
INTRODUCTION

*by Sheryl Ramstad Hvass, Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Corrections*

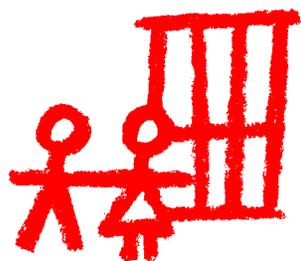
I am pleased to introduce the proceedings for the *Woman Offender Symposium: Through the Eyes of a Child*. This document summarizes the symposium presentations and the work done by participants – both very impressive. The symposium focused upon how to effectively address the needs of women offenders and their children. The frightening number of children whose parents are imprisoned is growing at a fast pace. Children with an incarcerated parent are five times likelier to be jailed and are at high risk for delinquency, pregnancy, chemical dependency, and a host of other problems. The symposium set the course for Minnesota to break the cycle that causes children of offenders to become offenders themselves.

The symposium's success is attributable to many. First and foremost, I want to thank Minnesota's First Lady Terry Ventura for her support and willingness to serve as symposium honorary chair. Kim Jeffries, WCCO AM Radio Morning Show Co-host, and Minnesota Correctional Facility (MCF)-Shakopee Warden Lynn Dingle deserve a great deal of credit for their masterful guidance of the offender panel at the Shakopee facility.

The support provided by symposium cosponsors – the Minnesota Children's Home Society and the Institute on Criminal Justice of the University of Minnesota Law School – played a critical role. Our appreciation also goes to the U.S. Department of Justice Corrections Program Office and National Institute of Corrections as well as the Office of Drug Policy and Delinquency Prevention in the Minnesota Department of Public Safety for providing financial support for the symposium.

Judicial district teams were representative of key professional groups and communities of color and included judges, prosecutors, public defenders, elected officials, treatment providers, and law enforcement and corrections professionals. We owe a debt of gratitude to symposium moderator and team leader First District Judge Karen Asphaug and the leaders of the other teams from each of Minnesota's judicial districts. They included Ramsey County Attorney Susan Gaertner, Winona County Assistant Public Defender Candace Rasmussen, State Representative Rich Stanek, State Corrections Agent Bob Sutter, Arrowhead Community Corrections Director Tom Adkins, Douglas County Sheriff Bill Ingebritsen, Corrections District Supervisor Linda Aaberg, White Earth Nation Tribal Attorney/Prosecutor Shirley Cain and Tenth District Judge Lynn Olson. Their leadership held the symposium on course and ensured its success.

The Department of Corrections pledges continued support and technical assistance as these powerful teams carry the momentum for change to implement the action plans locally throughout Minnesota.



The symposium set the course for Minnesota to break the cycle that causes children of offenders to become offenders themselves.

BACKGROUND

Though women offenders remain a small minority of the Minnesota prison population, their numbers have risen dramatically over the last decade. For every woman in prison, there are many more in jails or involved in other levels of the criminal justice system. Awareness is growing that women in the criminal justice system have needs that differ from those of men for many reasons, from their differing pathways to crime to their abuse histories to the nature of their crimes. Chief among these differences is women's responsibility for minor children.

The 346 women incarcerated at the MCF-Shakopee have a total of 720 dependents—children who have suffered severe disruptions or even trauma during their mother's arrest, detention, trial, and incarceration. Many other children whose mothers never "make it" to prison are also adversely affected. There is a growing awareness locally and nationally that both women offenders and their children need different management approaches and different programming to ensure parity, stop recidivism, protect vulnerable children, and prevent a second generation from being caught up in the cycle of crime.

The *Woman Offender Symposium: Through the Eyes of a Child* was Minnesota's initial step in a statewide initiative to address, in particular, the needs of women offenders and their children. The symposium was sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Corrections in cooperation with the University of Minnesota Law School's Institute on Criminal Justice and the Children's Home Society of Minnesota, and held at the MCF-Shakopee and the Department of Corrections in St. Paul, September 19-20, 2000.

An outgrowth of the U.S. Department of Justice National Symposium on Women Offenders held December 13-15, 1999, in Washington, D.C., the Minnesota symposium brought together over 100 criminal justice professionals from every judicial district to learn about the issues surrounding women offenders and their children and to make action plans for their professional groups and judicial districts. The goal: to develop a vision, a strategic plan, and bold implementation steps that will make Minnesota a leader in the area of women offenders and their children.

The following pages summarize the proceedings of this important symposium.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

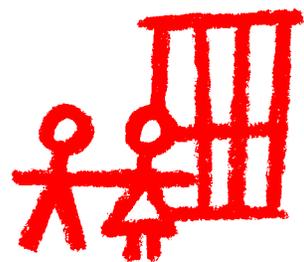
The goal of the *Woman Offender Symposium: Through the Eyes of a Child* was to develop a plan of action to address a serious issue: what happens to kids when the number of mothers in prison is increasing. The pain and stress of separation affect both women offenders and their children. Many speakers at the symposium underlined that “when you incarcerate a woman, you imprison a family.”

The symposium focused on raising awareness of how women offenders differ from men offenders and developing action plans to make the criminal justice process less devastating to children and families. It utilized two basic tools towards this end. One tool was a series of speakers, which included:

- **Toni Locy**, a reporter with 20 years of experience covering women’s justice issues who recently focused on women inmates and their daughters.
- An offender panel of four inmate mothers from the MCF-Shakopee.
- **Meda Chesney-Lind**, Ph.D., a nationally known researcher and expert on women’s pathways to crime.
- **Stephanie Covington**, Ph.D., an expert on gender-responsive interventions.
- **George Keiser**, an expert on building criminal justice partnerships and an information source about technical assistance and grants available from the National Institute of Corrections.
- **The Honorable John West**, a practitioner “in the trenches” who led a partnership to address women offender issues in Cincinnati, Ohio.
- **Sandra Barnhill**, executive director of Aid to Children of Incarcerated Mothers, a direct-service agency for women inmates, their children, and their caregivers.
- **Denise Johnston**, M.D., director of the Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents and a researcher in the area of offender developmental pathways and interventions.

The second critical tool of the symposium was the use of carefully designed breakout sessions to allow participants to make plans to carry the work back to their home communities. Leaders from each judicial district in Minnesota assembled diverse teams of judges, public defenders, prosecutors, law enforcement, treatment professionals, corrections professionals, and elected officials who attended the symposium in groups. Communities of color were also represented. At the symposium, the work teams met as districts and also by profession to plan the next action steps to make their own areas more responsive to the needs of women offenders and their children. Each district developed a specific action plan, which is included in this report.

A new initiative of the state departments of Corrections, Health, and Human Services and counties, Kids of Inmates Deserve Services (KIDS), was also announced during the symposium.



“...when you incarcerate a woman, you imprison a family.”

September 19, 2000, Proceedings Minnesota Correctional Facility-Shakopee

OPENING REMARKS

*by Sheryl Ramstad Hvass, Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Corrections*

Commissioner Ramstad Hvass opened the conference by stating how important the issue of women offenders and their children is for this generation and the next. The goal of the conference is to develop a plan of action to address a serious issue: what happens to kids when the number of parents in prison is increasing. "It's about the kids," said Ramstad Hvass. She noted that the National Child Welfare League has made this issue a top priority.

The commissioner explained how the genesis for the symposium flowed out of the recent National Symposium on Women Offenders, which attracted over 300 policy-makers from across the nation to Washington, D.C. The Minnesota delegation helped form *Woman Offender Symposium: Through the Eyes of a Child* in response to that national effort.

Ramstad Hvass noted that an increasing number of children are affected by this problem. An August 30, 1999, study by the Bureau of Justice Statistics reported that almost 1.5 million children in the U.S. have a parent in prison. That number has increased by half a million since 1991. Fifty-eight percent of these children are under the age of 10, with an average age of eight, and their parents on average are expected to serve six and a half years. Ramstad Hvass also shared how her personal experiences talking to children of offenders have put her heart into this issue; for example, a teenager bringing his two-year-old sister to Shakopee to visit (he had brought her home from the hospital as his mother returned to prison), or a young woman who had gone through high without her mother and done extremely well — only to drop out, pregnant, her senior year. Ramstad Hvass noted that 54 percent of parent inmates never receive a visit from their children. In addition, children of women offenders have a unique burden to bear. When a father is incarcerated, 92 percent of those children are with their mother. When a mother is in prison, only 26 percent are cared for by their father.

Ramstad Hvass asserted that the child/parent/inmate cycle must be seen as a public safety issue. She also noted that for women offenders and their children, the pain of separation is a more severe consequence than any imposed by a judge.

Ramstad Hvass closed by laying out the intended result of the conference: to generate a vision and strategic plan that will make Minnesota a leader in the area of women offenders and their children.

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WHAT HAPPENS TO THE CHILDREN?

by Toni Locy
Justice Department Reporter
USA Today

Locy opened her remarks by saying that in her 20 years of covering justice issues related to women, three women stand out in her memory: a victim, an offender, and a child.

The first, Kasha, was a murder victim who had been working and living with her mother—but because of system stereotypes, her death was assumed to be a drug overdose. Her case was fumbled, her body cremated, and the murderer never caught. The second woman, Dollie Richardson, is a petty thief, drug addict, and lifelong inmate. Locy remembers her as a person with no idea of how to meet her children’s needs or cope with the outside world. The mere thought of cooking a Thanksgiving turkey terrifies her. The third woman’s story is that of Starr Wallace, the daughter of a female offender who grew up too fast. For years, she cared for her younger sister and taught her sister and herself many things, but Starr finally collapsed under the burden of being “the good girl” and found herself involved in crime—following in her mother’s footsteps. Locy noted that over 150,000 women in the United States are in prison or in jail, and that daughters often follow their mothers into prison. “Girls become their mothers,” Locy stated.

Locy believes that the first task for the criminal justice system is to change attitudes. She shared the dismal failure of the first “boot camps” for women offenders and raised the issue of abuse behind bars—directed at female offenders and even female correctional officers. She also noted that while many women’s prisons are quite different from men’s (because, she said, “you can tell women to stay put for 15 years, and they do”), some are not. “Get-tough” policies in particular have had a negative impact on women offenders and their daughters. Crack, alcohol, and marijuana used as self-medication are significant pathways into prison for women. So are probation and parole violations for drug use. Locy saw prison as a “teachable moment” for women, when they are sober. “Their kids then become their obsession, not drugs,” said Locy. She noted that on the rare occasions when women do run from prison, the motivation is often a family crisis.

Locy stated that prisons don’t know whose kids are in trouble, and that juvenile justice and child services also do not pay sufficient attention to the issue of parents in prison. She described children of female offenders as “flying below radar.” In describing the system as it often is, she stated that “monthly parent-child picnics at the prison are nice, but they don’t cut it.” She noted that during her interview with Starr and her mother, the girl seemed to be using the interview to tell her mother things she had never had the opportunity to say.

Locy closed by sharing the story of two more female offenders who have stayed in her memory: Mary Braxton and Michelle Barnes, a mother and daughter doing time for a murder they committed together. She called for action to ensure that stories like theirs remain a rarity.

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Their kids then become their obsession, not drugs.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

A lively and extended question and answer session followed in which symposium participants asked Locy several questions about programs elsewhere, policy issues relating to female offenders and their children, and public reactions to her work. A participant asked whether breaking the bond between a female offender and her child was a good idea. Locy answered that this needs to be decided on a case-by-case basis, depending on the mother and child's relationship and wants and whether the mother is ready to get well. A second question asked for any innovative programs with good outcomes Locy had encountered. Locy cited a Girl Scout troop at a women's prison in Jessup, Maryland, as an example of a program that provided lots of one-on-one quality time as well as a focus on integrity and values. She noted that such programs are important because, while male inmates can often rely on women in their lives to bring children for visits, women inmates' families often fall completely apart. Male inmates often have children with more than one mom and are not the primary parent. She also mentioned Sons and Daughters of the Incarcerated, a program run by an ex-offender that serves kids and their grandparent caregivers with support groups. A participant inquired about prenatal care in prison. Locy stated that it varies from state to state, but that typically someone has to pick up the infant at the hospital or the state takes it. MCF-Shakopee Warden Lynn Dingle confirmed this practice in Minnesota and added that in Minnesota the prenatal care women inmates receive is usually the best health care they have received in their lives.

Lack of after-care was also discussed as a critical factor in losing women and their children in the chaotic, post-prison environment where “crack calls you.”

Further discussion ensued on the issue of bonding between mothers and children. It was questioned whether viewing children as instruments or incentives for rehabilitation was in children's best interests. Termination of rights and time limits on foster care are related to this issue. When asked about infant-mother bonding, Locy mentioned a prison in Bedford Hills, New York, that facilitates it. Lack of aftercare was also discussed as a critical factor in losing women and their children in the chaotic, post-prison environment where “crack calls you.”

When asked about reaction to her work, Locy stated that many editors believe that no one cares about prisoners, which she questions. She cited as an example an Arizona referendum where voters demanded that low-level drug offenders be sent to treatment, not prison. She noted that it took two votes by the public to change the system's mind. Further discussion about women's pathways into prison mentioned again the effect of drugs, the “boyfriend problem” of “bad taste in men,” and the fact that women involved with drugs are typically operating at low levels with no information to trade for leniency. The discussion turned to questions of gender equity, with one participant remarking that male inmates often complain that Shakopee is too soft, and another adding that female inmates feel that they used to have more (for example, overnight housing for child visits), but “the men must have sued and taken it away.” Locy felt that the system “gives people what they deserve” and noted that violence is nonexistent at most women's prisons, hence the difference in approach.

A final questioner asked how the public can be motivated to care about the issue of women offenders and their children. While she said she felt she was “preaching to the choir,” Locy replied that corrections needs to provide access to media to do stories about these women and children, making special accommodations for calls and interviews and avoiding a defensive or secretive stance.

OFFENDER PANEL

Moderator: Kim Jeffries, WCCO-AM Morning Show Co-Host

Panelists: Noemi, Catherine, Carol, and Evette

Kim Jeffries asked several questions of a panel of four female offenders who are the parents of anywhere from two to six children each. Three of the women were Shakopee inmates; the other was a former inmate on work release and doing well. Discussion focused on the problems, issues and challenges of raising a child from behind bars. Jeffries asked each panelist to introduce herself by stating the number of children she has and their ages, as well as describing her crime and the sentence being served. The discussion then moved into where their children were living now, who was providing care, and what kind of contact the women have with them.

Noemi's six children are all with family, "thank God," she said. Her children range in age from 4 to 23, and her two adult children (who live in Minneapolis and Chicago) have taken three of their school-aged siblings into their own families. Noemi's youngest child lives with Noemi's mother in Puerto Rico. Noemi does get to visit with her Minneapolis-based children, but her children in Chicago and Puerto Rico cannot get transportation to see her. In the case of her youngest child, Noemi did not get to see her from the age of 12 days to 18 months. Though phone calls from prison are especially expensive, she tries to call Puerto Rico at least every month or two and writes. She has also tried to help her caregiver children raise the younger ones by contacting schools and hospitals. The process, however, is difficult because she is not the official caregiver listed on school or medical forms. Since Noemi's sentence is fairly short, she hopes that the piecemeal arrangements for her large family will hold up.

Catherine was married 11 years and has two children, ages 3 and 12. At first, even keeping track of her children's whereabouts was difficult. Her younger daughter was present when Catherine was arrested on a methamphetamine-related conspiracy charge in July 1999. Although Catherine was living in Wright County, her driver's license said Hennepin County, and her daughter was placed into foster care there. Catherine lost track of her child, a horrific experience. Harder still, Catherine recently had her parental rights terminated for that younger child who has been adopted. Catherine said that preparing for the separation was very difficult, but that she read books and talked to her daughter over several months to help her get ready, though her child would often say, "I can't see my mommy? My mommy will cry." Though visibly emotional about their separation, Catherine said that her daughter now has a loving family, that her daughter couldn't wait for her, and that she has provided for her the best way she can. She was glad to have successfully advocated for one of her greatest concerns: that her daughter remain in contact with her older sister. Catherine had also successfully petitioned the court to have her child removed from two abusive foster homes and to get a new worker assigned. Catherine still has parental rights for the older child, visits with her, and plans to begin teen group with her when she turns 13.

Carol has four children, today aged 12, 13, 14, and 17. She was released from Shakopee in 2000 after nearly ten years in prison for the attempted murder of her

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second husband. Because she was living on the White Earth Reservation, the reservation initially took custody. It was 18 months after her arrest before she saw her kids. Carol worked with the parenting coordinator at Shakopee to find her kids. Once found, the sheer distance from White Earth to Shakopee proved to be a problem. Even with paper rights to see them monthly, Carol had to make all the logistical arrangements. She turned to the parenting coordinator for help again, but still it would sometimes be more than a year between visits. The best times were the overnight visits where she got to hug and hold her children and have real quality time. In whatever way she could, she tried to provide unconditional love and show her children that “just because I am in prison doesn’t mean I am a bad mom.” Now on work release and living in an apartment, she sees her children every possible chance “until last call.” Her oldest son is planning for college and her 14-year-old wants to be a cop. The younger two live with Carol’s parents. Despite the ups and downs, she is proud of her kids and how they have done on their own.

Evette has four children, now ages 12, 18, 19, and 21, the oldest born when Evette herself was just 12 years old. She was admitted to Shakopee for second-degree murder six years ago and has three years left on her sentence. Evette still has contact with her three older children, who have lived over the years with her mother, other family members, and friends and sometimes run away, but “have never been in the system, thank God.” The youngest, she hopes, is with his father. The father successfully sought to terminate Evette’s parental rights and she has not seen her son since he was four. Evette says that her children had difficulty understanding why she was in prison and blamed the system for punishing her for what they saw as self-defense. They also didn’t want to even talk to Evette. She has maintained a connection, though, and participates in the prison’s teen group. Her son also makes visits through the community treatment program. Evette’s greatest source of stress has been one of her sons who was present at the scene of her crime and has begun his own career in the juvenile system. Evette was able to contact the prosecutor and appear in court to get her son into a residential facility and treatment programs.

“We have a bed and three meals a day — our kids are doing the time, not us.”

To wrap up the panel, Jeffries asked the women to share their hopes for the future and what they felt could have been done to prevent them from ending up in prison. All four shared hopeful steps they are taking for the future, including GED, college courses, horticulture and construction training and, in Carol’s case, working in the community and spending all her free time with her children. Noemi added that Shakopee has a lot of groups, including teen group and the parenting unit. Noemi thought that if her mom had been able to stay put and keep her in a good school instead of constantly fleeing abuse, that might have helped. Catherine also mentioned help for abuse for her mother and herself, as well as mental health care for her depression. Abuse was a key issue for Carol as well, who said she went to eight battered women shelters for help and felt she had no choice but to commit her violent crime to protect herself and her children from abuse. Evette said she was involved with Lutheran Social Services as a teenager and felt that the system had in fact been there for her, but that she made the wrong choices to drop out and be with negative people. Jeffries concluded the session by saying that despite the difficulties, these women had managed to provide for their children in many ways by providing continuity, communication, arrangements for care and needed services, and legal advocacy. Noemi added, “We have a bed and three meals a day—our kids are doing the time, not us.” Jeffries thanked the panel for their willingness to share their experiences.

**September 20, 2000, Proceedings
Minnesota Department of Corrections, St. Paul**

INTRODUCING A NEW INITIATIVE

*by Sheryl Ramstad Hvass, Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Corrections*

Commissioner Ramstad Hvass opened the second day of the symposium by rolling out a new pilot project, Kids of Inmates Deserve Services (KIDS). It is a collaboration of the state departments of Corrections, Human Services, and Health and counties that will assist incarcerated mothers and their children. Ramstad Hvass added that the concept has strong legislative support and recognized Deputy Commissioner of Health Julie Brunner for her role. The program views the problem of children of incarcerated mothers as a public health issue. As such, it will link prevention and intervention services to meet the many needs of incarcerated women and their children.

Two public health nurses are scheduled to meet with women offender parents to get a better idea of the spectrum of needs, from parenting, communication, and stress management skills to basic physical and mental health care, chemical dependency treatment, abuse and neglect issues, transportation, and more. A comprehensive survey of services available is also being conducted. There is little doubt that services to meet most needs exist, but knowledge and access are problems. The KIDS program will help women and their children link to services. Transitional and post-release services will be emphasized to ensure everything feasible is done to support the success of the mother and her children. In addition, the project puts emphasis on evaluation of the quality of children's lives to track the impact of the project.

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WOMEN'S LIVES, WOMEN'S CRIMES

*by Meda Chesney-Lind, Ph.D.
Women's Studies Program Professor
University of Hawaii*

Chesney-Lind opened her remarks by praising Minnesota's leadership on issues of women in corrections, including a past conference on juvenile girls, the video "Your Daughter's Here," program initiatives that are national models, and the MCF-Shakopee which she described as "a Mecca." She then laid out her thesis for the day's talk: that when you jail a woman, you jail a family. The dynamic is very different than it is for males. She set out to demonstrate that gender matters in major ways: in women's pathways to crime, corrections and recent trends. In the 1970s, women offenders were basically afterthoughts, about two to three percent of the

prison population. Half the states had no prisons at all for women. However, in the 1980s, “the world exploded.” The number of women prisoners in the U.S. went from 5,635 in 1970 to 90,668 in 1999, and has doubled again in the last decade. Chesney-Lind noted that a single women’s prison in California today could hold the entire U.S. population of women offenders from 1970. Women’s share of the prison pie has also doubled, so that women now make up 6.6 percent of the prison population and 11 percent of the jail population.

Chesney-Lind argued that this rapid rate of change means that we are basically witnessing the invention of corrections for women. She described the early 1980s as a crisis mode, when corrections departments hastily refurbished abandoned training schools, mental hospitals, and hotels just to have a place to put women. The late 1980s and the 1990s saw a boom in building new facilities for women, with two women-only facilities in the early part of the 20th century, 71 in 1990, and 108 in 1995.

Chesney-Lind then asked what is behind this sudden increase in the number of women offenders? She began by refuting a common explanation of the cause which she tagged as the “Thelma and Louise” theory: that women are becoming more violent and crime-prone as an outgrowth of women’s liberation. She showed several media images and stories supporting this theory, such as Black or Hispanic girls toting guns, and asked simply, “Is it true?” Chesney-Lind advanced several arguments to suggest that the image of the violent, liberated woman doing manlike crimes is a myth. She noted that while arrests of women are up 38 percent in the last decade, incarceration is up 138 percent. This suggests that a differing system response is contributing to the women’s prison population. She suggested that we have seen the idea of the “demon girl” in the public perception before—in the 1970s, when the object of fear was not a girl of color toting a gun but a white antiwar druggie girl terrorist. Exhaustive research on that first “women’s crime wave” showed no change in crime due to equality-seeking. Chesney-Lind also suggested that if women are in fact becoming more violent, we should be seeing increases across all categories of violent crime, including murder, but this is not the case. The big increases are in assault and aggravated assault.

So, what is really driving the increase in women’s incarceration? Chesney-Lind argued that what is really going on is not violence, but the policy changes brought about by the war on drugs. She cited a study by Kim English examining crime patterns in Colorado, which showed women involved in many small drug transactions under \$10—perhaps 20 trades a day—as a means of daily income or a supplement to welfare. Chesney-Lind likened these women’s role in the drug trade to prostitution, with the women at the lowest point on the crime ladder, but still swept up and imprisoned under mandatory drug sentencing laws. In 1980, one in ten women inmates was in for drugs; today that number is more than one in three. So increased system response to small-time drug dealers represents part of the increase in women inmates. Another factor is an increase in assault and aggravated assault arrests. Although this may seem to indicate women are becoming more violent, Chesney-Lind cited research indicating that increased system attention to domestic violence has caught more women in the system as well as men, especially when both combatants in a domestic dispute are arrested. In Concord, New Hampshire, 35 percent of domestic violence arrests were of women. Chesney-Lind mentioned

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parent-requested arrests of “runaway daughters pushing past them out the door” and zero-tolerance-for-violence policies in schools as sweeping girls into the system, too. However, women’s assaults differ from men’s in that, while 25 percent of female inmates did report being involved in an assault in the past year, most were involved in only one. Other common women’s crimes include credit card and check forgery (often a natural outgrowth of women’s retail work experience) and robbery associated with prostitution (stealing a john’s wallet). Perhaps the biggest factors in filling women’s prisons, however, are probation and parole violations, especially for drug use as monitoring technology has improved. Chesney-Lind pointed out that 55 percent of women entering prison in Hawaii were violators; in Portland, Oregon, only 16 percent of women inmates were actually incarcerated for new offenses. Chesney-Lind questioned whether criminalizing relapse—a common occurrence on the path to recovery—is really the best response.

Chesney-Lind moved on to discuss what good correctional practices for women would look like. She noted that a pervasive attitude is that “an inmate is an inmate,” showing photos of a woman in labor in shackles and women on chain gangs as examples. She noted that the idea of “equity” usually leads to women inmates being treated like men and argued that, just as women’s pathways to crime differ from those of men, the system’s response should differ as well. Women’s frequent history of victimization and abuse (about 43 percent of female inmates versus 12 percent of men) has implications for prison practices such as pat searches and strip searches, especially across genders. The prevalence of abuse of women (and the fact that, unlike abuse of men, it often persists into adulthood) also has huge implications for women’s transitions back to the community. Another vital factor is that incarcerating a woman shatters a family. Prisons in remote areas are a particular problem for women.

Chesney-Lind called on Minnesota to lead in developing an array of corrections alternatives that keep women safe, sober, and on the right path. She also suggested that because women offenders are less frightening to the public than men, innovative approaches to female offenders could be a Trojan Horse to eventually bring beneficial changes to society’s treatment of male offenders as well.

EFFECTIVE INTERVENTIONS: WOMEN OFFENDERS AND THEIR CHILDREN

*by Stephanie Covington, Ph.D.
Co-Director, Institute for Relational Development*

In discussing gender-responsive treatment models, Covington asserted that we need to look at the people we are programming for; that is, women and their children. She noted that “gender-neutral” usually equals male, and “race-neutral” equals white. Covington said that before you ask the question, “What works?” you need to ask, “What is the work?” She gave four answers to that question.

- **Prevention.** Family and parenting support, education, housing, jobs, community-based services, stability, adequate money, spirituality, and role models all help to prevent women from entering the system in the first place.
- **Do no harm.** Covington said that simply doing no harm would be a system improvement. She argued that the system often leads to traumatization and loss of dignity for women. Standard operating procedures (searches, restraints, isolation) may retraumatize women with histories of abuse.
- **Be gender-responsive.** Covington noted that differences in parenting responsibilities, social expectations for mothers, the possibility of physical and sexual abuse, and other factors mean that women have different needs than men. She used the analogy of tending roses and gardenias to make the point that you can't just transfer or adjust a program for the care of one flower (or gender) to another and get good outcomes. Covington argued that corrections programs and practices need to be completely rethought by looking through the lens of women's experiences, as the addiction treatment community has begun to do. "Treating men and women the same way is not equal," said Covington. She gave several examples:
 - **Bail.** A man and a woman do the same crime and are assigned the same bail amount. Is this equal? Covington noted that for the man, his mother, girlfriend, and other women typically rally to make bail. This does not happen for women, and they only have 72 percent of the earning power of men.
 - **Sentencing.** Covington pointed out that women often operate at low levels in crime organizations and have less information to trade for a reduced sentence than men have. In addition, women's moral development is more relationship-based than men's, making them less likely to "tell" on someone they know or love.
 - **Visitation.** Without intervention, women are less likely to receive visits than men. The women in men's lives tend to handle transportation and bring children for visits. By contrast, less than 50 percent of women inmates receive visits from children. Covington said they are also more likely to feel shame, or that prison is not a good place for kids to visit. In addition, operating procedures requiring strip or cavity searches following visits can retraumatize women. Covington shared one example of a prison in Lexington, Kentucky, that was converted from a men's to a women's prison. When it was a men's prison, 75 percent of the inmates received a Christmas visit. When it was a women's prison, only 25 percent did.
 - **Contraband.** Covington described the different items of contraband for which male and female inmates are often written up. Men have drugs and weapons. Women are often written up for having too many colors of yarn, two lipsticks instead of the regulation one, or an extra bra or panties.
 - **Chemical dependency treatment.** Covington stated that women inmates have more prevalent drug problems than men and need more treatment program capacity and better quality—she commented that there is a lot of bogus

Covington stated that women inmates have more prevalent drug problems than men and need more treatment capacity and better quality...

“treatment” out there. Programs also need to address the different place drugs have in women’s lives. Whereas a man on drugs may be seen as stressed out or a drunk, a woman is also seen as a bad mother and a slut—issues of sexuality and parenting that are rarely tied to men’s drug use. “The same” approach to men and women is not “equal.”

- **Build community support.** Covington said that the last part of the work to be done to intervene effectively in the lives of women offenders and their children is to change attitudes. She suggested that too often “family values” and “caring about children” are nothing but rhetoric, with sports, materialism, and TV being the values we live by and teach our children. “We live in a culture where Reeboks are more important than human beings,” said Covington. Society reflects these priorities, with little money allocated for prevention.

Covington challenged the group to make the hard decisions, personally and as a society, to make a difference in the lives of women offenders and their children. The first question, she reiterated, is to ask, “What is the work that needs to be done for women offenders and their children?” She called on everyone to ask themselves a second question: “What part of the work is mine?”

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

*by George Keiser
Community Corrections Division Chief
National Institute of Corrections (NIC)*

*The Honorable John West
Hamilton County Municipal Court Judge
Cincinnati, Ohio*

Keiser and West teamed up as consultant and practitioner to offer advice on a vital strategy for creating and maintaining effective services for women offenders and their children: building partnerships.

Keiser opened by describing his organization’s three roles in offering assistance to corrections professionals. First, NIC can do a limited amount of short-term consulting, referring practitioners to other places who have dealt with similar issues and pointing out helpful information. Secondly, NIC also gives a limited number of grants. Up to six grants for technical assistance (including onsite assessment and program development assistance), sponsorship of visits to well-established programs, and onsite help with data collection approaches are available nationally under the “Improving Community Responses to Women Offenders” initiative. Under this initiative, intensive technical assistance for up to two years will also be provided to three teams (nationally) from high-population local jurisdictions to examine sentencing and corrections practices and develop gender-responsive assessment, referral, and community supervision. Finally, NIC also develops guidelines for dealing with

Keiser emphasized that policy should precede action and that it is important to articulate the problem before creating a program or passing a law.

national issues that local jurisdictions can adapt to their needs. Keiser emphasized that policy should precede action and that is important to articulate the problem before creating a program or passing a law. NIC is conducting a teleconference on Women Offenders in the Community in summer 2001.

Keiser then introduced the main topic: partnership. He urged each judicial district to make careful use of terms to define exactly what they are seeking to accomplish: cooperation, coordination, collaboration, or partnership. Each level requires a stronger relationship, more trust, and better partnering skills. He suggested that the stakeholders in each district see where they are on the continuum now, then seek to build incrementally. He noted that sharing decisions and especially sharing money is a growth process.

John West then picked up the discussion to give an “in the trenches” description of how his jurisdiction formed a partnership to address intermediate sanctions for female offenders. He shared how the partnership was put together, kept together, and enabled to do good work, as well as some lessons learned along the way. He offered the following key advice for starting and maintaining a criminal justice partnership:

■ **Be clear about why you want to partner and what you want to accomplish.**

West suggested one way to do this is to create a mission or vision statement. However, his team tried to create one at the first meeting and failed because the group didn’t know enough about what it wanted to do. They used “decision mapping” instead to work through the process from arrest to prison and developed a vision statement three years later.

■ **Decide who the key players are.** Who needs to sign off on any changes? Who will pay for them? Whose blessing do you need? Also, who are the potential antagonists (you can then plan to neutralize them).

■ **Get the key players involved and keep them involved.** West stressed that the group needs to meet on a regular basis to build trust and do the work. He also stressed that there **must** be structure and order to the meetings to get things accomplished. His group set the following helpful ground rules:

- *Attendance is a priority.* This was essential to build trust and prevent delays.
- *Start and end on time.* This was vital, especially with the busy schedules and many responsibilities of the team members.
- *Confidentiality must be maintained.* This was needed to allow honest discussion without fear of political or personal embarrassment.
- *Learning environment must be maintained.* There are no silly questions.
- *Respect.* One person talks, everyone else listens (no side whispers or conversations).
- *Controversy is okay and encouraged.* West deliberately set up the first meeting to include people on opposite sides of a hot issue to set the tone.
- *Consensus decision-making.* “Majority rules” simply does not work in a partnership.

West then shared a number of lessons learned:

- **The group needs effective and continuous leadership.** Pick someone whose career is stable, who won't be "moving on" during the years the project will require. The leader also needs to be passionate about the issue and able to maintain a learning atmosphere, motivate the team, and create consensus.
- **Change is a process requiring time and patience, and realistic goals.** West warned against setting too-ambitious goals like "stamp out prostitution." He recommended setting both small and large goals to help keep everyone motivated and involved. His group used the tool of a "Wall of Progress" to chart even small successes, like changing the women's jail dress code away from jumpsuits, as well as larger ones like convincing judges that monetary bonds were unnecessary for most women.
- **Include community people.** West recommended religious leaders in particular for the influence they have in their communities and the skills in peacemaking they bring to the group.
- **Keep the group broad-based and diverse.** For his group, 18-26 members were workable. The group should be compact enough to be manageable for the task at hand.
- **Build trust among key players through communication.** Judge West found that communication and honesty were the keys to building the trust and comfort needed to do the work. No one can afford to be betrayed or embarrassed. His group had one breach of trust over the years which was dealt with.
- **Each participant must receive a benefit.** A prosecutor might need to avoid being seen as "soft on crime"; a judge might want more sentencing options. Group members need to have their self-interests met.
- **A single person or entity cannot do the work.**
- **You must gather data.** West emphasized the importance of hard data, not just anecdotes, to drive decisions. For example, the group collected hard data that proved that women would come to court without monetary bonds. This convinced judges to set bonds less often.

West concluded by offering to help any of the judicial district teams and welcoming their phone calls.

Judge West found that communication and honesty were the keys to building the trust and comfort needed to do the work.

WORKING TOGETHER IN THE COMMUNITY

by *Sandra Barnhill, Executive Director
Aid to Children of Imprisoned Mothers, Inc.*

Barnhill set out to share her experiences as the founder and executive director of Aid to Children of Incarcerated Mothers and to inspire and motivate others to take action. She began by displaying a sample letter from a child of an incarcerated mother and pointed out that it could be from any of the 1.5 million children of incarcerated parents. She asked the audience to reflect silently on those children, many of them in their districts. She then continued to set the scene by reading an excerpt from *The Edge of Heaven* by Marita Golden, giving a daughter's feelings about her mother being in prison, and shared two stories from her experience: Greg, a boy who has been in her program from age six to high school and been very successful, and Derek, another boy killed during his initiation into a gang.

Barnhill went on to share some major barriers to working effectively with incarcerated parents and children that she has encountered in her work. She asked the participants to consider whether their actions hinder or help with these challenges:

- **Distance between the community and prison/jail.** Sixty percent of the children she serves are more than 100 miles away from their mother. Transportation is difficult. Barnhill noted that the system can help or hinder, and related a story about when their van full of kids broke down on a three-hour trip but the prison extended visiting hours so that the children and mothers would not be disappointed.
- **Variations in policies, practices, and prison rules.** Barnhill related stories of getting to a prison, finding kids were not dressed appropriately, and needing to go into town to buy new clothes. She underlined that communication about rules for visits and especially changes in rules is critical.
- **General telephone restrictions.** Barnhill noted that phone contact and writing are often all families have. Families accepting collect calls from prison sometimes have service cut off due to expense. Three-way calls facilitated by her agency are also expensive. She shared how her agency and prisons have worked together so that children can also call **into** the prison to share “good news.”
- **A lack of private space for caseworkers to meet with parents.** Barnhill acknowledged the space crunch at many prisons but urged staff to get creative.
- **Difficulty in getting information on programs inside the prison or making referrals.** Barnhill urged communication so women can make use of available services and agencies like hers will know what is offered and can supplement it.
- **Lack of notification of transfers.** Barnhill shared a story of driving a child four hours to see her mother only to find that she was no longer there.

Barnhill noted that after “When is my mommy coming home?” a child’s second question is, “Where is my mommy?” Children need to know where their mothers are, what it is like there, and that their mothers are safe.

■ **Difficulty in finding a parent in the criminal justice system.** Barnhill noted that after “When is my mommy coming home?” a child’s second question is, “Where is my mommy?” Children need to know where their mothers are, what it is like there, and that their mothers are safe.

Barnhill then described her agency, Aid to Children of Imprisoned Mothers (formerly Aid to Imprisoned Mothers, and still known as AIM). Barnhill founded the agency in 1987 as an outgrowth of her faith journey and experiences as a lawyer. The organization has become more child-focused over the years, with the twin goals of women’s empowerment and children’s well-being. The agency serves three generations:

- *Children:* After-school tutorials, mentors, Saturday educational and recreational programs, transportation for visits, career development, and a summer camp.
- *Caregivers* (typically grandmothers): Respite care and a support group called “Guardian Angels.”
- *Mothers:* Seminars on child custody, self-help manuals on parenting from prison, and a 12-week transitional class called AIMing for Success, with monthly support groups post-release.

Barnhill offered some tips for corrections professionals in working with people from the community. She emphasized the need to offer training and teaching about security, manipulation and healthy relationships, what contraband is, and even the alphabet soup of corrections acronyms so that volunteers and corrections can work together. She also underlined the need for corrections professionals to get training about community groups and their philosophies and approaches. Barnhill reminded the group that there is a cost to these community programs and that the system can help not only through contracts, but also by writing letters of support or being flexible to facilitate prison tours for funders on short notice.

Barnhill concluded with the story of Angel, a child who thought all the kids on the AIM bus were going to see her momma. She issued a call to action that as Americans, one of the most blessed nations on earth, we cannot allow children to suffer. “From those to whom much is given, much is required,” said Barnhill. She said that much is required of us.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

A participant asked if AIM helps women in jails, or only prison families. Barnhill explained that her agency does provide some educational programs for women in jails, although jails do not allow visitation. She mentioned the “Women at Risk” program in North Carolina as a wonderful example of a jail-focused program that offers crisis counselors and helps women find their children. A participant asked if her program had been replicated, and Barnhill responded that although each program is unique, the model has been used in Boston, Kentucky, and other places. A final participant asked if her agency measured outcomes. AIM uses four instruments to pre- and post-test children. They do not test caregivers or mothers.

PAINTING A DIFFERENT PICTURE OF THE FUTURE: INTERRUPTING THE CYCLE OF OFFENDING

*by Denise Johnston, M.D., Director
Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents*

Johnston began by pointing out that the figure of 1.5 million children in the U.S. having a parent in prison underestimates the problem of children affected by parental crime. Children of prisoners are the minority in any district. By including children whose parents are in jail or on probation and parole and those whose parents have an arrest or prison history, the number of children affected can be conservatively estimated at 10 million. The Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents addresses this problem through direct services and research. Johnston noted that only four studies have been done that actually talked to the children of incarcerated parents.

Johnston set out to give the audience a new paradigm for looking at the behavior of offenders and their children: a developmental perspective. Johnston noted that historically, offenders have been viewed in isolation and crime has been explained as the result of their internal deficits and disorders. She argued instead for a more childhood-focused and developmental way of looking at offenders. Johnston noted that almost all offenders were disrupted in childhood and that all the major offense patterns (theft, drugs, violence, and sexual misconduct) arise in mid-childhood or early adolescence. She proposed to show that criminality is not so much a pathology as a natural and logical outgrowth of development.

Johnston gave a crash course in development, which she defined as the acquisition of skills through integration of experience. She noted that building skills is a long process, drawing an analogy to a child walking and pointing out all the steps that lead to it, from cruising and crawling, back to kicking in the womb. One of the most critical and complex developmental skills is attachment, the ability to form a reciprocal and enduring emotional and physical bond with another person. Johnston outlined how an infant forms bonds with its mother through attachment-maintenance activities like cuddling, cooing and smiling, and tries to get its mother back when she leaves through more aggressive attachment-seeking behavior like crying or running after her. Through soothing the child and moving through the cycle many times over the years, the parent teaches him or her to love, trust, and self-regulate emotions.

Relating development back to offenders, Johnston compared development to a cake. Some people have good ingredients, like parental care. Others have bad ingredients, like abuse or neglect. Johnston stated that if we are normal, the “cake” of our lives looks like our ingredients. Thus offenders who have had “bad ingredients” like witnessing or suffering violence and abuse shouldn’t be thought of as disordered, but a natural product of their traumatic experiences. Johnston noted that any time a child is hurt or not protected, the “contract” of attachment between parent and child is undermined, with abuse obviously being a severe form of hurt. The result is lack of trust, an increase in aggressive attachment-seeking behavior, inabil-

Thus offenders who have had “bad ingredients” like witnessing or suffering violence and abuse shouldn’t be thought of as disordered, but a natural product of their traumatic experiences.

ity to regulate emotions, and seeking other forms of attachment—all pathways to criminality. In many offenders, these ways of coping have been reinforced again and again.

How can an offender’s developmental path be changed? Johnston continued the analogy of the cake by saying we need to add new ingredients. Sustained, consistent “new ingredients” of positive experiences and relationships can work against previous experiences and allow a person to complete developmental tasks. Johnston argued that incarceration isn’t a “new” ingredient, but really more of the same negative experience, and noted that we shouldn’t expect it to change offenders. She painted a new picture where interventions flow out of a developmental perspective, where the system realizes that additional hurtful experiences won’t change anything, where interventions are relationship-based, and where the system acknowledges that we can all change.

CLOSING REMARKS

*by The Honorable Karen Asphaug
Symposium Moderator
District Court Judge
Hastings, Minnesota*

*Sheryl Ramstad Hvass, Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Corrections*

Asphaug summarized what she saw as the main points of the symposium. Gender matters, both for pathways to crime and interventions. The war on drugs is increasing the number of women offenders. Children of women offenders are “flying below radar” and suffering terribly from trauma and separation. They are at risk to perpetuate the cycle of crime if the important relationship between mother and child is not maintained. Asphaug said she learned it will be critical to bring everyone to the table to address these issues, but that she took away a message of hope that we can intervene to change these children’s experiences. She thanked Ramstad Hvass for the opportunity to be challenged by speakers and panels and the chance to meet with district and professional groups and set goals.

Ramstad Hvass in turn thanked Asphaug and the speakers for their commitment and the team leaders in each district for their leadership. She said, “Now the work begins.” She asked that each participant carry the knowledge and action plans developed back to their districts and professional groups. She promised Department of Corrections’ assistance to the work teams, but noted that action needs to be taken locally. She thanked the participants for their interest and looks forward with great expectations.

WORK GROUPS: SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND ACTION PLANS

A key feature of the symposium was three breakout sessions. Leaders from each judicial district invited a diverse group of key criminal justice stakeholders from their districts to attend the conference, with the idea that these groups would take back the education and guidance provided by the symposium and take action in their districts. The symposium also included a diverse array of professionals with an interest in these issues, including judges, prosecutors, public defenders, law enforcement, corrections, treatment providers, and elected officials who were also asked to take a leadership role with their professional groups. The idea was to provide useful breakout sessions that could develop relationships that could be continued to promote action “back home.”

During the first breakout session professional groups met together to discuss “their part of the work” in making the system more responsive to the needs of women offenders and their children. The second and third sessions put the participants into judicial district work teams to discuss what services and interventions are currently available in their districts, to develop an action plan for the next steps, to indicate any assistance the Department of Corrections could provide, and to state how they would know when they had reached their goals. Each group reported to the symposium as a whole on their conclusions.

Discussions were lively, with participants showing a clear commitment to continue the work of the symposium. This part of the symposium proceedings report is designed to help groups recollect and follow up on the discussions that took place and take action. Discussions and work plans of the groups are summarized below.

PROFESSIONAL GROUPS

Professional groups held varied discussions on how they viewed the issue of women offenders and their children through the lens of their roles in the criminal justice system. Each group met to crystallize their thinking about lessons learned and about what needs to be done in their area.

Corrections

Corrections organized their discussion by looking at the rationale for action, asking themselves how the system handles children of women offenders today, and brainstorming steps for action.

■ **Rationale for action:**

- Gender responsiveness
- Link between mothers and children
- What’s happening now isn’t working

- Intergenerational issues (if we don't address them, we'll pay later)
- Avoiding redundancy in service
- Value of collaboration
- "Value added" (helping offenders OR their children has a cross-fertilizing effect)
- Big picture costs
- Acknowledgment of the role drugs/alcohol play in recidivism
- Keeping families together; meeting needs of families (housing, food)
- Women's needs differ and we need to find ways to meet these needs
- Women's involvement in the system is based on different issues (victimization, etc.)
- Kids end up being "sentenced" along with their mothers

■ **How do we handle children of women offenders currently?**

- Not taken into account
- Problem and an obstacle
- Liability/add complexity to case
- Hugely missing is emotional needs and impact/response, no debriefing is done
- Why are kids removed in squad cars?
- Overlook role of extended family and community for general support placement issues, etc.
- Case-based, client-based system
- Disparity in cost for foster placement versus extended family placements

■ **Steps for action:**

- Collaboration
- Resource coordination
- Ways to organize/manage community leaders
- Bring stakeholders together for discussion
- Attention to medical care
- Housing
- Training
- Workable transition programs
- Assessments
- Crisis response teams
- Smaller caseloads

Law Enforcement

The law enforcement group discussed what happens to children during the arrest process, and subsequently visualized how things might be done differently.

■ **First contact:**

- Needs accurate documentation if minors may be affected (at scene)
- Document where kids went
- Pre-planning of child placement if information is available
- Limited bed space and economics for housing female offenders – focus on trying to find ways to keep the females/children out of the "system"

- Train staff to determine who is really the aggressor and at fault during mutual combatant domestics; avoid arresting both (key issue)
- Educate staff on available resources for person left with children

■ **Arrest:**

- Is the custodial arrest necessary or can “charge by complaint” be more effectively used?
- Children left alone after arrest
- Call family social services to take custody of children; social services decide if foster care or family placement is the best place
- County jail time versus DOC time
- County: Many don’t allow child visits
- Less program options
- Living conditions austere
- More felony crimes now demand county time so counties don’t have access to DOC system (forgery)
- Future DUI felony law

Judges

The group of judges looked at rationale for action, actions to handle children better, and ways to show leadership on the issue.

■ **Best rationale:**

- Women are different—different crimes, different pathways, role of kids
- CHIPS timing rules and foster care, how intersects with length of sentence
- Avoid ineffective response to control costs, address repeating, etc.

■ **How do we handle?**

- Ask for more help in PSIs and for information from other agencies (let probation officers know we care about kid issues, raise awareness with them)
- Set realistic goals of probation that are related to crime
- Take more time on family issues at sentencing (Require defense to address? Would need more judges and more of everything else to do)

■ **How to show leadership:**

- Bring to the attention of other judges (experienced trial judges) through professional groups; leaders of these groups are here on this work team today

Public Defenders

The public defenders saw themselves as seeing many sides of the issue because they represent women offenders, mothers losing custody, children being taken away, state wards, and juvenile offenders. They took a fresh look at who they really represent (children as well as offenders?) and discussed how the court process could be more responsive to families.

■ Issues:

- Child protection at odds with crime prosecution
- Coordination between adult and juvenile systems when women and their children are both offenders (contrary goals, working at odds)
- Educate the system on effect of crime prosecution on child protection
- Coordinate representation of women clients
- Defense attorneys need to be aware of women's issues
- Attorneys need access to information (CHIPS information)
- Educate the decision-makers – the bench and prosecutors – on women offender's issues
- Equal justice
- Rationale – the children are important; diminish “so what” attitude about children and foster care impacts and costs
- May become “offenders” themselves
- Identify children of women offenders
- Ask juvenile offenders if moms are in jail
- Having a parent in jail makes it OK to be in jail
- Forums – legislature, public defenders are “voice calling in the wilderness” — need to build coalitions with other criminal justice groups to get heard

■ How do we handle children of women offenders?

- As defenders, expand our view of our role (not a social worker, but if no one else cares we need to expand our role)
- Transportation for visitation
- A place for kids at the courthouse
- Attitude in the courts toward children of offenders is not helpful (remove crying baby)
- Daycare/family-friendly environment

Prosecutors

Prosecutors discussed many issues of parity and what changes would be appropriate to make in response to the needs of women offenders and their children.

■ Issues:

- CHIPS issues; termination of parental rights or adoption the only answer?
- May need a plan (service) to do a better job with child protection issues
- Prosecutors must be fair
- Drugs; programs under-funded (try to keep families together)
- Collateral consequence; e.g., child support
- Is it appropriate to consider unique circumstances of women (example: an 85-year-old with a medical problem is treated differently in plea bargaining)
- Police – deal with arrest; CHIPS policies (in domestic abuse and drug cases)
- Heighten awareness (recognize problem)
- Is it OK to make laws which treat women differently from men?
- Each office can have a separate policy for dealing with women, children
- Bring awareness of female and children issues to decision-makers (e.g. county or district-wide): judges, police and corrections – dealing with women and children (raise the issue to see if there are changes we can make)
- Can make impact at plea bargaining, can consider unique circumstances

Elected Officials

The elected officials saw the three big issues for them as being cost implications, long-term policy implications, and public safety. They saw a need to “put a face on the problem” and to use the resources that are already available.

■ Issues:

- Public safety
- Cost benefit: how much is it going to cost to care for the kids in the correctional system?
- Alternative sentencing
- Prevention: stopping the cycle of children in the system
- Long-term policy implications: increasing number of women offenders
- Continuum of care: dealing with children before, during and after incarceration
- Restorative justice principles; being part of the community
- Be a voice for children/groups that can’t speak for themselves
- Public health issues
- Refocus energy on drug/alcohol treatment prevention instead of incarceration
- Minnesota does not focus on alcohol as much as other states
- Increasing number of incarcerated women today and the number of children affected – what is the cost?
- Increased cost of child placement and decreased number of foster care homes because of more women working out-of-home
- Tribes need to take care of Native American women offenders

■ What steps will you take to provide leadership?

- Work with the experts on how to improve current law to eliminate unintended consequences
- Pass laws to fund state mandates
- Improve communication between elected officials at all levels
- Improve the public’s education on women offenders and their children
- Make sure Minnesota is involved and measures up on the national level
- Contact social service agencies and law enforcement to ask how they deal with women and children

Treatment

The treatment group (which included community agencies as well as chemical dependency treatment practitioners) discussed the need for public advocacy to make treatment more available to women offenders, changes needed in program philosophy, and models to account for children and family needs.

■ Issues:

- Individual focus versus rules-based treatment
- Empowerment model versus “powerlessness over chemicals” treatment angle, conflict
- Economics: cost of incarceration versus treatment and other spending
- Program from kids up to mother; kids as a “hook” and motivator
- Interagency communication and collaboration

-
- Protect and educate the kids; families as secondary crime victims
 - Legislative impact, lack of legislative education on this issue
 - Educate public
 - Not enough treatment in correctional facilities, not enough quality treatment either
 - Coordinate resources (fragmented approach); need integration, holistic programs
 - Kids-centered program
 - Be able to identify extended families
-

JUDICIAL DISTRICT TEAMS

The second and third breakout sessions allowed the judicial district teams gathered at the symposium to meet. Teams developed a “next steps” action plan, outlined anything the Department of Corrections could do to help, and began to think about how they would evaluate the success of their efforts. Some groups also listed resources available in their district. Discussions were preliminary due to the time allotted, but all groups did plan action. Their plans are summarized below:

First Judicial District

The first district noted that there is significant variation in their district on the number of women offenders, with Dakota County having about a dozen women in jail daily and accounting for 30 percent of probation violations, and Carver County characterized as having “one or two women who stay one day.”

■ Plan:

- Collect data on number of women
- Raise level of understanding and consciousness through a district-wide training, sharing information from the symposium; invite stakeholders

■ DOC role:

- Help make a district-wide training come true

■ Goals/outcomes:

- Still need definition (perhaps that children of women offenders are not delinquent)

Second Judicial District

The second district assessed resources and planned for action.

■ Resources available:

- Project Reconnect
- Breaking Free (grant for housing)
- Housing

- Model Cities
- YWCA housing
- Project Foundation
- Some gender-specific chemical dependency programs—not enough—can't take children
- Need to deal holistic (whole person); gaps need to be filled

■ **Plan:**

- Have a forum for the district—this work group plus people from the schools, faith community, human services, and offenders themselves
- Share information and identify resources available, efficacy and gaps
- Potential areas for further action: identify kids and caregivers on PSI, specialized caseloads for women offenders with kids, women's assessment tool

■ **DOC role:**

- Help gather data
- Establish an Aid to Children of Imprisoned Mothers (AIM) program for kids

■ **Goals/outcomes:**

- Not yet defined

Third Judicial District

The third district work team noted that one of its members is the child of an offender in prison for 20 years. They discussed existing forums for discussing this issue, whether a forum of some kind should continue this work, and planned for action.

■ **Existing forums for discussion: what is there now?**

- Dodge/Fillmore/Olmsted women offender team
- Some county jails can't have women
- Sex assault interagency forums – Winona and Olmsted Counties
- Some groups are already meeting
- Third Judicial District Equal Justice Commission

■ **Forum – should there be one?**

- Yes; numbers are small, at least of women in prison from third district
- But consider all women in the system, at whatever the level, and their children
- Measurement
- Who's in charge
- Local by county or district-wide
- County and district structure

■ **Plan:**

- Each team member return and talk with our group; e.g., district court judges meeting, public defenders, county, victims, law enforcement, Equal Justice Commission, other professional groups
- Gather information from various constituencies

- Research situation, number of offenders
- Get back together to meet with team members
- District symposium
- Involve other groups and agencies, faith community social services

■ **DOC role:**

- Develop a one-hour presentation on this topic that all the groups could use in their districts
- Share what other districts are doing

■ **How will we know we've met our goals?**

- Compare to other districts
- Set objective goals
- Evaluate them

Fourth Judicial District

The fourth district committed to a forum and planned to apply for an NIC grant.

■ **Action plan:**

- Create a forum composed of this work group and expanded stakeholders
- Get NIC Community Corrections grant
- Focus and coordinate 24 task forces

■ **DOC role:**

- Give money
- Help gather statistics

■ **Goals:**

- Need to develop outcomes

Fifth Judicial District

The fifth district planned immediate action and listed many stakeholders and ideas regarding this issue. They noted that they have 15 counties and planned to make the work manageable in that environment by using assignment districts.

■ **Action plan:**

- Heighten awareness, education
- Each representative inform their own discipline of issues
- Work with the five assignment districts within the judicial district
- Find interested representatives to form five groups or one group of cross-discipline representatives (sheriffs, public defenders, judges, probation, multi-cultural, prosecutors, judicial coordinating council, corrections advisory council)
- Replicate symposium within judicial district
- Utilize resources (colleges)

■ **DOC role:**

- Provide speaker/trainers
- Technical support
- Local partnership, DOC influence (educational programs, help us work with the universities)

■ **Success measures:**

- Develop goals to measure continued partnerships
- Look at number of partnerships

■ **Promising ideas:**

- Utilize services out of our jurisdiction (chemical dependency, juvenile female sex offenders, CHIPS, family foster care, children's project)
- Work with child agencies – identify the agencies
- County social services
- Schools
- Public health
- Identify who these kids are
- Mentors
- Volunteers
- Transport (to see mom, to help mom to services/probation requirements, to kids activities)
- Cross-discipline communication
- Meaningful employment
- Housing
- Transportation to work, etc.
- Transitional services plan before return to community
- Do inventory of what is available for women and their children, then inform the women

Sixth Judicial District

The sixth district planned to start immediately, bringing the concept to a meeting scheduled for 5 p.m. the same day as the symposium, and to refine plans in future meetings of the work group. They noted that their district is already active on this issue, having looked at it three times previously and developed residential options for women.

■ **Action plan:**

- Bring the issue to existing groups
- Work group team meet to plan next steps

■ **DOC role:**

- None requested at this time

■ **Goals/outcomes:**

- Use same evaluation tools used in earlier efforts

Seventh Judicial District

The seventh district noted that there is a great deal of variation between their counties in terms of number of offenders. They pursued a somewhat individualistic approach to allow for these differences.

■ Action plan:

- Each individual group member bring ideas back to own groups, area is just too diverse
- Develop plan for tribe action on the issue; vitally need this information

■ DOC role:

- Do a onetime training countywide (district is too big)
- Give dollars to support jails, not just prisons

■ Goal:

- Will know if progress has been made if training is provided and this issue gets on the county agendas

Eighth Judicial District

The eighth district got off to a fast start by scheduling the next meeting of the work group for October 26 at Woodland Center to refine this work plan. They noted that the numbers are quite small for the entire district.

■ Action plan:

- Form expanded work group (faith community, schools, public officials, today's participants)
- Identify numbers in jails, prisons
- Ask jails how they provide for women
- Look at a regional jail for women
- Child liaison to go along when law enforcement arrests parent(s) and to connect to services
- Partnerships with Pact 4 families and community mental health
- Existing services (volunteer drivers, mentoring)
- Pilot project in Kandiyohi County?
- District-wide meeting (like this) with reps from each county (13); include Native American community; could district court administration help coordinate?
- Each county develop own plan; huge differences
- Coordinate services
- Look at statewide changes needed (sentencing guidelines, CHIPS guidelines)

■ DOC role:

- Develop an assessment instrument for needs by county
- Coordinate agencies with information
- Help get data: prison/jail populations, how long in, where kids are
- Provide financial incentives
- Help coordinate speakers, etc.

■ **Goals:**

- Need further definition (evaluation of affected children, as AIM does?)

Ninth Judicial District

The ninth district (17 counties) focused on identifying services and issues that exist now and possible partnerships, setting “do-able” goals, and planning next steps.

■ **Services and issues:**

- Nothing for women offenders and children
- Restorative justice
- Utilize different forums to include tribal systems
- Community corrections have advisory boards
- Judges’ meetings
- Healthy kids
- Social services
- Family services collaborative
- Walks Tall – support systems for Native Americans after prison release
- Housing (new project) for women coming out of prison
- Transportation is a key issue in ninth district because it is a rural area; long distance to Shakopee from the reservation (need help)
- Over-representation of 80 percent Native American women and 16 percent juveniles in criminal justice system (impacts over communities, economical; Natives are only one percent of total population)
- Very few services directed at women at local level
- More felony-level offenses will cause women to sit longer in jail
- County commissioners need to be made aware of issue
- Regional settings for women in jail; state needs to share with dollar issues

■ **Partnerships:**

- Need local, government, state partnerships
- Need to tap into the services we have now
- Need to start a forum and use programs we have
- Find out who the agencies/individuals are to help the offenders/children
- Police arrest, record who’s in house, make referrals
- Officers consider arrest/not arrest, how it will affect kids, still charge
- Dispositional advisor notified to try and track down family
- Tribal notification

■ **Do-able:**

- Awareness – talk about the issue
- Faith community, including spiritual
- Start to end, develop a plan for the person
- Work with supervised release agents, DOC can help
- Outside the “system”
- Community
- Schools
- Tribes
- Network with each other on transportation issues

- Identify numbers of women in (a) county jails; (b) prison from different reservations
- Access Walks Tall numbers of women being released
- Need a regional jail for women

■ **Plan:**

- Ask each jail how they will provide services for women
- Educate others (via public defenders, NIC will help with technical assistance) in our district, when to develop a group (working)
- Identify numbers in jails, prisons
- Need local AIM program
- Coordinate services

■ **DOC role:**

- Get supervised release agents to help
- Give money

■ **Goals/outcomes:**

- Need further definition

Tenth Judicial District

The tenth district planned to pull additional stakeholders into the work group and gather more data. They also mentioned potentially working with the sixth district.

■ **Plan:**

- Recruit representatives from existing organizations (public defenders, community corrections, law enforcement, social services and public health, community)
- Share resources
- Collect data on issues in each county
- Bench takes the lead

■ **DOC role:**

- Data help
- Programs around the state that work; make available (share resources)
- Money
- Make us aware of grants so know when to apply

■ **How will we know success?**

- More Diane Hagen's (MCF-Shakopee parenting program director) at the local level
- Similar program to AIM
- Drop in social service cases
- System barriers reduced or eliminated
- Look at success piece by piece

DISTRICT WORKPLAN TEMPLATE

The following is provided as a guide for districts or professional groups as they plan further action on the issue of women offenders and their children. It is drawn from the presentations at the symposium and from a compilation of the plans sketched out by the district work groups. It is designed as a practical guide to processes, steps, and options that districts (or smaller units) may wish to consider as they move forward to create better situations for women offenders and their children. (See also the presentation by John West for “the voice of experience” in developing partnerships to achieve a new criminal justice goal.)

Process Guide:

- **Educate/train/raise awareness of the issue of women offenders and their children**
 - Replicate symposium
 - Work through existing professional groups
- **Decide what “size” makes sense as a working unit** (judicial district, assessment district, county)
- **Gather and keep stakeholders for each working unit**
 - Determine who needs to sign off on the project, who will pay, who needs to bless the project
 - Form a working group that will stay together (see John West presentation)
- **Make an action plan**
 - Include large and small goals
- **Evaluate progress**
 - Develop assessments for women offenders and/or their children
 - Use a “wall of progress” to celebrate small successes

Potential Issues and Tasks for Work Groups to Address:

- **Data collection**
 - Number of women and children affected
 - Nature of needs
- **Resources available that could be tapped/coordinated/enhanced**
- **Arrest preplanning**
- **Kids at arrest—decreasing fear, making sure kids are safe, know where kids are going**

-
- **Kids and detention** (know where kids are, linking to children’s services, visits, setting appropriate bonds for women; i.e., minimum that will get them back to court)
 - **Kids and courts** (child-friendly, toys or play area, child care, diaper decks, etc.)
 - **Kids and jail or prison** (services for kids and caregivers in community, permission for visits, transportation for visits, distance-parenting support, “family-friendly” facilities)
 - **Kids and transition**—family reunification, helping mom “keep it together”
 - **Custody issues/termination of parental rights/length of time in foster care**
 - **Providing alternatives to incarceration** (gender-responsive interventions, family-friendly interventions)
 - **Providing family-friendly treatment options and aftercare**
 - **Providing housing, education, jobs, and other “foundation supports”**

Technical Assistance Available

- **Minnesota Department of Corrections**
- **National Institute of Corrections**

SYMPOSIUM PRESENTERS

Karen Asphaug

District Court Judge, Minnesota's First Judicial District. As a trial court judge, Asphaug presides over criminal (felony and misdemeanor), civil and family matters. Prior to being appointed to the bench in 1995, she served as a prosecuting attorney from 1982 until 1995, specializing in the prosecution of domestic violence and child abuse cases. Asphaug also serves on the Minnesota Supreme Court Gender Fairness Implementation Task Force and the Minnesota Supreme Court Task Force on Juvenile Justice Services.

Sandra Barnhill

Founder and Executive Director, Aid to Children of Imprisoned Mothers, Inc., a 12-year-old nonprofit agency that provides services to incarcerated women, their children, and family members. For more than 15 years, Barnhill has been working in the field of prisoners' rights – first as an attorney and now as a practitioner. Throughout those years, she has seen a need for collaboration across systems and programming that is relevant, meaningful, and involves all sectors of the community. Barnhill feels that to enhance the lives of women offenders and their families, a “family-success paradigm” must be adopted, and any work undertaken must emanate from an assets-based approach and must be gender and culturally responsive.

Meda Chesney-Lind

Professor of Women's Studies, University of Hawaii at Manoa. Chesney-Lind is nationally recognized for her outspoken advocacy for girls and women, particularly those who find their way into the criminal justice system. Her work on the problem of sexism in the treatment of girls in the juvenile justice system was partially responsible for the recent national attention devoted to services to girls in that system. Her books include *Girls, Delinquency and Juvenile Justice*, which was awarded the American Society of Criminology's Michael J. Hindelang Award for outstanding contributions to criminology in 1992; *The Female Offender: Girls, Women and Crime*, published in spring 1999; and an edited collection entitled *Girls and Gangs in America* recently published. Chesney-Lind has received numerous awards for her work and research.

Stephanie Covington, Ph.D.

Co-Director, Institute for Relational Development, La Jolla, California. Covington has more than 20 years of experience in the design and implementation of treatment services for women. She is recognized for her work in both the public and private sectors. Her 12 years of experience in the criminal justice system include training, speaking, writing, and consulting with the National Institute of Corrections, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Correctional Services of Canada, Federal Bureau of Prisons, and various state and local jurisdictions. Her primary interest is in gender-responsive services. Her latest publication is *Helping Women Recover: A Program for Treating Substance Abuse* (special edition for the criminal justice system).

Sheryl Ramstad Hvass

Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Corrections. As the chief administrative officer of the department, Ramstad Hvass is responsible for the operation of adult and juvenile state correctional facilities; provision of probation, supervised release, and parole services; administration of the State Community Corrections Act; and provision of assistance and guidance on a statewide basis in the management of criminal justice programs and facilities. Ramstad Hvass also makes determinations regarding the parole of first-degree murderers. Prior to serving as commissioner of corrections, Ramstad Hvass had over 25 years experience as a judge, federal prosecutor, public defender and private attorney.

Kim Jeffries

As co-host of WCCO's Lee and Jeffries Morning Show, Kim Jeffries is one of the best-known women in broadcasting in Minnesota. Kim joined the "Morning Show" in 1998 after a year of reporting feature stories for WCCO TV. Jeffries began her radio career at WJON in St. Cloud and then completed nearly two decades filling various roles at KS95. Born in Texas, Kim moved north as a teenager, and graduated from Wayzata High School. After attending Northwestern University for theater and speech, Kim trained for broadcasting at Brown Institute. Kim is very active in community service, volunteering her time with Amicus, Teen Challenge and numerous other organizations. She also enjoys writing and has published articles in the St. Paul Pioneer Press, Minnesota Women's Press and other publications.

Denise Johnston, M.D.

Founding director of the Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents. Denise Johnston is a leading national authority on children and criminal offenders. Previously, she was an instructor at the University of California at Santa Cruz, director of community health worker training for the Los Angeles region federal family planning agency, and medical director of the Feminist Women's Health Care and Childbirth Center in Hollywood, California. She has been a founding member of the boards of several organizations for women offenders including Phase ReEntry Programs, the National Network for Women in Prison, and Girls in Gangs in Los Angeles County. The Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents has conducted over 40 educational, family reunification and therapeutic projects. Johnston has completed ten major research projects, including the first longitudinal study of the children of criminal offenders and the "Children of Criminal Offenders and Foster Care" study. She is the editor of the first American text on children of incarcerated parents, published in 1995.

George Keiser

For the past 17 years, George Keiser has been Chief of the Community Corrections Division at the National Institute of Corrections (NIC). NIC serves as a consulting brokerage house and governmental foundation for people working on issues of policy and practice impacting corrections. During the 15 years prior to his joining NIC, Keiser worked in a variety of institution and community assignments for the Iowa Department of Corrections. Specific assignments provided experiences

from correctional officer to superintendent of the women's reformatory and for the planning, development and implementation of a statewide, local community corrections system. Keiser is one of the authors of the Iowa Community Corrections Act.

Toni Locy

Justice Department reporter, USA Today. Locy has covered law enforcement, the courts, and criminal justice issues for U.S. News & World Report, Washington Post, Boston Globe, Philadelphia Daily News and Pittsburgh Press. Her work has included a range of topics from Monica Lewinsky, to the quality of criminal investigations conducted by the Boston Police Department, to the Philadelphia Mafia, and to the impact a mother's incarceration has on her daughter.

John West

Hamilton County Municipal Court Judge, Cincinnati, Ohio. Before assuming his current position, West chaired the Hamilton County Public Defender Commission for 20 years and served as a member of the City of Cincinnati Civil Service Commission for 11 years (he was vice chair for eight years). He is a former member of the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees of the Cincinnati Bar Association and a founding member of the Black Lawyers Association of Cincinnati. He is a former member of the Hamilton County Criminal Justice Task Force which reviewed the Hamilton County criminal justice system and recommended modifications to improve the quality and efficiency of the system. He is a member of the Board of Directors for the National Conference of Christians and Jews, Inc., Greater Cincinnati Region, and serves as a member of the Cincinnati WORKS Legal Advisory Committee. West is also cochair of the Intermediate Sanctions for Women Policy Team for Hamilton County, which is trying to improve the quality of justice throughout all phases of the criminal justice process in Hamilton County by developing gender-specific and gender-responsive policies and programs.

Janet Wiig, JD, MSW

Executive Director of the Institute of Criminal Justice at the University of Minnesota Law School. In addition to its own programs of research and education, the Institute contracts with governmental entities and other organizations to provide technical assistance, conduct research, and assist with the development of public policy. From 1992 to 1998, Wiig was an Assistant Hennepin County Attorney in Minneapolis, Minnesota, working on special assignment to develop policies and programs in the areas of child welfare and juvenile justice. From 1987 to 1992, she was Assistant Commissioner and Director of Children's Services with the Minnesota Department of Human Services. From 1979 to 1987, she held positions with the Los Angeles Superior Court, overseeing policy and program development and developing training workshops for judges, lawyers and social workers. She was also the founding director of the Child Advocate's Office.

OFFENDER PANEL

Evette

Admitted to the Minnesota Correctional Facility (MCF)-Shakopee in November of 1994, at age 27, for second-degree murder. Evette has four children. She asked for and received a court order to place one of her children, a teenage son, into treatment. She is active in the facility's teen group, and her son makes visits through the community treatment program.

Noemi

Admitted to the MCF-Shakopee in July of 1999, at age 39, for second-degree assault, escape from custody, and theft. Noemi has six children; some younger children are living with older children, some in Chicago and some in Minneapolis. Her youngest child lives in Puerto Rico with Noemi's mother.

Catherine

Admitted to the MCF-Shakopee in July of 1999, at age 35, on two convictions for conspiracy to commit a first-degree controlled substance crime. Catherine has two children. She has had parental rights terminated on her youngest child while retaining parental rights on the older child.

Carol

Carol spent nearly ten years incarcerated at the MCF-Shakopee for the attempted murder of her husband. Carol has four children she parented as best she could from prison. She is currently doing well on work release.

PILOT PROJECT: KIDS OF INMATES DESERVE SERVICES (KIDS)

Introduction

The arrest and incarceration of women offenders have multiple negative impacts on their children. Offenders' children are traumatized and may feel abandoned and stigmatized. They are at risk for serious problems such as delinquency, school failure, chemical use, early pregnancy and gang involvement.

The Minnesota Departments of Corrections, Human Services, and Health have formed a unique prevention/intervention collaboration to reduce the tremendous risks that these youth can face before, during and after their mothers are incarcerated. This pilot project, called Kids of Inmates Deserve Services (KIDS), defines this growing problem as a public health risk. As such, the project focus is on providing public health nursing services and advocacy for children of women incarcerated at the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Shakopee.

Initial phases

Initially, the project has successfully gained the support of key agencies and county jurisdictions. The departments of Corrections, Human Services, and Health agree that this is a serious problem that, to be addressed, requires a cooperative venture. The KIDS project has now moved into an analysis phase to determine more precisely the needs of women inmates and their children.

In October 2000 a public health nurse and a Department of Corrections psychologist attended the Parenting With Purpose inmate group session at the Shakopee facility. They used this meeting to carefully determine the most pressing needs of inmates' children and inmates' needs as they relate to their children. Problems identified included physical and mental health issues, abuse and neglect, housing, transportation, food, employment and custody. Offender needs include parenting skills, self-esteem building, stress reduction, family reintegration, resentment issues and communication skills.

A survey will also be completed to determine all services available through participating agencies and other public and private providers.

Addressing needs

There is little doubt that most of the programs and services already exist to address identified needs. However, it is equally clear that women offenders and their children frequently do not know how to or cannot access appropriate services, particularly while the mother is incarcerated. Something as simple as routine transportation becomes problematic. Ensuring that successful connections are made to services is the ultimate goal of the pilot KIDS project. Public health nurses will help overcome the many obstacles that frequently confront offender parents.

Public health nurses will be given the support of all the agencies involved. They will provide the link to prevention and intervention services to alleviate problems expressed by women offenders and their children.

Transition is key

The KIDS project places a special emphasis on transitional programming to ensure that women offenders and their children are successfully reunited after the offender's release from prison. Child-friendly supportive services are essential. Public health nurses will continue to work with women after release to ensure everything feasible is done to reduce the risk of failure for the offender and her children.

The future

Evaluation is a key element of the pilot project. The success of offenders and their children after the mothers' release will be tracked to determine the project's impact. Any additional funds that may be needed as the project continues and expands will be sought from public and private grant sources.

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Judge of the District Court

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Judge of the District Court

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Jan Wiessner
Ramsey County Commissioner

Janet Wiig, Executive Director
Institute on Criminal Justice
University of Minnesota

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

September 19 — Minnesota Correctional Facility-Shakopee

Symposium moderator

The Honorable Karen Asphaug
District Court Judge, Hastings, Minnesota

4:15-4:30 p.m. — Welcome

Sheryl Ramstad Hvass
Minnesota Department of Corrections Commissioner

4:30-5:30 p.m. — What happens to the children?

Toni Locy, Justice Department Reporter, USA Today
Author of *Like Mother, Like Daughter: Why More Young Women Follow Their Moms Into Lives of Crime*

5:30-6:30 p.m. — Offender panel

Kim Jeffries, Panel moderator
WCCO-AM Morning Show Co-Host

September 20 — Minnesota Department of Corrections, St. Paul

8:30-8:45 a.m. — Introducing a new initiative

Sheryl Ramstad Hvass

8:45-9:30 a.m. — Women's lives, women's crimes

Meda Chesney-Lind, Ph.D.
Women's Studies Program Professor, University of Hawaii
Author of *The Female Offender: Girls, Women and Crime*

9:30-10:15 a.m. — Effective interventions: Women offenders and their children

Stephanie Covington, Ph.D.
Institute for Relational Development Co-Director
Author of *Helping Women Recover: A Program For Treating Substance Abuse*

10:30-10:40 a.m. — Defining the process

Janet Wiig, Institute on Criminal Justice Director
University of Minnesota Law School

10:40-11:30 a.m. — Improving the system's response to prevent intergenerational offending

Roundtable discussion (professional groups)

11:30-1:00 p.m. — **Building partnerships**

George Keiser, Community Corrections Division Chief, National Institute of Corrections, and the Honorable John West, Hamilton County Municipal Court Judge, Cincinnati, Ohio

1:00-1:30 p.m. — **Roundtable discussion (judicial district teams)**

1:30-2:15 p.m. — **Working together in the community**

Sandra Barnhill, Executive Director
Aid to Children of Imprisoned Mothers, Inc.

2:30-3:00 p.m. — **Roundtable discussion (judicial district teams)**

3:00-3:30 p.m. — **Identifying the next steps – roundtable reports**

3:30-4:15 p.m. — **Painting a different picture of the future: Interrupting the cycle of offending**

Denise Johnston, M.D., Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents Director
Author of *The Effects of Parental Incarceration*

4: 15 p.m. — **Closing remarks**

Sheryl Ramstad Hvass

**WOMAN OFFENDER SYMPOSIUM:
THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD
SEPTEMBER 19-20, 2000**

PROCEEDINGS



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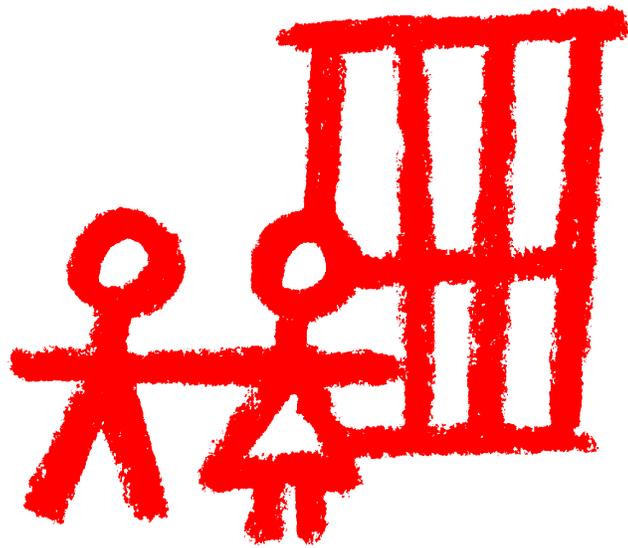
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Background	2
Executive Summary	3
Day One — September 19, 2000	
Opening Remarks	4
What Happens to the Children?	5
Offender Panel	7
Day Two — September 20, 2000	
Introducing a New Initiative	9
Women’s Lives, Women’s Crimes	9
Effective Interventions: Women Offenders and Their Children	11
Building Partnerships	13
Working Together in the Community	16
Painting a Different Picture of the Future: Interrupting the Cycle of Offending	18
Closing Remarks	19
Work Groups: Summary of Discussions and Action Plans	
Professional Groups	
Corrections	20
Law Enforcement	21
Judges	22
Public Defenders	22
Prosecutors	23
Elected Officials	24
Treatment	24
Judicial District Teams	
First Judicial District	25
Second Judicial District	25
Third Judicial District	26
Fourth Judicial District	27
Fifth Judicial District	27
Sixth Judicial District	28
Seventh Judicial District	29
Eighth Judicial District	29
Ninth Judicial District	30
Tenth Judicial District	31
District Workplan Template	32
Symposium Presenters	34
Offender Panel	37
Pilot Project: Kids of Inmates Deserve Services (KIDS)	38
Symposium Participants	40
Symposium Program	44

*Woman Offender
Symposium:*



**Through the Eyes
of a Child**

Proceedings

September 19-20, 2000

