Pernet Family Health Service: Assisting Families of Incarcerated Dads (AFID) Program
Supreetha Gubbala, Sana Majid, Bruna Olson, and Kaleigh Timmins
Team Leader: Sheilah Dooley, RN, MS

Population of Focus

Pernet is within the Green Island neighborhood of Worcester. The organization works closely with residents of this neighborhood.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Population density (per sq. mile)</th>
<th>Median household income (2013)</th>
<th>% of family households</th>
<th>% below the poverty level</th>
<th>% of poor or non-English speakers</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Green Island</td>
<td>4,860</td>
<td>64.9%</td>
<td>25.7%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worcester</td>
<td>6,979</td>
<td>30.6%</td>
<td>48.8%</td>
<td>27.2%</td>
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Pernet also works with families in other Worcester neighborhoods and nearby towns and with fathers in the Worcester County House of Correction.

Needs Assessment

In order to address family stability, Pernet Family Health Service offers the Fathers & Family Program, a weekly parenting class for fathers residing in the Worcester County House of Correction. According to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, most men recently released from prison plan to live with their families after their release. However, there have been few efforts directed towards families of these fathers living in the greater Worcester community. With 245 male inmates released from prison in Worcester County in 2015, Pernet aspires to work with both incarcerated fathers and their families to foster positive relationships prior to and post-release.

Program Summary and Interest Survey

In order to better serve the incarcerated population, Pernet will expand their current program for incarcerated fathers to include programming for families of the incarcerated. To assist with this project, our team has designed an initial survey to assess father and family interest in the program. The survey also includes eligibility criteria to better understand how many families with incarcerated fathers would be eligible for Pernet’s services.

Program Development and Implementation

Utilizing the Toolkit for Developing Family-Focused Jail Programs put out by the Urban Institute, our team designed a model for rolling out a program for families of inmates at the Worcester County House of Correction.

Identify Goals

- Provide effective parenting education for incarcerated fathers
- Improve relationship between incarcerated fathers and their children
- Increase academic success and behavior of children with incarcerated fathers

Collaborate with Stakeholders

- Incarcerated Fathers
- Families of the Incarcerated
- Pernet Family Health Service
- Worcester County House of Correction

Establish Program Components

- Parenting class for incarcerated fathers
- Home visits to families to provide support and resources
- Visits between fathers and families

Implement Program

- Administer survey to incarcerated fathers
- Contact families and assess eligibility for services
- Set up home visits
- Follow up and complete program evaluation

Evaluation & Future Directions

3 Key Questions

- Is this program effective in reducing incarcerated parents?
- How much contact is needed with the incarcerated parents?
- Does this program contribute to the academic success of the children?

Our team has compiled a series of assessment tools for Pernet to utilize after implementing the program. These assessments include measures of parental bonding and children’s anxiety levels.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank everyone at Pernet Family Health Service and the Population Health Clerkship Leadership. Special thanks to Sheilah Dooley, Chris Nelson, and Emily Linhares for their guidance on this project.

Resources