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Inside this issue

When a Parent is Jailed, Children’s Health Care Suffers.....	2
DOC Reentry Unit Update...	3
Upcoming Mat-Su Events....	3
UAA Child Welfare Academy Free Virtual Alaska Family Strengthening Training.....	3
Mat-Su Job Center Update..	4
Mat-Su Reentry Coalition....	4

What Programs Do Alaska DOC Offer To Incarcerated Parents

From Barbara Mongar, the Mat-Su Reentry Coalition Coordinator

After reading the article from HealthDay titled “When a Parent is Jailed, Children’s Health Care Suffers”, I reached out to DOC Reentry Program Manager, Janice Weiss, to see what type of programs Alaska DOC is offering inside the Correctional Institutions to incarcerated parents to assist with mitigating some of the negative affects on children. Janice Weiss stated, “During COVID, we had the education coordinators attend trainings for two different parenting curriculum: “Parenting Inside Out” and “Love and Logic”. We continue offering the virtual training as we hire new staff. At Goose Creek Correctional Center (GCCC), the staff had been very happy with a different program, “Inside Out Dad”. We want all the institutions to offer one or both of the two curriculums for which they have been trained. Both are evidence-based and we are doing quality programming checks to see that the classes are being delivered to fidelity.”

During the Statewide Annual Reducing Recidivism Conference being held on February 6th & 7th 2023, Janice Weiss and two other individuals will be conducting a session on “Children of Incarcerated Parents”. Janice stated, “The learning objective of this session is to provide sufficient information to participants to garner support for assistance with forming a Children of Incarcerated Parents (CIP) organization in the state of Alaska. Participants will leave the session with a clear understanding of how a CIP organization will benefit children, parents, and service providers. They will understand the role of domestic violence as it relates to CIP and how a continuum of services can make a difference in both children’s and parents’ lives both today and tomorrow. Each participant will clearly understand what her or his part will be in the next steps that need to be taken to form a CIP organization in Alaska.”

It is good to hear that Alaska DOC is taking steps to train personnel that work inside the different Correctional Institutions in parenting curriculums so that they can offer classes to incarcerated parents. Another positive step would be the forming of an Alaska based CIP Organization in order to assist in the development of “low-cost high-impact family strengthening policies that can be implemented in local jails and State Correctional Institutions.” ([Children of Incarcerated Parents | National Institute of Corrections \(nicic.gov\)](#)) .

Barbara Mongar

Coordinator, Mat-Su Reentry Coalition

When a Parent is Jailed, Children’s Health Care Suffers

By Cara Murez, HealthDay News Reporter—Nov 17, 2022

In the United States, 5 million kids have an incarcerated parent. Those children have worse access to primary, dental and mental health care than their peers, the investigators found.

And that puts the kids at risk of worse mental and physical health outcomes, according to the study.

“Exposure to parental incarceration is a key adverse childhood experience with physical and mental health impacts across the course of the lives of these kids,” said [Dr. Nia Heard-Garris](#) from Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago.

“They are exposed to nearly five times as many adverse childhood experiences as their peers, and we know that is also unfortunately associated with increased incidence of learning and developmental disabilities, physical health conditions, and mental health conditions in adulthood,” Heard-Garris added in a hospital news release.

This situation disproportionately affects children who are Black, poor and live in rural areas, the findings showed.

For the study, the researchers used data from the 2019 National Health Interview Survey to assess the association of parental incarceration with health care access and usage among children aged 2 to 17 years.

Of just over 7,400 individuals, 467 experienced a parent in jail or prison. Adjusting the findings to produce national estimates, the researchers determined that exposure to parental incarceration was associated with an additional 2.2 million children lacking a usual source of care, 2 million with forgone dental care needs and 1.2 million with delayed mental health care needs. About 865,000 had forgone mental health care needs.

The findings held even after the researchers accounted for income, insurance status and living in rural areas.

“While children and adolescents are living with their other parent or caregiver, parental incarceration can disrupt access to care for them through the loss of health insurance and fewer caregivers to help with responsibilities like routine health care visits,” said study co-author [Dr. Tyler Winkelman](#) from Hennepin Healthcare, in Minneapolis.

A variety of interventions are needed, including clinical screening tools, institutional efforts to support families and communities affected by incarceration, and policy changes to improve access to care, the study authors said.

Jails and prisons could make a difference by training staff on the impact of parental incarceration on children and families, the researchers suggested. They could assess parental needs at intake, link families to community resources, support family-friendly visits between parents and their children, and also support systems that affect the children, including schools.

Parent management training programs could help, the research team added, as could including caregivers and children in reentry planning.

The findings were recently published online in [Academic Pediatrics](#).

More information

The U.S. National Institute of Corrections has more on the [children of incarcerated parents](#).



THURSDAY, Nov. 17, 2022 (HealthDay News) -- Children's health is jeopardized when they have a parent in prison, new research finds.

DOC Updates



- DOC Second Chance Act Grant is continuing through September 2023 in Anchorage and Fairbanks. Reentry More information is available from stacie.williamson@alaska.gov.
- In addition, Reentry Services funding continues to be available to recent reentrants who have been incarcerated for at least 30 days. A third party, such as a probation officer, case manager, or peer support specialist, must sign the application. For an application and instructions, write to doc.reentry@alaska.gov. Assistance is available for housing, clothing, transportation, household items, and other needs.

UAA Child Welfare Academy Free Virtual Alaska Family Strengthening Training

UAA Child Welfare Academy is offering a *free* Strengthening Families™ Alaska (SFA) virtual training on **December 13-14, 2022**, from **8:30 am to 12:30 pm** (both days) for foster parents and professionals working with parents, youth, and/or children.

Below are the details and registration link:

Strengthening Families™
ALASKA through Connections

Strengthening Families™ is a researched-informed, strength-based approach focused on engaging families, programs, and communities in building five protective factors that help families succeed and thrive:

- Parental Resilience
- Social Connections
- Concrete Support in Times of Need
- Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development
- Social and Emotional Competence of Children

The overarching goal is the promotion of child and family well-being.

Join us for a free virtual training to bring the Strengthening Families™ Protective Factors to life in your work.

Time: 8:30 am – 12:30 pm, two half-days
Where: Zoom, link will be provided

Register for December 13-14

Upcoming Mat-Su Events:

- **Mat-Su Reentry Services Forum**
Wednesday, December 21st
10:00 to 11:30 AM

The Mat-Su Reentry Coalition and Reentry Case Management Program invites you to join us in a virtual Reentry Services Forum every third Wednesday of the month. Service providers, Field PO's, Institutional PO's, Case Managers, and any others who are interested in attending are welcome.

- **Knik Tribe is holding Men's Talking Circles**

The next two are on
Monday, December 5 and
Monday, December 19th

These are held every other
Monday

Where: Band of Brothers,
2050 N. Merciful Cir.,
Wasilla

When: 6 pm—8 pm

The talking circle Provides a safe space for sharing, healing, and connecting with others who have experienced crime victimization.

For more information contact Jessica Svetkovich at 907-671-6872 or jsvetkovich@kniktribe.org

Save the Date!

18th Annual
Reducing Recidivism & Reentry Conference

February 6—7, 2023
Captain Cook Hotel,
Anchorage
Questions: Contact Bridget
at Confcoor@gmail.com



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Mat-Su Job Center Update

By: **Amanda Carlson**, Mat-Su Job Center Manager

Mat-Su Reentry Coalition

The Mat-Su Reentry Coalition is a collaboration of individuals, community stakeholders, public and not-for-profit agencies, faith-based and business partners who are united and committed to reducing recidivism among returning citizens to the Mat-Su community.

Our Mission

To promote public safety by identifying and implementing strategies that increase former prisoners' wellbeing within the community and reduce the likelihood of their return to prison through recidivating.

We will accomplish this by:

- Improved communication and collaboration between Alaska Department of Corrections and the community.
- Building community partnerships to strengthen local services.
- Identifying barriers for those being released from incarceration and taking an active role in addressing those concerns.
- Promoting community educational and training opportunities for those releasing regarding resources.
- Work in conjunction with the Department of Corrections to inform and promote reentry efforts in Alaska.

The Alaska seafood processing industry provides jobs for more than 20,000 people each year, not including jobs on fishing vessels. Opportunities include seasonal or full time work, room, board and transportation covered (if contract is fulfilled), in addition there are possibilities of advancement into management or technical positions with good pay and benefits. To learn more please visit the Alaska job Center Network <https://jobs.alaska.gov/> and click on "Seafood Industry Jobs" or come in person to the Midtown Job center on December 8th from 10-noon for the At-Sea Processors Association Job Fair.

Jobs
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

AT-SEA PROCESSORS ASSOCIATION

JOB FAIR

10 a.m.-noon
Thursday,
Dec. 8, 2022
Anchorage Midtown
Job Center
3301 Eagle St., Room 104

Applicants must pre-register and attend a seafood orientation prior to event. Orientations are at 9 a.m. Monday-Friday.
For more information, call (907) 269-4775.

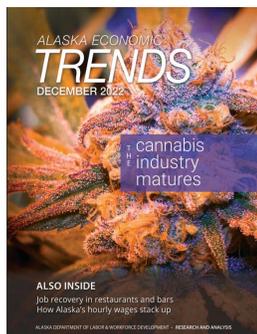
Employment details:

- Two to three months of work on board a catcher/processor vessel
- Work averages 16 hours per day, seven days per week, starting in May/June for approximately two to three months
- Must speak and understand English
- Must pass a health, drug screen and criminal background check
- Pay is by percentage of catch or case rate, depending on company
- Room, board and transportation are provided based upon successful completion of contract

APA Alaska Processors Association

We are an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

For over 50 years the Alaska Vocational Technical Center (AVTEC) has trained thousands of Alaskans for high demand employment, in November the Council on Occupational Education (COE) recognized AVTEC for completion of 25 years of accredited status. Accreditation is based on an evaluation which demonstrates that the institution has met standards of quality, and the needs of students, community, and employers. Our 14 job centers statewide provide both federal and state grant funding for post-secondary education in high growth, high demand occupations. Contact us at dol.cstsmatsu@alaska.gov or 907-352-2500 to find out more about the Career Support & Training program that can provide funding for attendance at AVTEC, or many other certified training programs statewide.



December Trends: The marijuana industry in Alaska matures. Also inside: Job recovery for restaurants and bars, and how Alaska's hourly wage ranks.