offers community based long term parenting skills series to help change parenting attitudes. A prison based parenting group is also offered. Nurturing is a community based statewide support system for caregivers and children. MILK is a prison based parenting group offered at the Virginia Correctional Center for Women, Staunton, Brunswick, Powhatan (Reception and Classification Center only) and beginning in March 1994 at Nottoway Correctional Center.

Region 5**Pride in Parenting**

St. Mary's Infant Home
317 Chapel Street
Norfolk, VA 23504
804-627-6866

Parenting workshops have been provided at St. Bride's Correctional Center in the past. Provides assistance to the MILK program.

Appendix E

Division of Youth and Family Services
Surveys of Teen Parents

TEEN PARENTS & COMMUNITY SERVICES
Department of Youth and Family Services

At time of survey, 102 community professionals reported that in the previous six months:

- 58% had at least one client pregnant
- 74% had at least one client that was a parent
- Teen Parents consisted of 119 mothers & 139 fathers
- 65% of Teen Parents did not share parenting role
- 50% of Teen Parents had contact with child(ren) while absent from the home; 47% less than monthly
- Barriers to visits were primarily transportation difficulties and lack of interest by client
- Factors that enhanced possibility of visitation were DYFS staff and client's family making arrangements
- Services needed for Teen Parents included:
 - Training in parenting techniques
 - Residential services for client and child
 - Daycare for client's child(ren)
 - Transportation to enhance visits while client is absent from home
- For more information contact Sallie Ingram, MSW at (804) 847-1714 or Charles Hodges, MDiv at (804) 323-2557

survey conducted Spring 1993

TEEN PARENTS & LEARNING CENTERS
Department of Youth and Family Services

At time of survey, 525 Learning Center youth responded with the following data:

- 21% of females reported being a biological parent
- 28% of males reported being a biological parent
- 11% of females reported being pregnant at the time
- 29% of males reported having impregnated a female in the past twelve months
- 32% of Teen Parents report they have had formal parenting classes
- 90% of Teen Parents report they have had formal safe sex classes
- 11% of Teen Parents report they have had a visit in the last thirty days with their child(ren)
- Average age of Teen Parent is 17.7 years
- Average age of child of Teen Parent is 1.5 years
- 15% of Teen Parents report they have had a child with more than one partner
- For more information contact Sallie Ingram, MSW at (804) 847-1714 or Charles Hodges, MDiv at (804) 323-2557

survey conducted Spring 1993