



LITTLE children  
BIG challenges:incarceration

## Strengthening Families Affected By Incarceration Day

May 8, 2014 | 4:00-5:00pm

### Welcome

Lois Langer Thompson, *Director of Hennepin County Library*

Lee Buckley, *Community Reentry Coordinator, Department of Corrections*

### Minnesota's Role in Supporting Incarcerated Parents and their Families

Tom Roy, *Commissioner, Department of Corrections*

Erin Sullivan Sutton, *Assistant Commissioner, Department of Human Services*

Ed Ehlinger, *Commissioner, Department of Health*

Mary Ellison, *Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Safety*

Brenda Cassellius, *Commissioner, Department of Education*

### The Impact of Incarceration on Minnesota Families

David Mirambeaux

Terron Williams

Pam Rogers

### Conclusions

Rebecca Schlafer, *University of Minnesota*

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**This event is brought to you by the Strengthening Families Affected by Incarceration Collaborative.**

The planning committee includes representatives from MN Department of Corrections, MN Department of Human Services, MN Department of Public Safety, Council on Crime and Justice, Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota, Hennepin County Library, University of Minnesota, and Volunteers of America Minnesota/Amicus.

\*Members of the press are invited to stay for the children's program (5:30-8:30pm). We ask that you please respect family members' privacy and not take identifiable images of children or families attending the event.



## STATE of MINNESOTA

- WHEREAS: In the State of Minnesota, an estimated 15,000 children have at least one parent who is currently incarcerated; and
- WHEREAS: The incarceration of a parent can negatively impact a child's physical and mental health and school readiness and educational development; and
- WHEREAS: Caregivers, mental health professionals, educators, and social service providers need a thorough understanding of the trauma associated with having an incarcerated parent, and the impact of parental incarceration on children's physical and mental health; and
- WHEREAS: The Strengthening Families Affected by Incarceration Collaborative has brought together public, private, and non-profit entities for informational conferences, trainings, and events to raise awareness, educate the public, and provide resources and support to children with incarcerated parents, their parents, and caregivers; and
- WHEREAS: Through Sesame Workshop, Sesame Street's newest resiliency initiative, "Little Children, Big Challenges: Incarceration," the State of Minnesota has distributed multimedia resources to over 24,000 incarcerated parents, families, and caregivers; and
- WHEREAS: The Strengthening Families Affected by Incarceration Collaborative is organizing a statewide observance on Thursday, May 8, 2014, to highlight the special challenges of Minnesota children with incarcerated parents.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Thursday, May 8, 2014, as:

## STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AFFECTED BY INCARCERATION DAY

in the State of Minnesota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 6<sup>th</sup> day of May.

  
GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE