

Intersection of Corrections and Child Welfare

Resources collected and compiled by Yali Lincroft

<http://fcnetwork.org/welcome-to-our-new-website.php#more-175>

NEW WEBSITE - The National Resource Center on Children and Families of the Incarcerated

Thanks to a generous grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the National Resource Center on Children and Families of the Incarcerated (NRCCFIC) at the Families and Corrections Network (FCN) launches a new website. This website will be the gateway to everything relevant, cutting edge and timely for persons interested in improving the lives and conditions of children and families impacted by the criminal justice system.

<http://fcnetwork.org/resources/directory>

Directory of Programs Serving Families of the Incarcerated

The Directory of Programs Serving Children and Families of the Incarcerated is an update of the Directory of Programs Serving Families of Adult Offenders, dated October 2001. This revised directory lists programs in the United States and around the world that offer services specifically for children and families of the incarcerated.

<http://fcnetwork.org/resources/library>

The Children of Prisoners Library

More than one in forty children in the United States has a parent in prison. The loss of a parent to incarceration means a crisis for that child. Concerned people in all settings are dealing with children of incarcerated parents and their caregivers daily, but in most cases without benefit of training or specific information.

To help meet this need, Family and Corrections Network created a resource—the Children of Prisoners Library (CPL), an Internet based resource. The CPL provides free information sheets designed for people serving children of prisoners and their caregivers.

[Enter =>](#)

The Children of Prisoners Library- Spanish Translation

All the materials of the Children of Prisoners Library are available with Spanish translations.

[Enter =>](#)

Incarcerated Fathers Library

This Library contains a number of pamphlets that contain helpful information for incarcerated fathers and those that serve them. Topics include how to prepare a child for a prison visit to how to tell a child that their father is incarcerated.

[Enter =>](#)

<http://fcnetwork.org/resources/fact-sheets>

This fact sheet gives our visitors quick and easy access to some of the facts that we feel are key to understanding both the needs of the children and families of the incarcerated and the obstacles they face in their lives.

<http://www.cor.mt.gov/content/Victims/FamilyMembersBehindBars.pdf>

Family Members Behind Bars: Difficult Questions Children Ask ... and Answers That Might Help

A Caregiver's Guide to Montana's Criminal Justice System - From Arrest to Release

by the Montana Alliance of Families Touched by Incarceration (MAFTI)
52-pages, 9/4/2009

SEPTEMBER 10, 2009

NO. 009-139

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[Deborah Schow](#), DSHS Media Manager, 360-902-7891

[Miriam Bearse](#), DSHS Correctional Policy Analyst, 360-902-8250

DSHS's "Children of the Incarcerated" provides training with real-world insight

For children, having a parent in jail or prison can feel as if they too are under a sentence.

To help social workers, foster parents and others to better understand the unique needs and challenges children of incarcerated parents face, the Department of Social and Health Services has created an informative multimedia training resource.

With video, PowerPoint presentations and reference guides, "[Working Effectively with Children of the Incarcerated, their Parents and Caregivers](#)" is a valuable training tool for counselors, teachers and other professionals. The complete training resource is available free to download at the Department's [Children's Administration Ongoing Training](#) Website. A six-minute preview of the video is also available at the site and through the [DSHS YouTube channel](#).

The video features frank interviews with youth placed in foster care while a parent served prison or jail terms, as well as discussions with formerly incarcerated parents, community leaders and experts in social work. Viewers see the effect that a parent's incarceration can have on entire families and communities, and get concrete suggestions on how professionals can improve their work with children, parents and caregivers.

"As a training tool, we needed to provide practical information and resources, but we also wanted to show the lives and feelings of the people behind the issues," says Miriam Bearse, DSHS correctional policy analyst. "The children involved need resources but also need

specialized assistance and non-judgmental guidance from caregivers and providers. When you see a foster child interviewed in the video describe the first visit with her birth mother, it brings everything into perspective in a way no textbook could.”

The DSHS [Children's Administration Ongoing Training](#) Web site features 28 videos created by DSHS to educate foster parents, kinship care providers and social workers about the many complex issues of being a caregiver for youth who have special needs or are separated from parents.

Foster parents can view videos and complete accompanying guidebooks or attend in-person conferences and workshops as part of their training and licensing requirements.

All videos and guidebooks are free to the public for downloading and with topics that include [fire safety for young children](#), [de-escalation techniques](#) and [nurturing children's growing minds](#) can be a useful resource for any parent or caregiver of infants, children and teens.

[“Working Effectively with Children of the Incarcerated, their Parents and Caregivers”](#) was created through a partnership between the DSHS Office of Planning, Performance and Accountability and the Department’s Children’s Administration, with feedback and guidance from other partners

<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/videoCFIP.asp>

Policies and Legislation

This document summarizes the policies and legislation referred to in the training video “Children of the Incarcerated, the Parents and Caregivers,” as well as related policies and laws that you may find useful when assisting families involved in correctional systems. Words or phrases that are [blue and underlined](#) are hyperlinks, please click on them for more information.

Children’s Administration (CA) Policies

[4254-Policy Parent/Child/Sibling Visits](#)

Social Worker Practice Guide for Parent/Child/ Sibling Visits

[43051- Policy- Reasonable Efforts to Return a Child Home](#)

Permanency Planning Guide for Social Workers

Legislation

National Child Welfare Legislation referred to in the video

- Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA)

Text of ASFA- Public Law 105-89 (105th Congress):

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/laws_policies/cblaws/public_law/pl105_89/pl105_89.htm

Summary of ASFA from the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA):

<http://www.cwla.org/advocacy/asfapl105-89summary.htm>

- Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)

Text of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978:

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/25/ch21.html>

Summary of ICWA from the National Indian Child Welfare Association:

http://www.nicwa.org/Indian_Child_Welfare_Act/

State Legislation referred to in the video, and legislation relevant to children of the incarcerated and their families

The legislature has been active in responding to the challenges posed by children of incarcerated parents, and the challenges faced by incarcerated parents. Please click on the laws below to view more detailed information.

[HB 1426 \(2005\)](#) and [E2SHB 1422 \(2007\)](#) established statewide structures for agencies and stakeholders to develop recommendations to the legislature on how state agencies can meet the needs of children of incarcerated parents, and required state agencies to collect data, assess their policies and services and adopt policies to improve services to this population.

[ESHB 1782 \(2009\)](#): In the shelter care notice to families (in child welfare dependencies), the information must include a description of the dependency process, a statement encouraging parents to maintain communication and make their wishes known re: contact with children, and legal consequences of non-participation. During a Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) hearing, non-contact between parent(s) and child(ren) may be taken into account, but only if the opportunity was provided, and inability to maintain contact due to incarceration cannot be taken into account as failure to have contact.

[HB 1281 \(2009\)](#): Allows victims, survivors of victims and witnesses to make statements to the Indeterminate Sentencing Review Board before the release of an offender, and present statements to the Clemency and Pardon Board.

[HB 1076 \(2009\)](#): Requires the Department of Corrections (DOC) to provide written notice to victims of certain crimes if the offender is placed in work release, and allows victims to have input regarding work release placement.

[SB 6157 \(2007\)](#) provided \$25 million in reentry funding for DOC and engaged counties in reentry planning. This helped increase the number of parenting and family support programs available. Note: this funding was reduced in recent budget reductions.

[HB 1290 \(2005\)](#) created a process whereby offenders that previously received medical coupons (state or federal medical coupons) can have that coverage re-initiated prior to release from a correctional facility, in order to expedite medical care.

[SB 5525 \(2009\)](#): Allows the Department of Corrections to provide rental vouchers to an offender for three months after release, if such assistance will enable the offender to have an approved release plan.

[SSB 6024 \(2009\)](#): Offenders in jails and prisons can apply for Department of Social and Health Services benefits (such as medical coverage, treatment services and economic supports) if their release date is unknown, or if they know the release date and it is more than 45 days into the future (instead of 45 days or less).

Legislation allowing and delineating exchanges of protected information between social service and correctional systems

[Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act \(HIPPA\) of 1996 \(federal\)](#)

ESSB 6358 (2004) requires and standardizes communication between correctional facilities, mental health and chemical dependency providers.

[HB 2025 \(2009\)](#): Allows treatment records (except psychotherapy notes) to be released, without the patient's consent, to a licensed mental health or health care professional and their support staff, if a person is receiving care or referred for treatment or evaluation-- includes allowing information exchanges between DSHS and corrections for limited purposes.

[SHB 1300 \(2009\)](#): Expands access under RCW 71.05 to mental health treatment history information to law enforcement, public health officials, the Indeterminate Sentencing Review Board and jail personnel.

Legislation related to Victim/Witness concerns

Crime Victims Rights in the Washington State Constitution:

<http://www.leg.wa.gov/LawsAndAgencyRules/constitution.htm>

If you are looking for more assistance with victim, go to the Washington State Office of Crime Victims Advocacy website:

http://www.commerce.wa.gov/portal/alias_CTED/lang_en/tabID_244/DesktopDefault.aspx

Or you could check out the Washington Coalition of Crime Victim Advocates for a listing of state resources <http://www.wccva.org/victimresources-walinks.htm>

Please see this link for additional rights for child victims: <http://www.wccva.org/victimrights-childvictims.htm> and this one on the rights of victims that are dependent persons:

<http://www.wccva.org/victimrights-dependent.htm>

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/11/26/nyregion/26about.html?_r=2&scp=1&sq=bodega&st=cse

About New York

Closing Family Lifeline That Won Drug Battles

By [JIM DWYER](#)

Published: November 25, 2008

Strolling down East Third Street one afternoon in the summer of 1996, Chico Garcia glanced in the door of what had been the Lopez Deli, just off Avenue C in Manhattan. The place was a wreck, deserted since a shootout nearly a year earlier. A drug gang tried to stick up the shop and a young cop, Keith Prunty, was shot and paralyzed. One of the robbers was killed.

La Bodega de la Familia, a Lower East Side agency that provided drug addiction recovery services, is closing.

By September 1996, no longer a drug market or a deli, the shop was a tomb of year-old horrors. Mr. Garcia saw a woman nosing around inside. Her name was Carol Shapiro.

"What are they going to do here?" Mr. Garcia asked.

"We need to do some things to help the neighborhood change," Ms. Shapiro said.

"Can I do anything to help?" Mr. Garcia said.

He was a muralist in the street graffiti style. She had spent years working in the city jails, and wanted to try out an idea: to build a net of help for the families of drug users who have returned from prison, seeing the crime of one person as an unmistakable warning of other troubles at home.

And in the miserable ruins of the Lopez Deli, Ms. Shapiro's idea came to life as La Bodega de la Familia, or the Family Grocery. Mr. Garcia designed a mural on the front gate and had kids from the street color it with spray paint. They produced an image depicting a girl and a boy frozen in a joyful dance.

This week, La Bodega de la Familia is going out of business. The experiment is finished. The results are in: Among former prisoners served by La Bodega, drug use was cut in half, a study by the [Vera Institute of Justice](#) showed. Recidivism among former prisoners involved with La Bodega dropped by 30 to 50 percent compared with those who were not.

Ms. Shapiro, who is the president of [Family Justice](#), the agency that created La Bodega with government grants and private donations, said she wanted to focus on getting other people to set up and run programs like it around the country.

"In a time when people have no money or less money, you want to think creatively about what you have," she said. "Families are an untapped resource. At [Rikers Island](#), when I was a deputy commissioner under Mayor Dinkins, I saw that there's more than one person in most of these families that is involved in drugs."

The breadth of those problems was described in a report on La Bodega by the Vera Institute of Justice, a leading criminal justice research organization.

"The average age at which study group members first used a drug other than marijuana was 15," the report said. "Drug use and dealing were frequently taught by one generation to the next, and often put family members in physical danger. Arrest and incarceration had become so routine among users in the study that almost two-thirds considered their present legal problems to be 'not at all important.' "

At age 37, Rodney Gordon came back to the Lower East Side in 1996 after serving 10 years for a robbery.

"I heard about it from people in the community saying, 'There's a place down the block that will assist you people when you come home,'" Mr. Gordon said. "The most important thing they gave me was the moral support. They had a sort of unique approach. Here's someone concerned about me getting home, getting on my feet."

HE got help looking for a job, counseling for his family, appointments with social services. "With my record, it was not easy getting a job," he said, but he found work as an administrative assistant.

Mr. Gordon was one of hundreds of people who signed petitions asking that La Bodega continue in some form. The struggling neighborhood he had come home to has long since shed most of its ragged edges, as most of the Lower East Side has become a colony of the young and well-off. But the new wealth has not erased the social problems for people living in the [Jacob Riis](#) and Lillian Wald housing projects.

"The community is a lot safer now," Mr. Gordon said. "But I think the need is greater than it was when I came home. A tremendous amount of people are going to be released from prison. Where is the help going to come from now? They didn't cater just to the ex-offenders — it was families and job searches."

Ms. Shapiro, who made the decision to shut the program, said Family Justice hoped to work with neighborhood agencies that want to fill in the spaces left by La Bodega's closing.

On Wednesday, as the group packs its files, the glowing mural by Chico Garcia on the front of La Bodega will be painted over. The landlord wants to offer the space unmarked by its past.

E-mail: dwyer@nytimes.com

AB 2070 (BASS) KEEPING FAMILIES WHOLE - MODIFYING CA LAW TO PREVENT BREAK-UP OF FAMILIES IMPACTED BY IMPRISONMENT

PROBLEM:

Under current law, parents of children in foster care may lose their parental rights if they can't meet court-ordered requirements for reunification or if they are unable to reunify with their children within strict time limits: 6 months for children under 3 and 12 months for children over 3. Likewise, the California implementation of the federal Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (ASFA) requires initiation of proceedings for termination of parental rights (TPR) if children have been in foster care for 15 of the previous 22 months. For parents in jails, prisons, juvenile detention, or court-ordered substance abuse programs, these requirements and timelines are virtually impossible to meet, regardless of their fitness as parents—meaning the permanent loss of their children. Incarceration makes it very difficult to access reunification services within the specified timeframe, if services are even available. Another requirement, regular contact with children, is also difficult to achieve, given the distances of prisons, the expenses of travel, and the high cost of phone calls. Further, prison sentences are typically longer than the timeframes allow for reunification. Additionally, parents may have their parental rights terminated regardless of the availability of an adoptive family for the child(ren). This is especially likely for children over the age of 9, who can, as the result of TPR, become “legal orphans,” which exacerbates the problem that quick TPR was intended to address, namely preventing children from languishing in foster care. The value of family preservation and placement of children with relatives for children’s well-being has been well documented.

AB 2070 WILL:

Modify existing California law to add flexibility to decision-making in these cases. It:

- requires that social workers document, and that courts consider, the barriers that imprisoned parents or parents in residential drug treatment face in accessing services and maintaining contact with their children
- requires that the court take into account any good faith efforts that parents make to maintain contact with their children
- allows the possibility of an extension of reunification services for up to 24 months where specified criteria are met, the best interests of the child key among them
- removes the strict requirement that proceedings for TPR be initiated if a child has been in foster care for 15 out of the previous 22 months, in cases of parental incarceration
- requires court to only consider the parent’s criminal history to the extent the criminal record substantially relates to parental ability.

FACTS*:

- As of 2006, nearly 30,000 children were in foster care in the U.S. because their parents were in jail or prison.
- As of 2000, about 10% of children of imprisoned mothers were in foster care.
- UC Berkeley researchers estimate that 7% of California’s 75,000 children in foster care have an incarcerated mother (5,250 children).
- California has over 12,000 women in state and federal prisons; about 64% of incarcerated women are mothers of minor children.
- The average sentence for women on parole for the first time in 2003 was 14 months; for men it was 15 months.
- TPR involving imprisoned parents nationwide increased about 108% in the five years following ASFA’s enactment.

- Maintaining contact with one's incarcerated parent appears to be one of the most effective ways to improve a child's emotional response to the incarceration and reduce the incidence of problem behavior. Children who maintain contact with an incarcerated parent show fewer disruptive and anxious behaviors and overall improved outcomes.
- Studies suggest that parent-child contact lowers recidivism rates, thereby adding greater stability to the child's life once the parent has left prison. A recent study of two major counties and Dependency Courts in California noted that 90% of parents before the Court were women and more than 60% of the Dependency mothers had a criminal history; in nearly all studies of children involved with the child welfare system, parental substance abuse is a major contributing factor.
- California leads the nation in the number of children in foster care; the largest age group in foster care is 11-15, followed closely by 6-10 and 1-5.
- In 2000, 28% of children in foster care had been there for at least two years, and 17% had been there for more than five years.
- Colorado, Nebraska, and New Mexico have passed legislation to allow modification of ASFA timelines for incarcerated parents. A New York bill has passed the Assembly.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- The Assembly Appropriations Committee estimates that if 10% of the children in foster care with an incarcerated mother (506 children) receive four additional months of reunification services, the cost would be \$515,000 per year; however if even 20% of those receiving extra services were reunified (101 children), it would save the state about \$900,000 per year in foster care and adoption costs.
- The Assembly Appropriations Committee estimates that each child who is able to reunify will save the state about \$150,000 over her lifetime in grant costs alone.

VOTES:

Passed Assembly Human Services, 6-0
 Passed Assembly Judiciary, 9-1
 Passed Assembly Appropriations, 12-5
 Passed Assembly Floor, 66-8

SUPPORT: A New Way of Life Foundation, AFFIRM Project (sponsor), All of Us or None, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), AFL-CIO, Aspiranet, Books Not Bars (sponsor), California Catholic Conference, California Coalition for Women Prisoners, California Commission on the Status of Women, California NOW, California Prison Moratorium Project, Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents, Center for Young Women's Development (sponsor), Central City, Neighborhood Partners, Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, Communities in Harmony Advocating for Learning and Kids (CHALK), Community Justice Network for Youth, County Welfare Directors Association of California, Crossroads, Inc., Families First, Inc., Family Advocacy Network, Family Law Section of the State Bar, Free Battered Women, Grandmothers of the Light, JERICHO, Justice Now (sponsor), Legal Services for Prisoners with Children (sponsor), Los Angeles County Democratic Party, Office of Restorative Justice Works, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Time for Change Foundation (sponsor), Western Center on Law and Poverty, Women and Criminal Justice Network (sponsor), Women's Foundation of California

OPPOSITION: Legal Advocates for Permanent Parenting (unless amended, as of April 15, 2008; position on current version uncertain),

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ProjectWHAT Summit
Come share your questions, experiences,
knowledge, inspiration, and strategies for change!

Saturday, October 3

9:30 am - 3:00 pm

First Unitarian Church of Oakland

685 14th St between MLK & Castro

This conference is for youth and adults, people who have been personally impacted by the criminal justice system, as well as those who have not. The plenary sessions and workshops will be themed around the Children of Incarcerated Parents Bill of Rights. See the San Francisco Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership [website](#) for more information about the Bill of Rights. As long as you are open to learning and interested in making positive change in the criminal justice system and in the lives of youth who are impacted, you are welcome to attend.

The conference is FREE and lunch is included.

Register by September 24th at
projectwhatsummit.eventbrite.com

A free Project WHAT! T-shirt will be given to the first 50 youth (18 and under) who are both registered and who show up at the conference!

Call Community Works at (510) 486-2340 with questions about the summit or if you need help with the online registration process.

[Project WHAT!](#) is a program of Community Works. Project WHAT! raises awareness about the impacts of parental incarceration on children, with the long-term goal of improving services and policies that impact children of incarcerated parents. [Community Works](#) engages youth and adults in arts and education programs that interrupt and heal the far-reaching impact of incarceration and violence by empowering individuals, families and communities.

We thank the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency, Youth Grants 4 Youth Action, and

Oakland Fund for Children & Youth for generously supporting this event. Other funders include: Zellerbach Family Foundation, June & Julian Foss Foundation, Youth Funding Youth Ideas, San Francisco Department of Children, Youth and Their Families, Bank of the West, and generous individuals.

<http://www.community-works-ca.org/programs/projectwhat.html>

http://news.newamericamedia.org/news/view_article.html?article_id=4820a473882a76ed04359e12fedea590

Calif. Prisoner Firefighters Deserve Respect, Too

New America Media, Commentary, Earl Ofari Hutchinson , Posted: Sep 03, 2009 [NT Review it on NewsTrust](#)

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger called Tedmund Hall and Arnaldo Quinones “great heroes.” The two firefighters were killed Sunday when their truck went off the road as they fled the raging flames. Moments before, the pair had valiantly shepherded nearly 60 California inmate firefighters to safety. The praise of Hall’s and Quinones’s heroism didn’t stop with Schwarzenegger. Nearly every other local political figure paid public homage to the men. A slew of memorials and tributes were planned to honor them.

News accounts of Hall’s and Quinones’s deaths barely mentioned that prisoners were also battling hard against the fires, but that was no mere oversight. For years California inmates have performed valued service fighting the ritual fires that plague Southern California every year. They get only bare mention and even barer recognition of their service, even though they face the same risks of injury and death as regular fire crews.

The numbers of California prisoners that brave the fire dangers aren’t small. In 2007, more than 4,000 offenders participated in the firefighting program. They comprised of 200 fire crews. Last year alone, inmates worked some 3.1 million hours, fighting fire at \$1 an hour, according to Reuters. In addition to their firefighting duties, the inmates also play a huge role in fighting floods, search and rescue operations and earthquakes. A large number also work year round on conservation projects on public land.

There’s another reason that the inmates get barely a ripple of attention and no public praise for their work. The firefighting inmates are non-violent, non-serious offenders and must be free of major prison rule infractions. That makes them potentially the poster inmates for the kind prison reformers argue should be eligible for early release, as ordered by a three-judge federal court.

It is unlikely their release would jeopardize public safety or ignite a crime wave. Yet, the fact that they perform unheralded but spotless service in safeguarding lives and personal property flies squarely in the face of the lurid picture that politicians routinely paint of inmates released early. The scare story is that they will prowl the streets and commit murder and mayhem.

Law enforcement officials hector and badger California legislators at the faintest hint of an early release plan to scrap them. They claim that there’s no such thing as a non-violent, no-risk offender – that all offenders have or will commit serious crimes. They relentlessly point to the shocking and media sensational case of Lily Burk, a Los Angeles teen killed in June and whose alleged killer was released to a halfway house. They cite his release as proof of the great danger in the early release of inmates, and to torpedo the wider use of alternative sentencing.

California is the textbook example of a state that should grab at alternative methods of punishment to ease its exploding inmate population. The 170,000 inmates in California prisons top the number of inmates in several European nations combined. The overwhelming majority of these inmates are jailed for

non-violent or drug related offenses. Despite the grotesque overcrowding and recent bloody riots in California's Chino prison due to the overcrowding, the state's politicians continue to engage in a rancorous, prolonged battle to skirt a federal court order to release tens of thousands of prisoners.

The early release battle threatened to derail an even more rancorous and prolonged fight over how to cut California's \$30 billion budget deficit. The prisoner release plan hammered out was part of the deficit-cutting deal. But panicky lawmakers backpedaled and opted for a drastically watered down plan that will do little to relieve the state's bulging prison cells, and even less to hack into the estimated \$1.2 billion cost savings from the original plan to release 27,000 inmates.

The irony is that some politicians worry out loud that the early release of inmates poses dire threat to the state's ability to protect lives and property from fire devastation and other natural catastrophes. In addition, the inmates' pittance pay of \$1 an hour represents a huge cost savings for cash strapped California counties. "I think it's something that people aren't even contemplating, quite frankly," Republican Assemblyman Ted Gaines told News10 (Sacramento). "I'm just very angry and frustrated that we're not focusing on this."

In a final irony, Gaines cited the need for the inmate firefighters in yet another last ditch dodge to block the release of any low risk inmates.

Fallen firefighters Hall and Quinones deserve all the accolades that Schwarzenegger and state officials can bestow on them for acting quickly and resolutely to save the lives of the inmate firefighters. The pity is that the inmates, who for years have risked their lives to fight fires and save lives, don't get the same due when it comes to thrusting them back to the streets.

Earl Ofari Hutchinson is an author and political analyst. His weekly radio show, "The Hutchinson Report," can be heard weekly in Los Angeles at 9:30 AM Fridays on KTYM Radio 1460 AM and live streamed nationally on ktym.com.

<http://www.sinbysilence.com/>

"Sin by Silence" - Prison is Safer than the Love of Your Life (Film)

Inside the California Institution for Women, the first inmate initiated and led group in U.S. prison history, shatters the misconceptions of domestic violence.

Convicted Women Against Abuse (CWAA) was created in 1989 to help women inside prison break the silence about abuse and learn more about what they needed to do to help others stop the cycle of violence.

Instead of fighting a system that does not fully comprehend the complexities of abuse, the women of CWAA led an initiative to help educate the system. Through careful orchestration of letter writing campaigns, media coverage, and senate hearings a movement was born and laws for battered women were changed. And for the founder of CWAA, the flicker of hope begins to grow as her possible freedom, after 26 years in prison, lies moments away.

www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/cfcc

CHILDREN, YOUTH & ELDERS ART CONTEST

Administrative Office of the Courts - Center for Families, Children, & the Courts

California Child Welfare Co-Investment Partnership - Child and Family Policy Institute of CA

DEADLINE: Oct 16, 2009 (2010 Art Calendar); January 15, 2010 (California Courts)

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact ethel.mays@jud.ca.gov or mia.stizzo@cfpic.org

The California Child Welfare Co-Investment Partnership, in collaboration with the Administrative Office of the Courts, is excited to announce the kick off of an Art Contest for children, youth and elders who have experience in California's child welfare system or courts. The theme this year is "A Lifetime of Love: The importance of Friends, Family and Belonging". The artwork of current and former foster youth will be reviewed by a panel of judges and winning submissions will be published in a 2010 calendar for dissemination during California Adoption and Permanency month in November. Our goal is to compile a meaningful calendar that communicates the significance of permanency from a foster child, youth and alumni perspective through art and increases understanding of the urgent need to create and sustain permanent connections for children and youth in care.

Original art, such as photography, collage, drawing or painting, limited to one page up to 20" x 22" is eligible for entry. We regret that we cannot accept sculpture entries. Entries will be selected for display based on originality, presentation, and representation of the contest theme.

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Disclaimer: Please be aware that I've gathered resources for this listserv from a variety of online sources, articles forwarded by colleagues, etc. I am not representing Annie E Casey Foundation's opinion, nor do I necessarily endorse these resources. My intent is to provide information that is useful for those working in the child welfare system. This information is intended to provide general discussion on the topic and should not be used as a substitute for professional advice which takes into the application specific circumstances of the situation. If you need child welfare advice, please seek the services of a competent professional. Please contact me if you would like to be removed from this listserv. Thanks.

Yali Lincroft, MBA

Consultant to Family to Family/Annie E Casey Foundation, Email: yallincroft@yahoo.com, Website: www.f2f.ca.gov