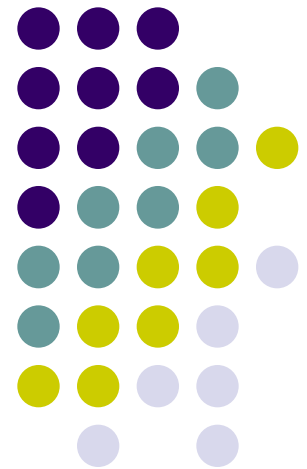


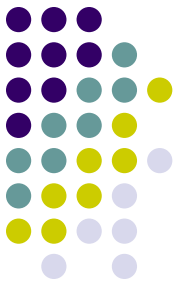
Opportunities for Diversion and Deferral

The Impact of Mothers in Jail on CPS Students and the School Community

Bridget Gainer,
Cook County Board Commissioner – Tenth District
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Office: 312-603-4210
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Profile of Female Detainee at Cook County



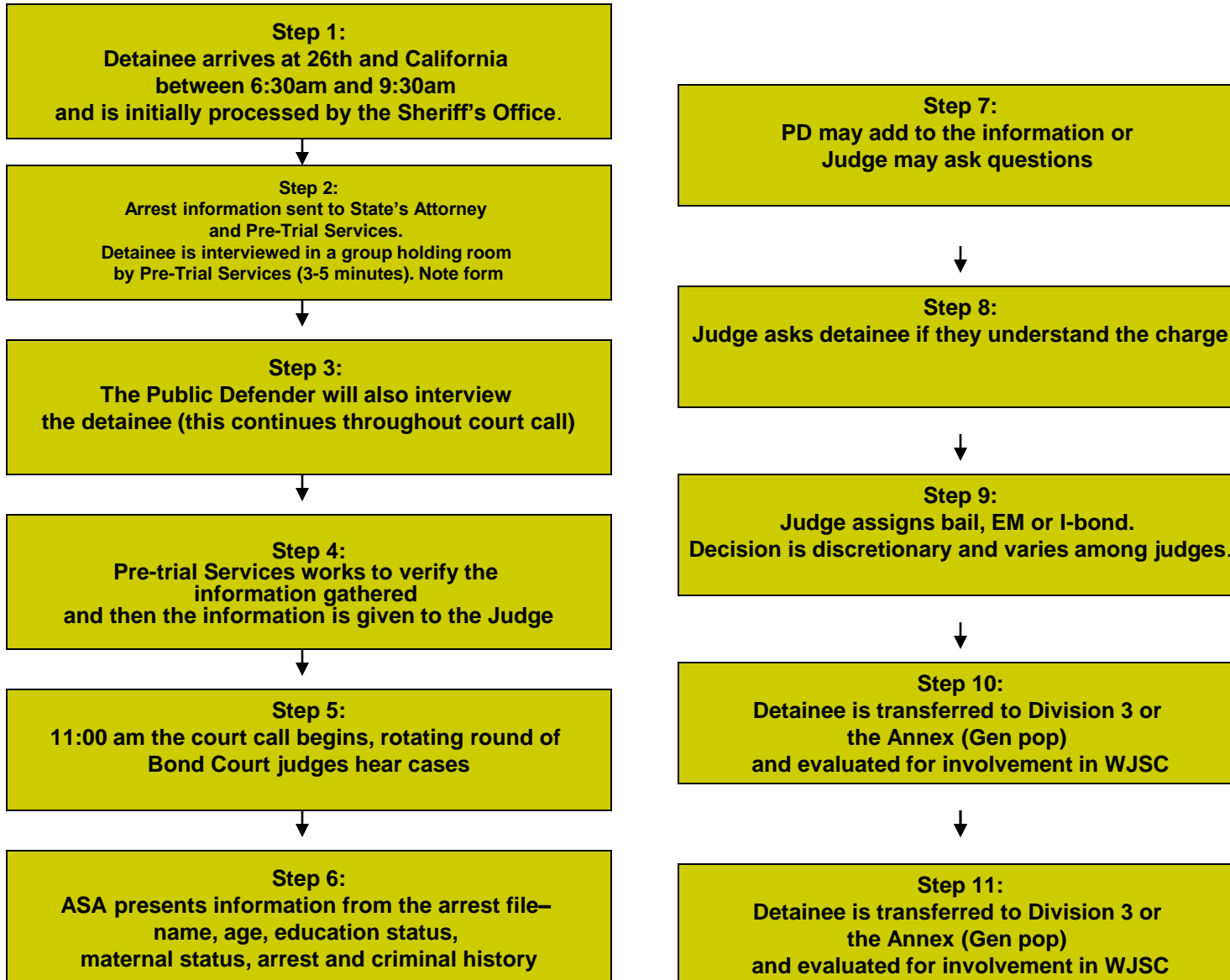
- On average 900 women are held at Cook County Jail ~ 10% of the population
- 11,104 female bookings in 2009
- According to the Sheriff:
 - 80% of women in Cook County Jail are non-violent offenders
[//www.cookcountysheriff.org/womens_justice_services/wjs_main.html](http://www.cookcountysheriff.org/womens_justice_services/wjs_main.html)
 - 85% of those are in jail for drug use, retail theft and prostitution
 - In September, 2009 the average length of stay for women in CCJ is 135.9 days (http://www.john-howard.org/images/Duran_Report_1_15_2010.pdf)
- Based on national statistics: <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=823>
 - 64 % of detainees are mothers of minor children
 - 52 % of the mothers are the sole financial support for those children
 - 75% reported employment in the month prior to their arrest
 - 72% of mothers were living with their children at the time of arrest
 - 77% of these mothers are the primary childcare providers
- Geographically: David Olsen, Loyola University Chicago
 - Approximately 27% of 2008 bookings at the CCJ came from 7 community areas containing approximately 80 CPS schools:
 - North and South Lawndale, Austin, West Garfield Park, Pullman and W. Pullman and Roseland

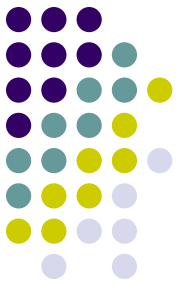
Impact on the Children whose Mothers are Incarcerated



- Children of incarcerated parents display higher risk factors germane to a school community: <http://fcnetwork.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/fact-sheet.pdf>
 - 33% had “clinically significant externalizing problems” - ADD, Aggression, disruptive behavior
 - 20% had “clinically significant internalizing behavior” – depression, anxiety, withdrawal
 - High rates of post-traumatic stress syndrome
- Parental incarceration has a strong affect on many aspects of a child’s life, including emotional and behavioral well-being, family stability and financial circumstances
 - 6 times more likely to end up in jail themselves
- Number of Children with a mother in jail increased 131% from 1991 - 2007, (50% higher rate of increase than jail population as a whole)

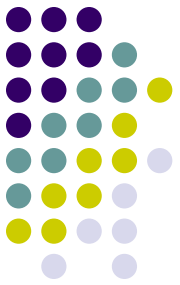
The Bond Court Process





Next Steps

- Opportunities exist within the pre-trial services to improve the interview process and gather information relevant for bond court or referral to a diversion court.
- Draw from the successful model used in juvenile probation: more comprehensive intake, front-loading of diversion and treatment options and creation of an information flow in which the judges have confidence.
- Devise an appropriate exchange of custodial parent information between the Cook County Jail and CPS in order to provide counseling services to students.
- Focus on reducing the number of mothers in CCJ:
 - Incarcerating mothers of minor children for non-violent offenses increases the likelihood of school violence, truancy and poor academic performance.
 - Identify funding sources for alternative sentencing strategies.
 - The concentration of children with incarcerated parents presents an opportunity for the Chicago Public Schools to address the risk factors in the context of the school safety and security strategy.
- Provide opportunities for communication with the child and school for those in CCJ:
 - Virtual visitation can help inmates stay connected to their children if they cannot come to CCJ. Evidence shows that creating more frequent communication between parents and children is impacts successful reentry into the community.
 - Within the CPS Safety and Security initiative, recognize incarcerated parents status as a risk factor requiring attention and action.



Deferral & Diversion Process Flow

Infrastructure, Policy & Stakeholders



Pre-Charge Deferral: Steps (1-3)

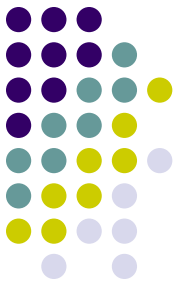
- Policy & Infrastructure: Expansion of Cook County Jail Diversion Ordinance sponsored by Com. Earlean Collins, passed 3/16/10
- Stakeholders: State's Attorney, 708 Boards, Local Police Depts & CPD Academy training, Community Support Centers, Social Service Providers.

Post-Charge Diversion: (Steps 4-6)

- Policy & Infrastructure: Five new Diversion Courtrooms (Appleseed Proposal), Revised pre-trial interview process, Chicago Public Schools/Jail Link Program
- Stakeholders: Chief Judge Evans, Bond Court Judges, Public Defender, Adult Probation/Pre-trial Services, State's Attorney, Sheriff & Dept. of Women's Justice Services (DWJS)/Dept. of Community Supervision & Intervention (DCSI) , Social Service Providers, Chicago Public Schools

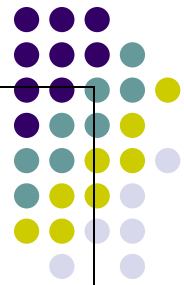
Step 1

Stage: Initial Encounter/Police Station



- Authority: Police Officer
- Deferral Option(s):
 - Release
 - Station Adjustment
 - Refer to Community Support Center
 - Refer to other community based program
- Traditional Option:
 - Arrest/Refer to State's Attorney
- Needs:
 - Training/develop protocols to address mental health/drug abuse service needs
 - Training/develop protocols to refer appropriate cases to Community Support Center
 - Credit police officer equally for successful CIT diversion or arrest

Process Flow of Diversion Opportunities



Step 1:
Stage: Initial Encounter
Authority: Police Officer

- Deferral Options:
 - Release
 - Refer to Community Support Center
 - Refer to community based options
 - Station Adjustment
- Traditional Option:
 - Arrest
 - Refer to State's Attorney
- Training Needs:
 - Training/develop protocols to refer appropriate cases to Community Support Center
 - Credit to officer for successful CIT diversion



Step 2:
Stage: State's Attorney
Authority: State's Attorney

- Deferral Options:
 - Refer to restorative justice program
 - Refer to community justice program
 - Recommend order to diversion court
- Traditional Option:
 - Charge
- Needs:
 - Training to the availability and purpose of diversion/restorative justice programs
 - Buy in to creating recommendation plan based on diversion



Step 3:
Stage: Pre-Trial Services
Authority (s): Adult Probation Pre-Trial Officers

- Diversion Option:
 - Recommend refer to Diversion Court
- Traditional Option:
 - Proceed to Bond Court
- Training Needs:
 - Clinically validated asset based risk assessment
 - Measurement of family and community risk created by detainee incarceration; i.e., financial or custodial role with minor children/ties to community
 - Women interview women
 - Connect Pre-Trial services to CPS to inform school of incarcerated mother/provide services to child
 - Focus services on misdemeanor, first offenders
 - Note: Focus group response – when the detainee understands why pre-trial services is asking questions, they will respond fully and honestly to provide children with services



Step 4:
Stage: Bond Court
Authority (s): Bond Court Judge, Pre-Trial Services, Public Defender, State's Attorney

- Diversion Option (s):
 - I-bond, order to Diversion Court
 - Electronic Monitoring
 - I-bond
- Traditional Option:
 - D-bond
- Needs:
 - Engage Bond Court judges on the validated pre-trial assessment
 - Engage judges, PDs, State's Attorneys to recognize mental health and drug abuse problems/options service needs
 - Train Public Defenders to advocate for diversion court
 - Create Diversion court team: Judge, State's Attorney, Probation Officer, Social Services provider, Public Defender



Step 5:
Stage: Diversion Court
Authorities: Diversion Court Team; Judge, Public Defender, State's Attorney, Probation Department, Social Service Provider

- Diversion Options:
 - Drug Court
 - Mental Health Court
- Veterans Court
 - Prostitution Court
 - Extended Juvenile Diversion (age 18-25)
- Needs:
 - Bond Court Order to I-bond or EM and Diversion Court
 - Identification of available, appropriate services
 - Afternoon call dedicated to diversion
 - Strong data collection process to identify success

Step : 6
Stage: Jail Intake
Authority: Corrections Officer, pre-trial services, DWJS, DSCI

- Diversion Option (s):
 - Diversion Court
- Second Look Evaluation; jail diversion and court diversion
 - DWJS/DSCI
- Traditional Option:
 - Cook County Jail Traditional Option
- Needs:
 - Develop long-form, clinically validated, second look intake assessment to identify missed diversion eligibility
 - Work with Corrections to develop a program to link mothers and children in the General Population – Skype, internet based parent/teacher conference

Step 2

Stage: State's Attorney



- Authority: State's Attorney
- Deferral Option(s):
 - Refer to restorative justice program
 - Refer to community justice program
 - Recommend order to Diversion Court
- Traditional Option:
 - Charge
- Needs:
 - Training/develop protocol to the availability and purpose of diversion/restorative justice programs
 - Buy in to creating recommendation plan based on diversion

Step 3

Stage: Pre-trial Services



- Authority (s): Adult Probation Pre-trial Officers
- Diversion Option:
 - Recommend to Bond Court Judge referral to Diversion Court
- Traditional Option:
 - Proceed to Bond court
- Needs:
 - Clinically validated asset based risk assessment
 - Measurement of family and community risk created by detainee incarceration; i.e., financial or custodial role with minor children/ties to community
 - Women interview women
 - Connect Pre-trial services to CPS to inform school of incarcerated mother/provide services to child
 - Focus services on misdemeanor, first offenders
- Note: Focus group response—when detainees understand the purpose and context of information requests, they are more willing to answer fully.

Step 4

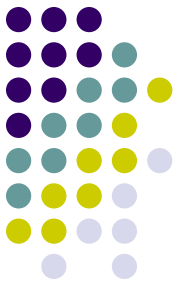
Stage: Bond Court



- Authority (s): Bond Court Judge, Pre-trial Services, Public Defender, State's Attorney
- Diversion Option(s):
 - I-bond, order to Diversion Court
 - Electronic Monitoring
 - I-bond
- Traditional Option:
 - D-bond
- Needs:
 - Train State's Attorneys to recommend diversion court Engage Bond Court judges on the validated pre-trial assessment
 - Engage judges, PDs, State's Attorneys to recognize mental health and drug abuse service needs
 - Train Public Defenders to advocate for diversion court
 - Train State's Attorneys to recommend order to diversion court
 - Create Diversion court team: Judge, State's Attorney, Public Defender, Probation officer, social service provider

Step 5

Stage: Diversion Court



- Authorities: Diversion Court Team; Judge, Public Defender, State's Attorney, Probation Department, Social Service Provider
- Diversion Options:
 - Drug Court
 - Mental Health Court
 - Veterans Court
 - Prostitution Court
 - Extended Juvenile Diversion (age 18-25)
- Needs:
 - Bond Court Order to I-bond or EM and Diversion Court
 - Identification of available, appropriate services
 - Afternoon call dedicated to diversion
 - Strong data collection process to identify success

Step 6

Stage: Jail Intake



- Authority: Corrections Officer, Pre-trial Services, DWJS, DSCI
- Diversion Option(s):
 - Diversion Court
 - Second Look Evaluation; jail diversion & court diversion
 - DWJS/DSCI
- Traditional Option:
 - Cook County Jail Traditional Option
- Needs:
 - Develop long-form, clinically validated, second look intake assessment to identify missed diversion eligibility
 - Work with Corrections to develop program to link mothers and children in General Population—Skype, internet based parent/teacher conference



Reference Materials

- National Resource Center on Children and Families of the Incarcerated (NRCCFI) (Website)
 - <http://fcnetwork.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/fact-sheet.pdf>
- Bureau of Justice Statistics, Parents in Prison and Their Minor Children (Lauren E. Glaze and Laura M. Maruschak)
 - <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/pptmc.pdf>
- The Harris School, Incarcerated Mothers and Their Children (Website)
 - http://harrisschool.uchicago.edu/Research/faculty_projects/incarcerated_mothers/index.asp
- The Pennsylvania Prison Society, Support for Kids with Incarcerated Parents
 - http://www.prisonsociety.org/progs/ifs_skip.shtml
- Cook County Sheriff's Department of Women's Justice Services
 - http://www.cookcountysheriff.org/womens_justice_services/wjs_main.html



Virtual Visitation

The Prison Society, in partnership with the [Pennsylvania Department of Corrections](#), provides inmates at eight state prisons the opportunity to 'virtually' visit with their families through our Family Virtual Visitation program.

This high tech videoconferencing program allows families to visit in "real time" with their loved one who is incarcerated. Families can schedule a 55-minute visit once a month in our Philadelphia office where we have two family friendly rooms. Visits are currently \$15, but will increase to \$20 on September 1, 2008.

"My visit went very well. I was happy to see my son and to see the joy on his face when he saw his daughter. I truly enjoyed the visit."

-Virtual Visitation Participant

Family Virtual Visitation's goal is to help inmates incarcerated far from home stay connected to their families. Some family members cannot travel the long distance to prison locations due to their age, the cost of transportation, or disabilities. The virtual visits provide an opportunity for families who might not otherwise have a chance to see their loved ones at all. We believe that creating stronger links between families is important for the stability of the inmate's family and his/her successful reentry into the community. Increasing the frequency of family visits helps support family relationships and improves the inmate's ability to adjust to life in prison.

"We are very grateful for this visit. We are a very connected family. I appreciate the Pennsylvania Prison Society for providing this service to our family who love one another very much. It is also productive for the inmates. When they return they know we are here for them and we believe they will be productive people again." -Virtual Visitation Participant

The program began in May 2001 with participation at four pilot sites. Now Virtual Visitation is available at SCIs Albion, Cambridge Springs, Coal Township, Dallas, Greene, Mahanoy, Muncy, and Pine Grove. Inmates, family members, prison staff, and Prison Society staff have expressed their support and appreciation of this program. Correctional officers have reported that many inmates are better adjusted and seem happier after visits. Visitors express how important and meaningful the program is to the health and welfare of their families.

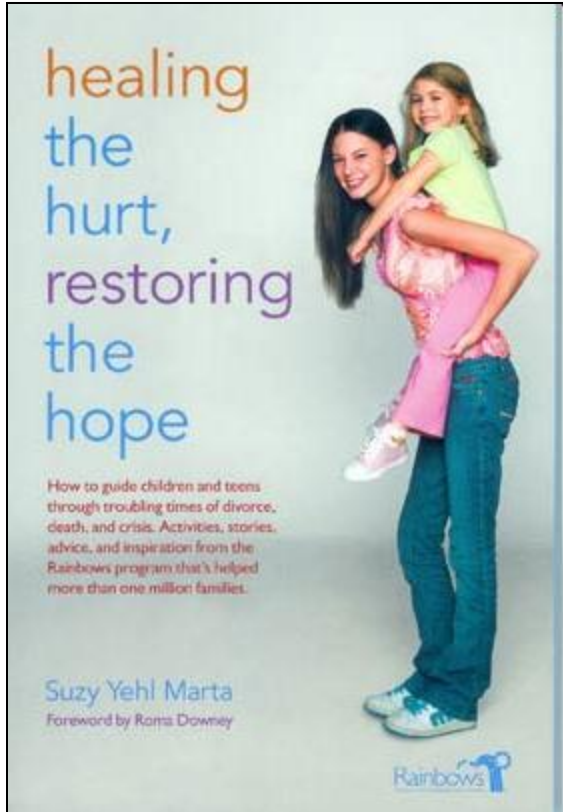
Contact:

[Eboney Allen](#)

Family Virtual Visitation Coordinator

215.564.4775 Extension 103

Rainbows is an international, not-for-profit organization that foster emotional healing among children grieving a loss from a life-altering crisis.



Rainbows believes that grieving youth deserve supporting, loving listeners as they struggle with their feelings is available to participants of all races and religions serves as an advocate for youth who face life-altering crises

For volunteers Rainbows provides accredited training for all volunteers to prepare them for the commitment of assisting bereaved youth supports our volunteers and accredited sites to sustain the quality delivery of service to youth through our worldwide network of Registered Directors

For the community as a whole Rainbows educates and builds awareness about the growing number of children suffering significant loss issues in their lives produces high quality programs offered at no cost to children and youth

Rainbows website: <http://rainbows.org/index.asp>