The White House continues to focus on children of incarcerated parents

On October 8th [The White House](http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2014/10/08/empowering-our-young-people-and-stemming-collateral-damage-incarceration) convened a follow up to its 2013 “Champions of Change” event to look further at the unique obstacles faced by children of incarcerated parents. The event entitled **Empowering Our Young People, and Stemming the Collateral Damage of Incarceration** provided an opportunity for invited guests to hear updates on the initiatives that were introduced at the 2013 Champions of Change event. The day also included panel presentations, a preview of the film: *Visiting Through the Youth Lens*, by the [Echoes of Incarceration](http://www.echoesofincarceration.org/Home.html) project, presentations by several senior government officials, and remarks by Valerie Jarrett, Senior Advisor to the President, and Cecilia Muñoz, Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council . Miss America 2012, Laura Kaeppeler-Fleiss also spoke about her personal experience as the child of an incarcerated parent..

A short preview of “Visiting: Through the Youth Lens,” was debuted and was indeed the cornerstone of the event. This documentary film was created by the Echoes of Incarceration Project, in partnership with Sesame Workshop. Echoes of Incarceration provides intensive filmmaking and advocacy training to youth aged 16 to 22 to produce documentary films told from their own life experiences as children of incarcerated parents. Look for updates on this and other films in the Echoes of Incarceration series on children of the incarcerated later this year.

NRCCFI Director Ann Adalist-Estrin participated on a panel about the needs and experiences of children of the incarcerated which followed the film and included two of the young filmmakers, Jasmine Barclay and Francis Adjei, and Eugene Schneeberg, Director of the Center for Faith-Based & Neighborhood Partnerships for the U.S. Department of Justice. Ms. Adalist-Estrin answered the question “What are the unique challenges that children of incarcerated parents face?” read more . Ms. Barclay and Mr. Adjei brilliantly shared their stories as children of incarcerated parents and Mr. Schneeberg addressed the work of the Interagency Working Group on Children of the Incarcerated which he co-chairs with Madeleine Solan from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at the Department of Health and Human Services, who moderated the panel.

Updates on Federal Initiatives for Children of Incarcerated Parents:

* The *Practitioner-Researcher Partnership Mentoring Children of Incarcerated Parents Demonstration Grant* from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention which was awarded to the Mid Atlantic Network of Youth and Family Services and the University of Massachusetts Boston.
* *The Second Chance Act - Strengthening Relationships Between Young Fathers and Their Children*: A Reentry Mentoring Project awarded to Friends of Island Academy, NY; Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota; Connection Training Services, PA; Fathers Support center St. Louis, MO and the The RIDGE Project, Inc. OH.
* Director of the Bureau of Prisons, Charles Samuels, announced the creation of a new Reentry Resources Division at DOJ.
* Pamela Hyde, Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration at HHS announced the release of SAMHSA's “Concept of Trauma and Guidance for a Trauma-Informed Approach.”  <http://store.samhsa.gov/product/SMA14-4884>  This paper lays out SAMSHA’s framework for trauma and how an organization, system, service sector can become trauma-informed. It integrates the perspectives or researchers, practitioners, and people with lived experience of trauma. It includes a definition of trauma (“The Three Es”), a definition of a trauma-informed approach (“The Four Rs”), 6 key principles, and 10 implementation domains.  The paper also includes a matrix of sample questions, across implementation domains and key principles, to help agencies being to think about implementing a trauma-informed approach.  SAMHSA encourages individuals and organizations, across service-sectors and systems, to examine how an understanding of trauma and implementation of a trauma-informed approach will benefit all stakeholders.
* The DOJ- HHS Partnership for new resources for children of incarcerated parents on FindYouthInfo.gov.  Website is found at <http://www.findyouthinfo.gov/youth-topics/children-of-incarcerated-parents> This webpage on FindYouthInfo.gov disseminates federal resources and information to caregivers and service providers working with children of incarcerated parents.  This website first went live after the children of incarcerated parents champions of change event June 2013.  In 2014 and 2015, through a partnership with OJJDP, the Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs has an opportunity to continue developing this work. We will be gathering information from young people and families through listening sessions, developing and disseminating materials that highlight data, family experiences, and innovative approaches to serving COIP including the following:
  1. *Listening sessions with youth and other stakeholders:* Listening sessions will be facilitated with youth and other stakeholders. The listening sessions would help illustrate the experiences of youth affected by incarceration for the COIP Interagency Working Group and federal agencies working with this population and inform the type of content that should be posted on the COIP webpage.
  2. *Awareness Raising and Improving Practice: Family Perspectives and Service-delivery Innovations:* This range of activities would focus onhighlighting both family experiences and innovative approaches to working with COIP.
  3. *Marketing:*  This range of activities would help target key end-users and ensure populations of interest, including youth and service providers, can access useful information on the site. These activities will include search engine optimization, targeted newsletters/briefs, social media strategies, email group lists, and other promotional materials.
* Vicki Turetsky, Commissioner of the office of Child Support Enforcement discussed the new guide for incarcerated parents about changing a child support order <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/programs/css/changing_a_child_support_order.pdf> read  her blog on the event is <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/blog/2014/10/supporting-children-of-incarcerated-parents>