

TRAUMA, GENDER, & COMMUNITY SUPERVISION OF JUSTICE-INVOLVED WOMEN

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FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

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Workshop Overview

1. Intersections of Trauma, Gender, Race
2. Profile of Justice-Involved Women
3. Impact and Response in Chester County, Pennsylvania

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Friends Association

It starts with a home.

- Prevent Homelessness
- Provide Emergency Shelter
- Partner with Families to Support Stability
- Promote Systemic Change



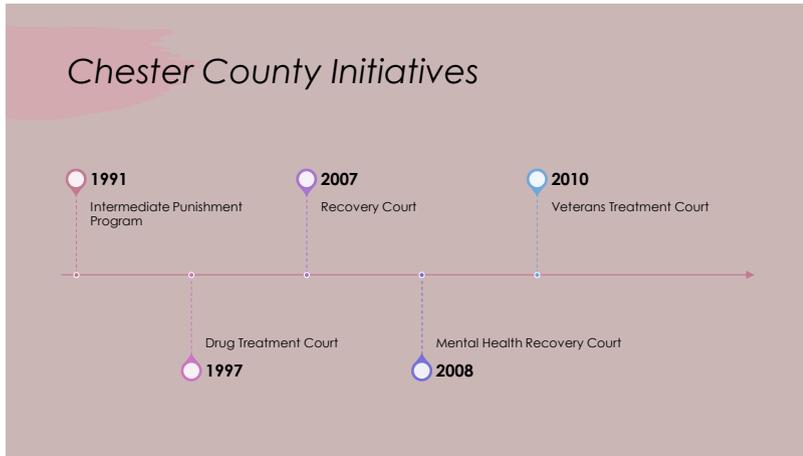
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Mental Health

Substance Use

Justice Involvement

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Prevalence

- Nearly 1 in 3 women experience at least one physical assault by a partner during adulthood.
- 1 of 6 American women has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape in her lifetime.
- By age 13... at least one out of every five girls are sexually abused.

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Trauma

77-98% of incarcerated women have experienced trauma

National Resource Center on Justice Involved Women
"Working with Justice Involved Women"

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Trauma history

- ALCOHOL & DRUG DEPENDENCE
- HIGH-RISK BEHAVIORS
- SEX WORK
- PHYSICAL & MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES
- CRIMINAL JUSTICE INVOLVEMENT

The truth about me is...
I carry guilt.
I carry pride.
I carry anger and hurt.

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There is no such thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single-issue lives.

Audre Lorde

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Racial Trauma

- Physical & psychological symptoms that occur as a result of witnessing or experiencing racism, discrimination, or institutional racism
- Ongoing and collective injuries
- Profound impact on MH of individuals exposed

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Implications

- Acknowledgement of racial trauma in all trauma-informed strategies
- Consider through lens of racial equity informed by historic and contemporary systems of oppression

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2008

- Grant Trauma Recovery Empowerment Model

2013

- SAMHSA's How Being Trauma Informed Improves Criminal Justice Responses

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Focus Group PO's

Difficult population	Hard to deal with	"Manipulative"
Need a different approach	Complex issues	Demand more time

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Focus Group Incarcerated Women

<i>I need to find a job; w/ record it'll be hard with my background, finding reliable transportation especially late at night</i>	<i>I'm worried about returning home, being a stable parent for children; thrown back into household, will be an adjustment; embarrassed of what others will think about me upon my return;</i>	<i>If things don't work out at mom's house, I'll be homeless. I need to find a job and I have medical issues: diabetes, neuropathy;</i>
<i>Who will watch my kids and how will I pay for it? Where will the money come from?</i>	<i>"We need a case manager to contact us long before release to help plan and address housing, sobriety, parenting and employment concerns."</i>	<i>"I need someone to offer family counseling to ease the transition back into family life. It should start before I'm released."</i>

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How can the "system " be better?

- There are no programs here; we have no self-esteem, we need skills, vocational rehab, etc.
- They could have classes on realistic needs people will be facing and how to obtain housing, child welfare, parenting skills. .
- All of probation should be reformed. When can't pay, they lock you back up; tell you have 30 days to find a job. People cannot find a job because of unreliable transportation; they don't have the skills. There are different ways about setting up probation/parole – create tailored plans for the individuals because most of them are in for Violations and multiple violations.
- Start a violations center. Make it mandatory that we get training, skills etc; for those with children, let there be alternate babysitting, one group watches children while the other group is in classes and each switch off accordingly. People violate conditions because they have no other skills, none are being taught and everything here is all about the money, so the cycle continues.

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Their Needs:

Jobs	Skills	Self-sufficiency	Safe Transportation
Childcare	Housing	Substance Abuse and Mental Health treatment	Healthcare
	Help reconnecting with children	Self-esteem, fear of stigma	

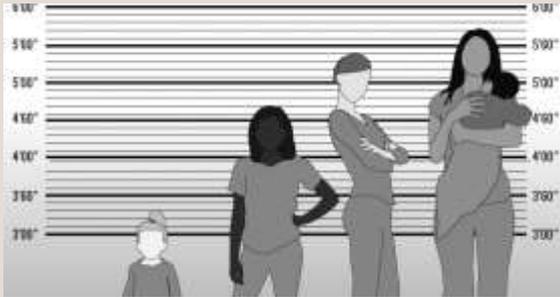
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1.2 MILLION women live under the custody of the criminal legal system

834% rise in prison population since 1978

14x higher than in 1970

1 million on supervision

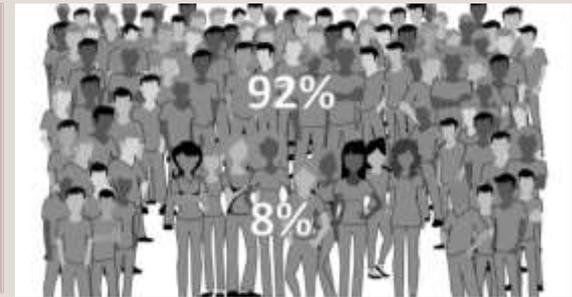


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The System

Compromise small % of population

Affected by 100% of programs, policies & practices



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Higher rates of reported mental illness

More likely to experience co-occurring disorders

PTSD, anxiety, depression, eating disorders more prevalent



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Higher rates of substance abuse & drug crimes



- Abused substances, engaged in criminal behavior while under the influence &/or to support habit
- 60% report drug dependence year prior to incarceration
- Strong direct predictor of prison readmission

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Disproportionate involvement of women of color

- African American women incarcerated @ 2x rate of white women
- Latina women 1.2x rate
- Black females aged 18 & 19 are 3x more likely to be imprisoned
- Latinas 2x as likely



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Higher rates of poverty & unemployment

Greater levels of poverty & less employment history

Greater challenges securing employment

Problematic considering child-rearing responsibilities



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Greater risks & challenges with housing



- Lack of safe housing is greater predictive risk factor
- Receive less financial & housing support from family

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More likely to be custodial parent



- 80% of women in prison are mothers
- More likely to be custodial parent – 85%
- 25% enter prison either recently gave birth or are pregnant

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-When a man goes to prison he loses his freedom, but when a woman goes to prison, she loses her children."
~Unknown



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More than **5 million U.S. children** have had a

PARENT BEHIND BARS

Research connects parental incarceration with poor health and academic outcomes for children.

1 in 8 poor children **1 in 9** black children **1 in 14** all children

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Lower public safety risk, yet fastest growing CJ population

- Less likely to have extensive criminal hx
- Drug-related & property offenses
- Nature & context of violent crime differs
- Lower recidivism rates

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A Case Study



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Chester County Probation, Parole, & Pretrial Services

9,300+ INDIVIDUALS
 2,100+ WOMEN
 64% MISDEMEANOR
 32% FELONY
 330 women released on parole in 2019



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The situation



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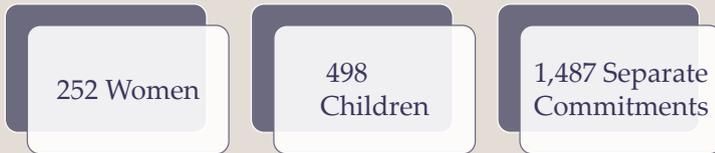
The Women's Reentry, Assessment, & Programming Initiative "WRAP"

The Women's Reentry Assessment & Programming Initiative (WRAP) is a specialized assessment and supervision unit of Adult Probation, Parole and Pretrial Services that integrates gender-responsive, risk/need assessment, supervision and programming in collaboration with community case management to reduce recidivism, decrease technical violations of community supervision and increase the health and well-being of justice involved women, their families and communities.

At-risk women who are transitioning from county incarceration or facing technical violations of supervision are WRAP's focus. Women are engaged in assessment and case planning using the Women's Risk/Needs Assessment (WRNA) and provided supervision by a team including a specialized probation officer and case manager.

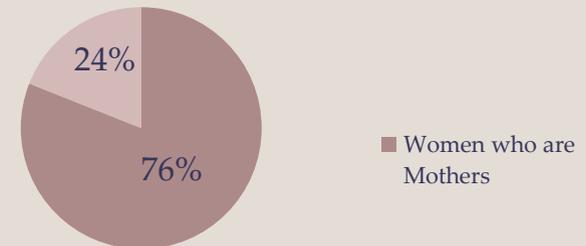
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The Women of WRAP

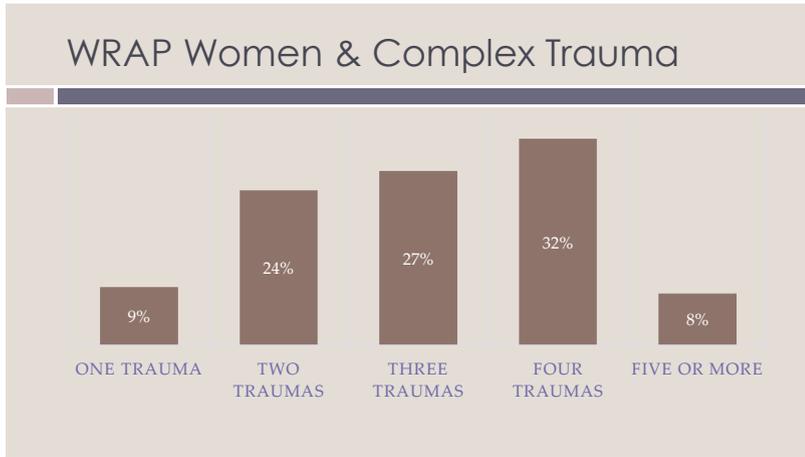


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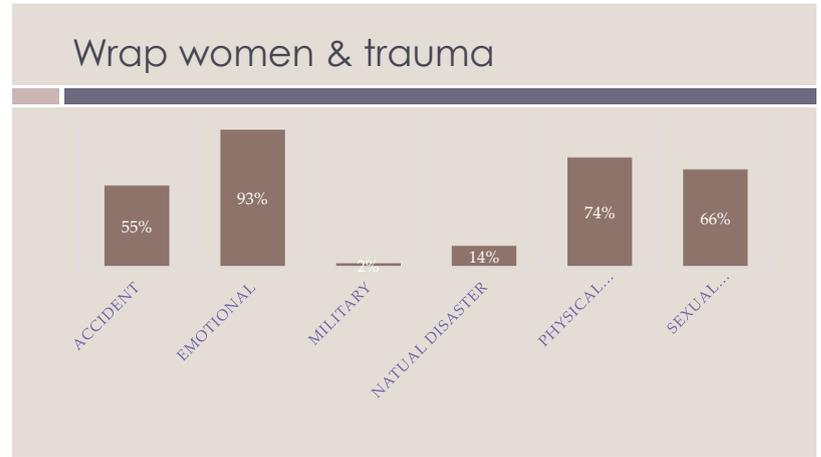
WRAP Women & Motherhood



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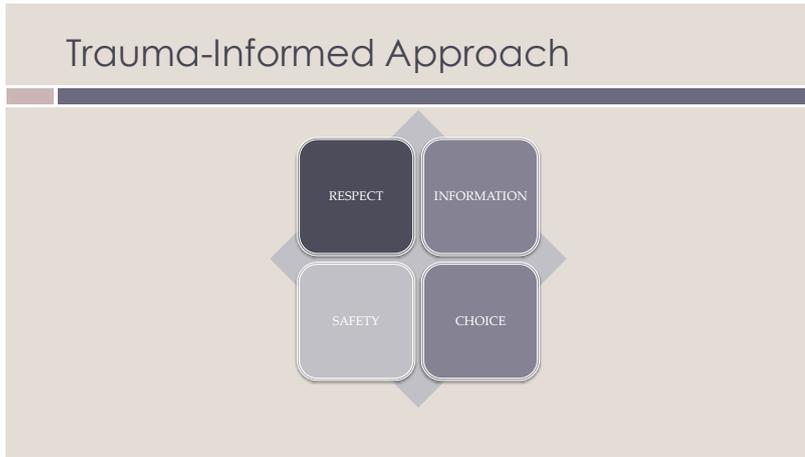
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Gender-Responsive Assessment The Risk Factors

Trauma & Abuse

Parental
Stress/Unhealthy
relationships

Mental health
(depression,
anxiety, PTSD)

Economic
marginality

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Assessments

Women's Risk Needs
Assessment (WRNA)

• University of
Cincinnati

Self Sufficiency
Matrix

• Pa Department of
Drug & Alcohol

Trauma History
Screen

• Carlson, 2005

Client
Experience/Life
Satisfaction Survey

• Greenley,
Greenberg, &
Brown, 1997

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Critical Information

1. History of abuse
2. Relationship status/issues
3. Self-Efficacy/self-esteem
4. Mental health
5. Parental stress (# of children, current arrangements, difficulties managing)
6. Level of family support or conflicts
7. Financial status/poverty
8. Safety concerns
9. Strengths and protective factors

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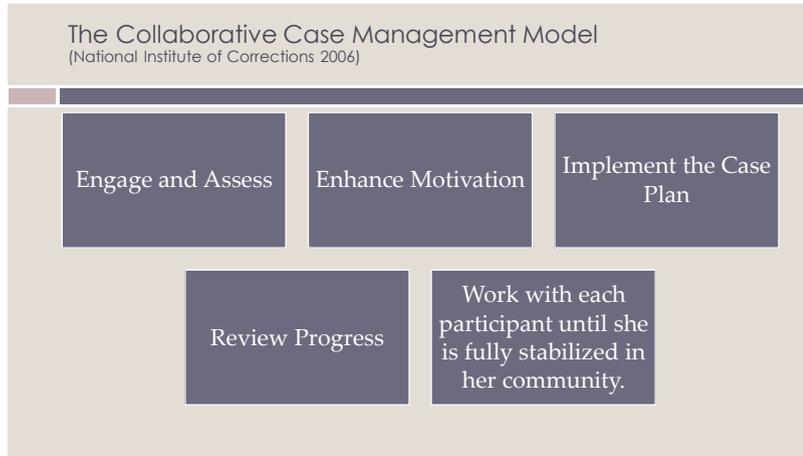
Successful Treatment

Integrated treatment

- Trauma
- Mental Health
- Substance Abuse

Gender-responsive

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Programming

<h4>Moving-On a Program for At-Risk Women</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orbis Partners Inc. 	<h4>Safety Emotion Loss Future -S.E.L.F.</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Trauma-Informed Psycho-Educational Group • Community Works
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Moving-On



"I found the Moving On program to be extremely beneficial during my time spent in prison. Beyond the tools and coping skills I learned for challenges I face outside of prison, the program forced me to step out of my box. I had an extremely hard time interacting with the women when I first got to prison. All I wanted to do was isolate. I was much more comfortable interacting with all of the women. This helped me realize how important having a social network is and motivated me to work on establishing friends and a support system that is outside of my family."

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Emerging Research & Best Practices

1. Use evidence- based AND gender-responsive tools & interventions
2. Target women's risk factors
3. Gender-responsive programs are working
4. Recognize women generally present low risk to society
5. Create environment that is safe, supportive & respectful
6. Use trauma-informed approach & interventions
7. Recruit staff with interest & knowledge
8. Cross train staff
9. Acknowledge how relationships affect women's lives
10. Build partnerships with communities

Bloom, Owen, & Corrigan, 2003

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Outcomes

Recidivism has decreased by 56%

Technical Violations decreased by 68%

4,897 jail days saved through early parole

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Lessons Learned

Services

Jobs

Housing

Childcare

Transportation

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NIA House

Restore · Rebuild · Reunify

A community-based housing program for women & children impacted by incarceration to heal, ground in community, and reconnect to their purpose.

NIA House directly addresses key factors impacting successfully reentry:



Safe and stable housing



Healing from trauma



Economic empowerment



Family reunification



Leadership Development

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Restore

Safe & stable environment

Sanctuary that initiates, promotes & nurtures healing

Inclusive of family

Foundational needs met

Move-in stipend

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Restorative & holistic activities

	Organic Community Garden
	Acupuncture
	Equine Therapy
	Meditation
	Yoga
	Nutrition
	Nature

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Rebuild

Recovery	Wrap Around
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified Peer Specialist on staff • Self Help Groups • Access to D&A Treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal Assistance • Family Reunification • Health Education • Mental Health Support • Access to Trauma Counseling

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Rebuild (continued)

Peer Facilitated Groups	Case Management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parenting Inside Out • SELF Trauma Group • Moving-On Program • More for your Money 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recovery Support Plan • Self-Identified Goals • Compliance with Courts • Employment Development • Housing

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Leadership Development

		
Community Events & Organizing	Advocacy through Personal Testament	Initiatives for Local & Statewide Change

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Reunify

- Motherhood is centered
- Reclaiming role as parent & primary caregiver
 - ▣ Family reunification plan & support
 - ▣ Legal support
- Family therapy & parenting education

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Legal Clinics

- Legal assistance for:
 - ▣ Expungement
 - ▣ Occupational licenses
 - ▣ Traffic citations
- Education
 - ▣ Anti-discrimination laws
 - ▣ Landlord/Tenant

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Eligibility

Currently incarcerated or directly released from jail or prison

Currently living in a halfway house, transitional house or recovery house

Directly discharging from treatment center

At-risk of being unhoused

Trans Women & LGBTQ Inclusive

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You can help end family homelessness in our community!

Jennifer Lopez, Executive Director
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