

Inspire People to Unite



OCTOBER 18-20, 2023

15TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

TOGETHER
WE CAN
CHANGE OUR
COMMUNITY



Find more information at
www.prisonersfamilyconference.org

Welcome Letter

We are thrilled to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to each and every one of you to the 2023 International Prisoners' Family Conference. This 15th year gathering marks an important milestone in our collective efforts to support and empower families affected by incarceration worldwide.

This year's conference promises to be an enriching and enlightening experience, filled with engaging discussions, informative sessions, and opportunities for networking and collaboration. Together, we aim to explore innovative approaches, share invaluable insights, and foster meaningful connections within this vital community.

The theme of this year's conference, "Inspiring People to Unite," underscores our commitment to transcending boundaries, both physical and metaphorical. We believe that by working together, we can create a more compassionate, empathetic and inclusive, and understanding environment for prisoners' families and the carceral system.

Here are some highlights you can look forward to:

- **Inspiring Keynote Addresses:** Renowned speakers from diverse backgrounds will share their expertise and perspectives, offering fresh insights into the challenges faced by prisoners' families and the solutions that can bring about positive change.
- **Interactive Workshops:** Engage sessions designed to provide practical tools, resources, and strategies to navigate the complexities of supporting incarcerated loved ones.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Connect with fellow attendees, forge new partnerships, and build a support network that extends beyond the conference.

We extend our gratitude to each participant for their dedication to this important cause. Your presence at this conference signifies your commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of prisoners' families.

Throughout the event, we encourage you to share your thoughts, experiences, and ideas, as it is through this collective effort that we can effect meaningful change.

Once again, welcome to the 2023 International Prisoners' Family Conference. Let us seize this opportunity to come together, learn from one another, and create a brighter future for prisoners' families worldwide.

Warm regards,

Kayla Victor
International Prisoners Family Conference, Chair

Dear Esteemed Attendees,



Melissa and I would like to take a moment to honor our beloved mom. Though she is no longer with us, we hold onto the hope that her legacy of compassion and support for those affected by incarceration will endure. Last year, she, along with our family, recognized that it would be her final year with us at the conference. She embarked on an intrepid hospice journey. Many of you may recall her unwavering presence at last year's conference, summoning the strength to lead a session on the vital concept of the Trouble Bubble.

Our mom was not only a nurturing and caring parent but also a beacon of compassion and empathy for those in need. She believed that extending a helping hand to those in distress was not just a choice, but a moral imperative.

As a committed member of the social justice community, she forged ahead to establish her own nonprofit, Community Solutions, dedicated to aiding children with incarcerated parents. Recognizing the global need to unite those working towards the betterment of prisoners and their families, she birthed The International Prisoners Conference—an annual gathering that brings together families and professionals from diverse communities to exchange best practices and groundbreaking solutions for the carceral system.

Her selfless acts of kindness and unwavering commitment to making a difference have ignited a fire within us to follow in her footsteps and give back to our communities. She taught us that no act of kindness, regardless of size, goes unnoticed. Our world yearns for more individuals like her—individuals unafraid to step up and make a lasting impact.

As we embark on the next three days of this conference, we acknowledge that none of us ever wished to navigate the complex journey as a family member affected by incarceration. Over the years, we've come to realize that our stories are intertwined, weaving a tapestry of shared experiences. Let us ensure that this conference remains a sanctuary, free from judgment and stigma—a place where empathy and compassion flourish, just as she envisioned. She always taught, “her kids”, to Bloom Where They Are Planted.

To our esteemed presenters and attendees, we implore you to persist in sharing your invaluable insights and resources. Continue to amplify awareness, forge partnerships, and shine a light on acts of kindness, both great and small.

May we all be inspired to instigate change, emulating the same unwavering values and dedication that defined our mom's extraordinary legacy.

We believe we are all chosen family.

With Much Love,
Melissa Victor and Kayla Victor

About The International Prisoners' Family Conference

Our Mission – To inspire people to unite and make a difference in the carceral systems.

Our Vision – is to cultivate a more empathetic world for anyone impacted by the carceral systems.

Our Goals – To apply a holistic focus by inspiring positive changes in all persons impacted by carceral systems and to provide a safe space for people across all disciplines and backgrounds to share and discuss innovative solutions towards a just carceral system.

Established in 2009 by Carolyn Esparza under the auspices of Community Solutions of El Paso, a non-profit grassroots organization dedicated to supporting children and families affected by the criminal justice system since 2001, this initiative sought to address three crucial barriers hindering the success of returning citizens and their families:

- I. The prison family's voice was stifled by shame, embarrassment, and fear. After leaving prison, most returning citizens, along with their loved ones, sought to bury the painful experience altogether. This resulting silence deprived the wider community of the opportunity to recognize the remarkable individuals within the prison family.
- II. Concealing themselves in shame and fear created an Empathy Gap, a protective barrier that hinders, and in many cases, obstructs successful reintegration into the community and family life for those impacted by incarceration. Unaware community members interacted with former prisoners, worshipped alongside prison family members, and attended school with an invisible divide preventing them from understanding their circumstances - their pain.
- III. Everyone affected by the criminal justice system experiences trauma, and this affects us all, even if most people are unaware of it. People tend to fear what they do not understand. The lack of personal connection with prisoners or their loved ones prevents the community from recognizing and appreciating the exceptional intelligence and talents of those directly affected by incarceration, both personally and professionally.

The belief was that the conference had the potential to create a Ripple Effect, opening up various channels for bridging this crucial Empathy Gap.



TIME ZONE CONVERTER – TIME DIFFERENCE CALCULATOR **WWW.TIMEANDDATE.COM**

**JOIN IN EARLY AND MEET OTHER ATTENDEES DURING
THE CONFERENCE FROM 9:00 CENTRAL STANDARD TIME (CST)
DAILY DALLAS TIME**

**10:00 AM EST (NEW YORK)
9:00 AM CST (DALLAS)
8:00 AM MOUNTAIN
7:00 AM PST (LOS ANGELES)
4:00 AM STOCKHOLM
3:30 AM EDINBURG
2:00 AM PRAGUE
5:00 AM UGANDA**



THANK YOU

The conference owes its success entirely to the tireless efforts and unwavering commitment of these exceptional individuals & organizations

Barbara Allan

Kimberly Dearman

Franklin Deese

Matt Duhamel

Avon Hart Johnson

Julia Lazareck

Jim Prager

Ann Edenfield Sweet

Antjaun Tolbert

Melissa Victor

Scott Wisenbaker

Advocacy in Action

Board Members Families

INCCIP

Prison Families Alliance

Prison Pipeline

Prison The Hidden Sentence



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2023

CENTRAL STANDARD TIME

- 8:30 -9:00 PRE-CONFERENCE NOTATIONS
- 9:00-9:15 KAYLA VICTOR AND BOARD MEMBERS - WELCOME
- 9:15-10:20 **SIMULATION: THE TALE OF TWO PRISON VISITS, PART I** ADVOCACY IN ACTION
- 10:20-10:50 **PAYING THE PRICE: THE FINANCIAL IMPACT OF INCARCERATION AND RELEASE OF FAMILY** PROF. DR. NANCY LOUCKS & DR. BRIEGE NUGENT
- 10:50 -11:00 BREAK
- 11:00-11:45 **BREAK OUT SESSIONS WORKSHOP**
- I. **TREAT THE ROOT CAUSE OF BEHAVIOR,** VICKY LYNN HENRY
 - II. **PRISONERS, FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES, GENTLE ACTION THEORY,**
CARMA CORCORAN
 - III. **BUILDING A CULTURE OF INCLUSIVITY AND CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS
IMPLICATION FOR TEACHERS,** DR. KIMBERLY THORNTON
- 11:45-12:10 **CONNECT WITH COMPASSION AND TAP AWAY DISTRESS,**
AMY FROST & KRISTIN MILLER
- 12:10-1:10 **TALE OF TWO PRISON VISITS PART II, ADVOCACY IN ACTION COALITION**
- 1:10-1:30 LUNCH
- 1:30-1:45 **“NURTURING THE SUPERHERO”, CREATING SAFE SPACES. PIONEERING CHILDCARE
FOR PRISONER’S CHILDREN AND POLICE GUARDS,**
DR. SMITA DHARMAMER
- 1:45-2:15 **FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS AFTER LONG-TERM INCARCERATION, THE CHALLENGES
OF REBUILDING TIES,** DR. JACQUELYN FRANK
- 2:15 - 2:25 BREAK
- 2:25-2:55 **BREAKING BARRIERS & BUILDING BRIDGES: FAMILIES FORGE A PATH TO CHANGE,**
TRUDY WILLIAMS AND TIFFANY WALKER
- 2:55-3:25 **WHAT DO COURTS, PRISONS, CAREGIVERS AND RETURNING CITIZENS HAVE IN
COMMON WITH CHILDREN OF PRISONERS,** CHRISTINA BELLASMA
- 3:25 CLOSING REMARKS – WRAP UP DAY 1

DAY: Wednesday October 18, 2023

Time: 9:15 – 10:20



The Advocacy in Action Coalition (AIAC) is proud to unveil a live virtual “simulation”: A Tale of Two Prison Visits. This simulation promotes audience engagement, education, reflection, and insights into various roles and perspectives that intersect during a prison visit.

Audience members will learn how emotional conditions such as normal stress (good stress), tolerable, and toxic stress share many of the same behavioral features during potentially tense situations. Through this journey, the audience will hear vivid accounts of how people

prepare for and engage in a visit.

This experience engenders the audience to learn about five individuals: A six-year-old boy, his grandmother/caregiver, a prison visit receptionist, a prison visit guard, and an incarcerated father. Through this experience, the audience will engage in a question-and-answer process, which builds capacity to learn about and practice empathy for all roles—realizing that everyone brings with them to the visit, life’s challenges that ultimately intersect during the prison visit. The audience will be invited to a “breakout session” to further engage in a discussion on how each role could have better prepared for the visit using purposeful stress reduction and mindfulness strategies. The virtual simulation creates a safe space for discussing shared or dissenting opinions. Participants will receive a workbook (pdf) in exchange for their participation.

Resources: Staying Connected (50 State Prison Mail Protocol); Planning Ahead (Brochure); Tale of Two Prison Visits Workbook



Advocacy In Action Coalition

The AIAC team is profoundly thankful for the 2023 Working Group who participated in developing and co-authoring this project:

Leadership

Dr. Avon Hart-Johnson, AIAC Chair

Ms. Kayla Victor, Chair, InterNational Prisoner's Family Conference

Working Group

Ms. Allegra Pocinki

Ms. Barbara Allan

Ms. Cheryl Dutescu

Ms. Dianne Bruce

Ms. Jess Angel

Mr. Jim Prager

Ms. Julia Lazareck

Ms. Premilla Dixit-Nag

Ms. Vetta Dunston

Ms. Tiffany Green

Contributors

Ms. Braunwynn Franklin

Dr. Geoffrey Johnson

Ms. Rita Dixit-Kubiak

Ms. Sanghamitra Dasgupta

To Join This Working Group – email info@prisonersfamilyconference.org or avonhartjohnson@gmail.com

Advocacy In Action Virtual “simulation”: A Tale of Two Prison Visits Cast

Dr. Avon Hart Johnson

Ms. Allegra Pocinki

Ms. Barbara Allan

Ms. Cheryl Dutescu

Ms. Jess Angel

Mr. Jim Prager

Ms. Julia Lazareck

Dr. Geoffrey Johnson

Ms. Sanghamitra Dasgupta



DAY: Wednesday October 18, 2023

Time: 10:20-10:50

PAYING THE PRICE: THE FINANCIAL IMPACT OF INCARCERATION AND RELEASE ON FAMILIES

DR. NANCY LOUCKS
SCOTLAND, UK

DR. BRIÈGE NUGENT
SCOTLAND, UK

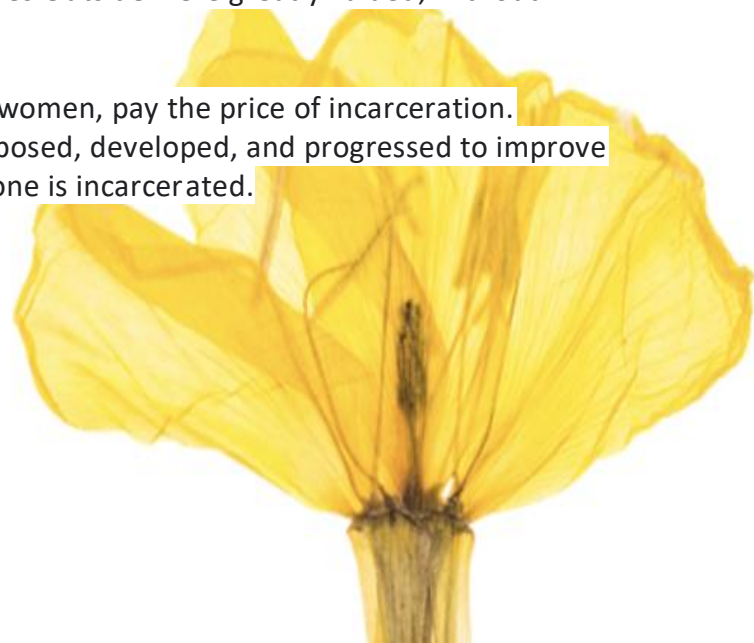
Families Outside / INCCIP
www.familiesoutside.org.uk
inccip.org

Independent Research Consultant
Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Salford.

Families Outside is the only national organization in Scotland working solely on behalf of families affected by incarceration. Although research into the social and emotional costs of incarceration has increased, knowledge of the financial impact is limited. This research conducted by Families Outside and funded by abrdn Financial Fairness Trust to understand the financial impact on families when someone is incarcerated. It follows up a study Families Outside carried out ten years ago; since then, the UK has seen a decade of austerity, a pandemic, and now cost-of-living crisis, so families are living in harsher and more challenging social conditions than ever.

The findings highlight the role of incarceration in creating, sustaining, and deepening poverty amongst children and families. The study shows that the burden falls mainly on women. The financial cost of pre-trial detention and release are especially high, with families spending around half of their income to support the person in custody. Interviewees reported dealing with these costs through their own self-sacrifice, such as skipping meals to ensure their children were fed. Even with these measures, the families were not able to afford social activities, resulting in them living in a form of permanent lockdown. Services such as Families Outside were greatly valued, without which families were otherwise isolated.

The findings show clearly that families, and especially women, pay the price of incarceration. However, it concludes with the recommendations proposed, developed, and progressed to improve circumstances for the families left behind when someone is incarcerated.



DAY: Wednesday October 18, 2023

11:00-11:45 BREAK OUT SESSIONS WORKSHOP

Reminder to read about these three sessions and select one session

- I. **TREAT THE ROOT CAUSE OF BEHAVIOR,** VICKY LYNN HENRY
- II. **PRISONERS, FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES, GENTLE ACTION THEORY,**
CARMA CORCORAN
- III. **BUILDING A CULTURE OF INCLUSIVITY AND CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS
IMPLICATION FOR TEACHERS,** DR. KIMBERLY THORNTON



Kindness is like a seed. Plant it in
others and watch it grow.

DAY: Wednesday October 18, 2023

11:00-11:45 BREAK OUT SESSIONS WORKSHOP I of III

TREAT THE ROOT CAUSE OF BEHAVIOR

VICKI LYNN
HENRY
MISSOURI, USA

Sentencing & Prison Reform Advocate
Missouri Alliance for Family Restoration

The fact that our nation seemingly favors throwing human beings away in prison at a cost of \$26,000 to \$46,000 per year per person instead of intensive and meaningful treatment should be focus at the Congressional and State levels. The concept of annihilating people we don't like should be brought to light.



DAY: Wednesday October 18, 2023

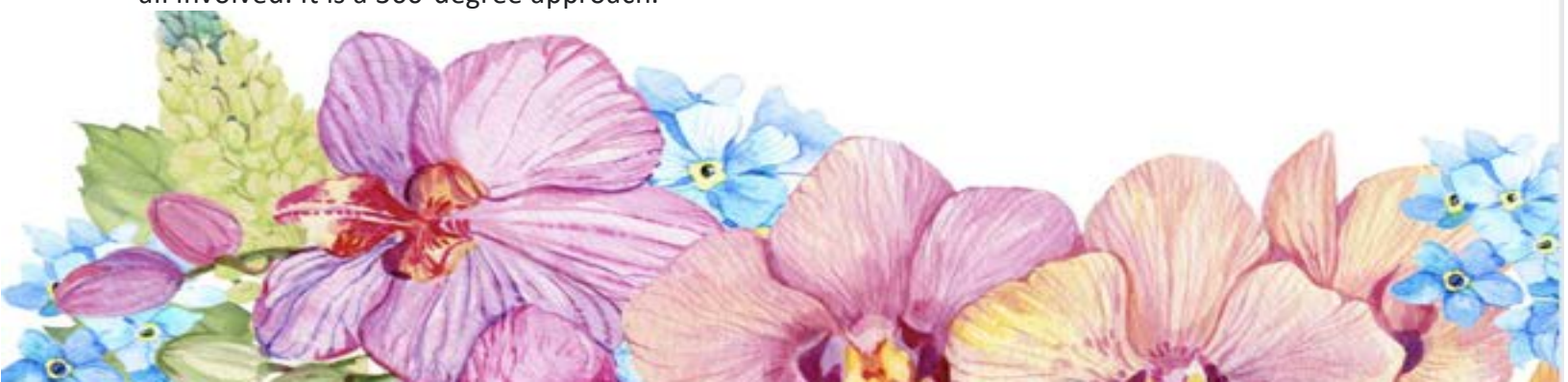
11:00-11:45 BREAK OUT SESSIONS WORKSHOP II of III



Prisoners, Families, and Communities need connection and healing. Applying Gentle Action Theory as a method of addressing the needs of all can help in healing, return to the community, and relationships. Gentle Action Theory addresses societal needs from within for those experiencing incarceration and reentry. It is unique and that all voices are heard to address the needs, desires, and manner in which assistance is offered. It is culturally specific and draws upon cultural leaders and practitioners. The process is gentle, takes time, and builds relationships, trust, and respect.

F. David Peat termed his theory of gentle action upon his belief that solutions to societal issues, when done in a gentle way, result in forming different kinds of actions. These actions come from within systems as opposed to outside forces. He calls for a process that begins with “creative suspension,” where we pause, listen, and learn about the system. Instead of seeking control, gentle action seeks harmony by listening and learning about the people, society, and issues as opposed to exerting power and control over a situation. Gentle action seeks to guide and act in a sensitive manner (Peat, 2008).

Gentle Action Theory is a method that draws together those involved in a societal issue and helps them to define and understand their issues and needs while communicating with each other to address the issues at hand. It is a creative way to define problems and create possible solutions for all involved. It is a 360-degree approach.



DAY: Wednesday October 18, 2023

11:00-11:45 BREAK OUT SESSIONS WORKSHOP III of III

BUILDING A CULTURE OF INCLUSIVITY AND EQUITY FOR CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS: IMPLICATION FOR TEACHERS

DR KIMBERLY THORTON
TEXAS, USA

Dallas College

All families are capable of providing a nurturing and loving environment for their children's growth and development. However, children who experience prolonged separation from parents who are incarcerated are more prone to develop traumatic responses such as mistrust, shame, and dysregulation. These behaviors can hinder their ability to form healthy relationships with others. To ensure that young children grow up happily, healthy, and without severe issues, high-quality early learning and care programs

should implement inclusive and equitable family engagement strategies. This session aims to assist educators in discovering effective strategies to engage with families of children affected by incarceration, so that they can better cater to the needs of their students.



DAY: Wednesday October 18, 2023

Time: 11:45-12:10



Learn how to ground yourself, your family, and your community in deep compassion with heart breathing and tap away distress with the Trauma/Tension Tapping Technique.

See links to resources at www.linktr.ee/acephumanitariancommittee

Free Resources for Resilience: <https://r4r.energypsych.org>

Kristin Miller, Ph.D., Psychologist, DCEP, Matrix Reimprinting, TFT and TTT Humanitarian

Trainer specializes in treating developmental intergenerational trauma. Kristin adapted many of Eden Energy Medicine skills to build Resources for Resilience and Emotional First Aid materials and trainings through ACEP Humanitarian Committee and facilitates community trauma management programs along with leading

psychospiritual support groups for humanitarian outreach. Awarded 2019 ACEP Humanitarian of the Year.

Amy Frost, MBA and MA Spiritual Psychology

My passion is supporting people at work, career transitions and life with cutting edge and tried and true career development and self-resilience tools and techniques. My life motto: Do Good; Bring Friends! I love helping people learn the skills of creating and maintaining healthy friendships. I am an author, a facilitator, collaborator, and a professional agitator. I am a long time member of the Association of Comprehensive Energy Psychology and Humanitarian at Work (Free Resources for Resilience: <https://r4r.energypsych.org>. I have used tapping and energy psychology techniques in all my training, coaching and presenting for twenty years. Why? Because they work!

12:20-1:10 **TALE OF TWO PRISON VISITS PART II, ADVOCACY IN ACTION COALITION**

1:10- 1:30 LUNCH



DAY: Wednesday October 18, 2023

Time: 1:30-1:45



As on 31st December, 2021, there were 1,650 women prisoners with 1,867 children. Among these women prisoners, 1,418 women prisoners were under trial prisoners who were accompanied by 1,601 children and 216 convicted prisoners who were accompanied by 246 children.
- Prison Statistics India Report, 2021

Through no fault of theirs, the earliest experience of the world for certain children is prison, some of whom are born in its precincts. In the absence of anyone at home to look after and tend to their needs, infants and young children (below the age of 6) are allowed to stay in jail premises while their mothers who are awaiting trial or serving

their term. A study found that “these children were living in really difficult conditions and suffering from diverse deprivations relating to food, healthcare, accommodation, education, recreation, etc. No appropriate programs were found to be in place in any jail, for their development.”

Role of a Crèche - Recognizing the impact on the wellbeing of the child growing up in prison, in 2006, the Supreme Court issued guidelines stating that “children below three years shall be allowed crèche and those between three and six years shall be looked after in the nursery. The prison authorities shall preferably run the said crèche and nursery outside the prison premises”.

The aim of a crèche is to ensure that special care needs of children are met for their development, education and recreation and it’s a safe space for children to experience a degree of normalcy in their childhood. Run by a trained teacher, it should “provide free space, toys and games for children and can organize programs on mother and child care, hygiene and family life for mothers.”



DAY: Wednesday October 18, 2023

Time: 1:45 – 2:15



FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS AFTER LONG-TERM INCARCERATION: THE CHALLENGES OF REBUILDING TIES

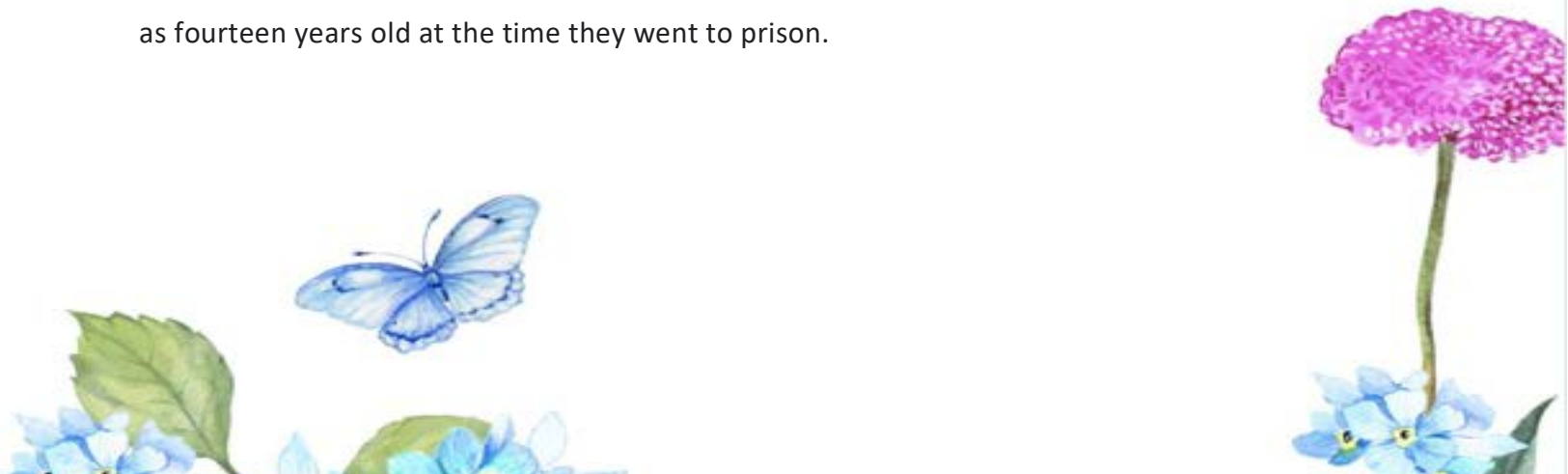
JACQUELYN FRANK
INDIANA, USA

Professor
Eastern Illinois University

After decades of incarceration, most individuals returning home look forward to reuniting with their families. Through various actions, family members (especially significant others) attempt to support the adjustment of their returning loved ones in every way possible. The reality for many returning citizens is that their family members and significant others do not and cannot understand the impact of daily life and trauma on the inside and how it may affect

their relationships once released. During the initial months and years at home, misunderstandings and challenges occur which can hinder family harmony and connectedness.

Using data from research interviews conducted with 15 returning citizens who served more than twenty consecutive years in prison, this presentation addresses the challenges of family restoration from the perspective of the returning citizen. Of particular importance for this presentation is the fact that the returning citizens for this project were all juveniles sentenced as adults, some as young as fourteen years old at the time they went to prison.



DAY: Wednesday October 18, 2023

Time: 2:25-2:55

**BREAKING BARRIERS & BUILDING BRIDGES:
FAMILIES FORGE A PATH TO CHANGE**

TRUDY WILLIAMS
MICHIGAN, USA

TIFFANY WALKER
MICHIGAN, USA



Citizens for Prison Reform
Advisory Board Member

Citizens for Prison Reform
Family Organizer

micpr.org

Citizens for Prison Reform will share how families can come together to create change, such as forming support groups, advocating for policy changes, raising awareness about the impact of incarceration on families.



DAY: Wednesday October 18, 2023

Time: 2:55-3:25



Christina Bellasalma was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. She first explored her interest in law and criminal justice while attending the University of California, Irvine where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Science with an emphasis in Public Law.

In 2017, she moved to Miami, FL to continue her education at the University of Miami. While working on her Masters degree in Criminology with a focus in Criminal Law, she began a six-month internship with

the Federal Bureau of Investigations while simultaneously working as a mentor and intake coordinator for a local nonprofit that provides wrap-around services for at-risk young men. It was only after these experiences that she decided to pursue her PhD in International Crime and Justice to investigate root causes of crime and begin empirical research on alternative methods of crime prevention.

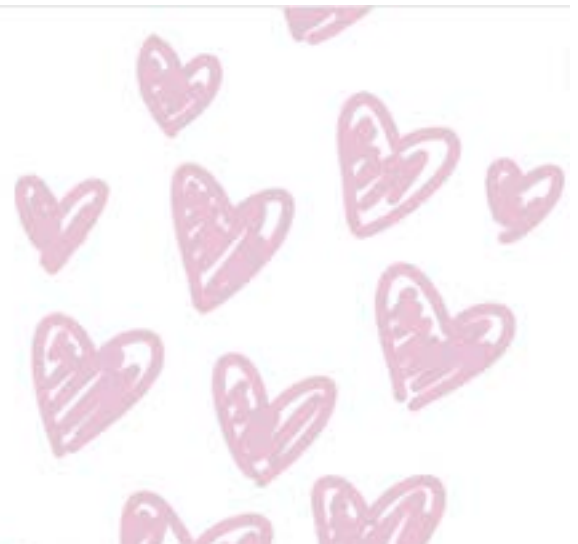
She first came into contact with Silent Victims of Crime in 2022 when they were involved in her research study on community-based organizations that work in crime prevention, and she now works for the organization as a special program's coordinator. Currently a PhD candidate and adjunct professor at Florida International University, her dissertation topic is on children of incarcerated parents.

Christina has given presentations on her research and other criminal justice related issues at conferences around the country and has her research published in various criminology journals.



THURSDAY OCTOBER 19, 2023
CENTRAL STANDARD TIME

- 9:00 -9:15 MORNING ANNOUNCEMENTS, KAYLA VICTOR AND BOARD MEMBERS
- 9:15-9:45 **WOMEN & FAMILIES IMPACTED BY INCARCERATION**, SERENA MARTIN-LIGUORI
- 9:45-10:15 **STAYING OUT OF JAIL- PROGRAMMING THAT FOLLOWS PARTICIPANTS BACK INTO THE COMMUNITY**
SCOTT WISENBAKER and CAPTAIN JEFF DAVIS
- 10:15 – 10:30 BREAK
- 10:30-11:00 **SHERIFF’S TRANSITION AND REENTRY TEAM**
CAPTAIN KEVIN HUNT
- 11:00-11:30 **HOW OHIO DOES REHABILITATION** DAVID KENSLER
- 11:30-12:00 **AIAC RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN AND PARENTS**
- 12:00- 12:30 LUNCH
- 12:30-12:45 **EMPOWERING HEARTS:** SHANTE RICHARDSON
- 12:45 – 1:30 **BREAK OUT SESSION WORKSHOP:**
- I. **SUPPORT MOTHERS OF INCARCERATED SONS & DAUGHTERS**
JUDITH SMITH
 - II. **PRISON COMMUNITY: LOOKING AT PRISONS AS A COMMUNITY INSTEAD OF AN INSTITUTION**, JAMES (JIM) PRAGER
- 1:30-2:00 **THE IMPACT OF INCARCERATION – A VIDEO LIBRARY SHARING THE VOICES, EXPERIENCES & WISDOM**
LETICIA LONGORIA-NAVARRO & VICTOR TRILLO JR.
- 2:00 WRAP-UP DAY 2



DAY: Thursday October 19, 2023

Time: 9:15-9:45

WOMEN & FAMILIES IMPACTED
BY INCARCERATION

SERENA
LIGUORI
NEW YORK, USA

Executive Director
New Hour for Women &
Children LI

www.newhourli.org

The impact of incarceration has deep and lasting effects on children of incarcerated parents and on mothers and women who return home after incarceration. For most women and mothers they parent their children from afar behind bars and in reentry but often with very little support. New Hour is dedicated to working to support impacted families and women as they journey from incarceration to reentry. Our founding executive director is an impacted Latinx person who will share just why empowering women and families will create healing and hope for the whole community.



DAY: Thursday October 19, 2023

Time: 9:45-10:15



This presentation will cover the steps in implementing a program aimed at recovery and reintegration. This solution involves a collaborative approach involving law enforcement, attorneys, judges, probation, treatment providers, and community leaders.

This begs the question; If solving one problem could effectively eliminate the need for arrest, incarceration, prosecution, and community supervision of 50-80%

of all current offenders, isn't that a problem worth our effort, attention, and resources? The answer is obvious, but how?

This presentation will cover the steps in implementing a program aimed at recovery and reintegration that incorporates the solution. The solution involves a collaborative approach involving law enforcement, attorneys, judges, probation, treatment providers, and community leaders. This program is delivered within the jail but also follows the participant into the community in the form of a reintegration process that is proven. The program can be delivered without interruption to jail operations and security protocols. This is accomplished through an innovative and effective model that had been developed over the course of the last decade with proven clinically significant results.



DAY: Thursday October 19, 2023

Time: 10:30-11:00



The Sheriff's Transition and Reentry Team (S.T.A.R.T.) opened its doors in February of 2020 and is currently comprised of five Correction Officers: three are Correctional Counselors and two are Community Correction Officers. Operating Monday through Friday, the services provided and the amount of justice involved individuals who utilize the Resource Center's services continue to increase. The team utilizes the three Correctional Counselors to interview inmates upon incarceration, assessing their needs both while incarcerated and post incarceration, and making the necessary referrals. Needs such as substance abuse treatment, education, job assistance, DSS assistance,

identification issues, transportation, food, housing, and clothing are all then addressed and the two Community Correction Officers then work to establish a discharge plan for the individual's successful reentry into the community. Upon discharge from the facility, the justice involved individual visits the Resource Center. All the needs identified by the counselors are addressed by the Resource Center staff and the many service providers. At this time the warm hand-off to the community begins and lines of communication are established for follow up care. The Resource Center continues to remain available post incarceration for follow up assistance in the hopes of continued success. The START team provides a positive benefit to the community by facilitating the successful reentry of justice involved individuals with the hope of reducing recidivism.



DAY: Thursday October 19, 2023

TIME: 11:00-11:30



Join us for an enlightening session as the speaker delves into the intricacies of Ohio's progressive rehabilitation programs within the state's prison system. With an extensive background in criminal justice and a keen understanding of the challenges faced by incarcerated individuals, our speaker brings a wealth of knowledge to the forefront. This session will shed light on Ohio's pioneering strategies that focus on holistic rehabilitation, emphasizing education, vocational training,

mental health support, and community reintegration. Be prepared for a thought-provoking discussion that explores the potential for positive change within the criminal justice system.



DAY: Thursday October 19, 2023

11:30-12:00 AIAC RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN AND PARENTS



Join the AIAC working group members, Allegra Pocinki and Jess Angel (in collaboration with Tiffany Green), as they provide tips on keeping kids occupied during prison visits and state prison letter writing and mailing protocol, in a two part presentation.

Part I of the presentation focuses on providing tips and resources for parents and caregivers to find innovative ways to keep children engaged using non-intrusive activities during a prison visit.

Part II focuses on essential communication insights specific to letter writing and mail receipts at state-level prisons. Effective communication is critical in maintaining family connections. Co-authored by Jess Angel and Allegra Pocinki, the team collaborated to develop a comprehensive 50-state mail protocol resource, offering the most up-to-date information on staying in touch through mail.

This presentation will address questions such as:

- How do I keep my child occupied during a visit when I cannot bring toys?
- Whom should I contact if my mail isn't reaching its destination?
- Which prisons require senders to mail letters to a specific "hub" address?
- What types of paper, cards, or correspondence can I send?

Join us for answers to these critical questions during this 30-minute presentation, which offers valuable resources for families and friends of incarcerated individuals.



DAY: Thursday October 19, 2023

Time: 12:30-12:45



Shante Richardson is the esteemed founder of the Prison Wives Society, a dedicated community that offers support, empowerment, and resources to women navigating the challenging journey of being wives, fiancées, and girlfriends of incarcerated individuals.

Power Talk

Join us for a captivating presentation that explores the incredible power of empowered hearts in the lives of prison wives and their incarcerated partners. In "Empowered Hearts," we delve into the journey of building resilience, self-growth, and reducing recidivism on the unique path of being a prison wife.

Through heartfelt stories, inspiring examples, and practical strategies, we will navigate the impact of incarceration on every aspect of a prison wife's life.

From relationships to emotional well-being, we will uncover the challenges and triumphs experienced along the way.

Central to our presentation is the concept of building resilience and empowering prison wives to take charge of their own growth journey. We will explore the transformative power of self-love, affirmations, and setting meaningful goals as catalysts for igniting a spark within incarcerated partners.

We will also acknowledge the significant role prison wives play in reducing recidivism. By focusing on personal growth, self-care, and building a strong foundation within themselves, prison wives become powerful agents of change within their families and communities.

Through interactive discussions and thought-provoking exercises, attendees will gain practical insights and tools to cultivate resilience, navigate the challenges, and create a brighter future on the prison wife journey. Join us for "Empowered Hearts" and discover how building resilience and reducing recidivism go hand in hand on this empowering and transformative path. Together, let us unlock the power within our hearts and pave the way for stronger, more resilient prison wives and their incarcerated partners.



DAY: Thursday October 19. 2023

Reminder to read about these two sessions and select one session

Time: 12:45 – 1:30 BREAK OUT SESSIONS WORKSHOP:

- I. **SUPPORT MOTHERS OF INCARCERATED SONS & DAUGHTERS**
JUDITH SMITH
- II. **PRISON COMMUNITY: LOOKING AT PRISON COMMUNITY: LOOKING AT PRISONS
AS A COMMUNITY INSTEAD OF AN INSTITUTION, JAMES (JIM) PRAGER**



DAY: Thursday October 19, 2023

Time: 12:45 – 1:30

BREAK OUT SESSIONS WORKSHOP I of II

SUPPORTING MOTHERS OF INCARCERATED SONS AND DAUGHTERS

JUDITH SMITH
NEW YORK, USA

Author, clinical social worker,
professor
Fordham University

www.difficultmothering.com
@JudithRSmithPhD,
FB@Difficult:Mothering adult children

In this presentation, based on Judith's research, uses the stories of older mothers to illustrate the importance of women getting support for themselves as they attempt to be "a good mother". Older mothers are often the unseen main support for their adult children as they manage the long process of arrest, court proceedings, incarceration, and community return. The effect that this maternal commitment has on older women is not sufficiently understood.

Judith, a mental health professional, conducted interviews with 50 mothers whose adult children had legal, mental health, and/or substance abuse problems. Each woman had spent years

attempting to intervene and help improve her child's situation. It was discovered that for these older women, active mothering does not end. It was also learned that the problems of their adult children had caused the women/mothers emotional, financial, and physical strain.

Many experienced depression and long-term health problems. Most reported feeling "torn in two". They struggled with the terrible conflict regarding whose needs come first – mine or my adult child's? Many also felt ashamed. They expected to be blamed for their children's behavior and therefore avoided reaching out for support. It is important to break the silence. Affected family members must be encouraged to speak openly with other parents, clergy, and health professionals. Speaking openly about mixed feelings can improve the individual woman's health and mental health. Mothers' voices together can help shape policy. Efforts to change the deleterious effects of incarceration, mental illness, and substance abuse must include the needs of the extended family.



DAY: Thursday October 19, 2023

Time: 12:45 – 1:30

BREAK OUT SESSION WORKSHOP II of II



We have a prison system that expects the worst in people, discourages humane treatment, and delays providing treatment programs which could help people turn their lives around. At our last prison family conference, when people with a loved one in prison were asked to role play being a Corrections Officer. The anger and resentment were palpable as was disconnection.

It is difficult for families to navigate an expansive and confusing set of rules to maintain contact with their incarcerated loved one. One consequence of these policies is that families feel helpless to have influence and feel unable to speak honestly with prison administrators

and staff. On the inside, a remarkably similar picture emerges with custody and offenders feeling mistrust. Prison rules actively discourage anything which resembles human compassion.

It does not have to be this way. Creating dialogue with a Warden's Forum is one way to bridge the gap between the institution's need for safety with the critical importance of family involvement. Family participation in the Warden's Forum provides a greater degree of transparency and accountability without compromising the safety of the institution. It also elevates the importance of family as part of the reentry process. Experiences in other countries demonstrate that prisons can be places of recovery, places to learn pro-social behavior, and to be the individual we would want to be ourselves. It is our responsibility to be the agent to make our prisons accountable for becoming the community it needs to become.



DAY: Thursday October 19, 2023

Time: 1:30 – 2:00



Introducing "Impacts of Incarceration," a groundbreaking online video library launched in 2023 by The Pathfinder Network. This invaluable resource is dedicated to providing education and support for individuals whose lives have been affected by incarceration. By sharing the stories, experiences, and insights of those who have faced incarceration, we aim to bring about positive, lasting transformation.

Featuring 19 interviewees across 125 videos, including individuals who grew up with an incarcerated loved one, former inmates, and dedicated professionals working with affected individuals and families, this library is a beacon of hope and understanding.

As the inaugural release from The PATHfinder Club publishing program, "Impacts of Incarceration" is part of an arts-based support initiative for youth impacted by incarceration. Accessible to all, this resource is offered without charge, providing a lifeline of support, connection, guidance, and wisdom.

You can explore the library on YouTube or visit thepathfindernetwork.org/impacts-of-incarceration. Additionally, the library offers curated links to organizations, articles, books, and various resources aimed at supporting system-impacted individuals and communities.

In our presentation, you'll have the opportunity to delve into the profound impact of incarceration through this video library. You'll get to meet one of the interviewees, and through their real stories and voices, gain a deeper understanding of the challenges they've faced. Together, we'll engage in meaningful conversation and reflection as a community, contemplating the essential supports needed to foster hope and healing. Prepare to be inspired and consider how you can play a role in creating genuine, positive change!



FRIDAY OCTOBER 20, 2023
CENTRAL STANDARD TIME

9:00 - 9:10 MORNING ANNOUNCEMENTS, KAYLA VICTOR AND BOARD MEMBERS

9:10-9:40 **EMPOWERING THROUGH EDUCATION,**
JOHN K. McLAUGHLIN & TAVARES JAMES

9:40-10:10 **ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN A PRISONER' AND A NORMATIVE**
SPOUSE, EXPRESSION, MEANINGS, EFFECTS AND CONSEQUENCES,
DR. RONIT HAIMOFF AYALI

10:10-10:20 BREAK

10:20-11:20 **BREAK OUT SESSIONS:**

I. THE PATHFINDER CLUB, PAVING A TRAIL FROM HURT AND HARM TO HOPE AND
HEALING

LETICIA LONGORIA-NAVARRO & VICTOR TRILLO JR.

II. 28 YEARS OF INSIGHT AS A NONPROFIT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
ANN EDENFIELD SWEET

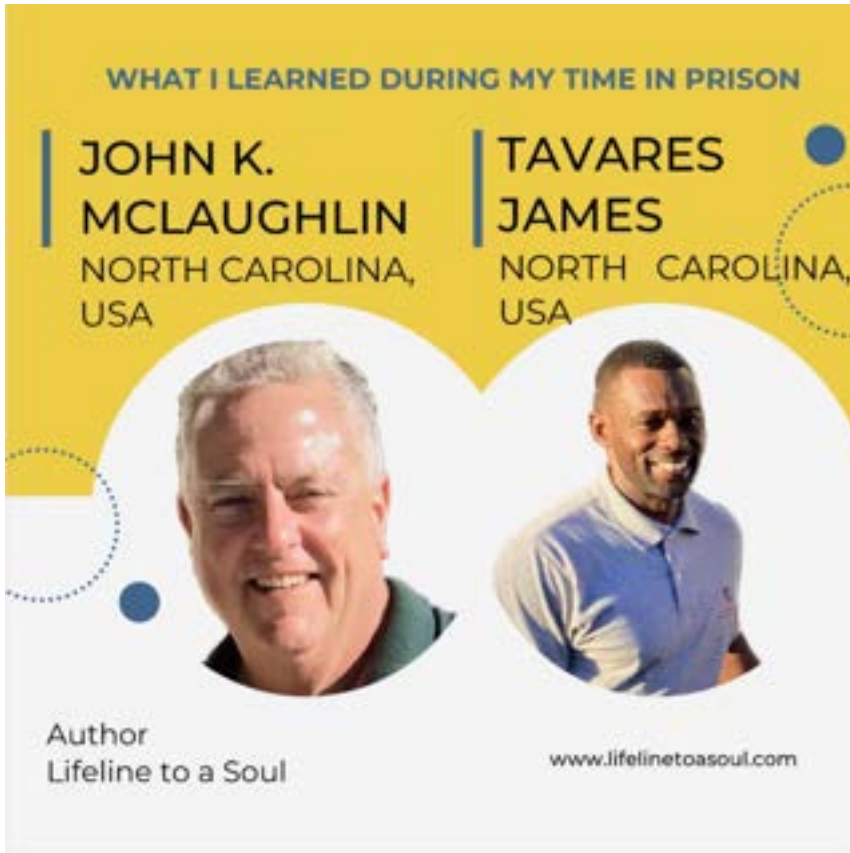
11:20 – 11:50 **PRISON FAMILIES ALLIANCE FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP,**
JULIA LAZARECK & BARBARA ALLEN

11:50 – 12:30 **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**



DAY: Friday October 20, 2023

Time: 9:15-9:40



John McLaughlin spent almost three years teaching entrepreneurship in a minimum-security prison. In his time there, he discovered a system that, by design, dehumanizes its denizens and provides almost no resources for men who are ready, willing, and able to make positive changes to their lives to do so. He has recently released a memoir, *Lifeline to a Soul* which depicts my experience inside the fence. His presentation will focus on this experience and his solution to

reduce recidivism.

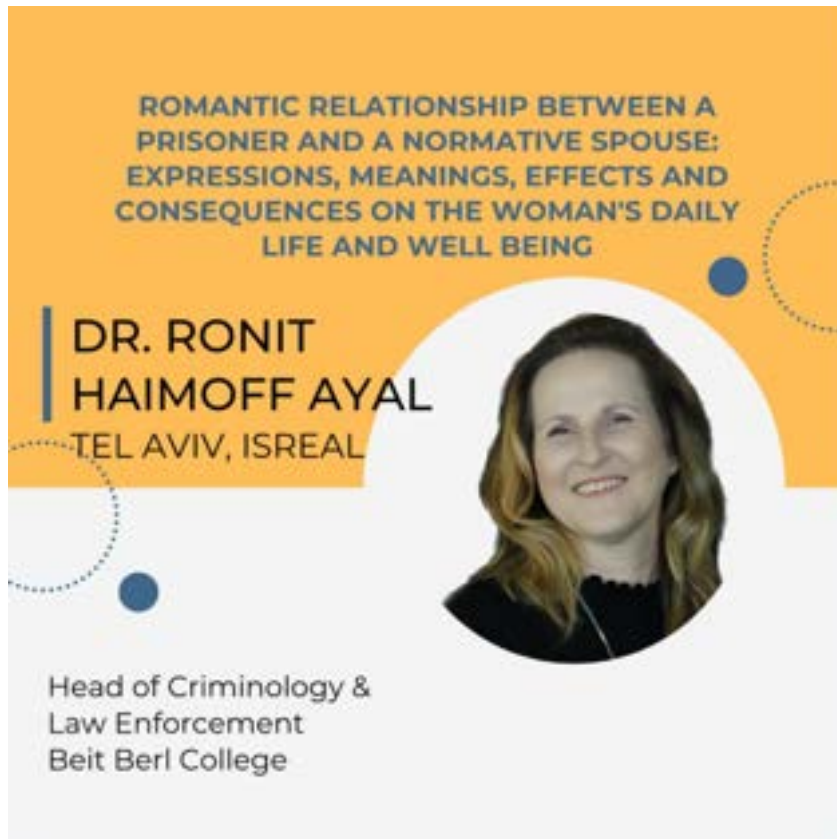
Tavares James is the Founder of Lifeline Education Connection, an organization whose purpose is to educate individuals who have faced obstacles to achieve aspirations in the areas of sales strategies, personal finance & entrepreneurship. Lifeline Education Connection has provided financial and entrepreneurship strategies to many students who have taken what they have learned and applied it to make significant improvements to their lives.

Tavares is an accomplished motivational speaker and has mastered the art of power connecting and communication.



DAY: Friday October 20, 2023

Time: 9:40-10:10



A romantic relationship between a prisoner and a normative spouse has a significant impact on the woman's daily life, her lifestyle, behavior and emotional world. Many prisoners maintain romantic relationships with normative and law-abiding partners for a long term.

It is a long distance relationship without realization in the everyday life. A romantic relationship with a prisoner, especially a prisoner sentenced to a long term, raises a number of questions: How do women experience romantic relationship with an imprisoned spouse? What is the degree of involvement and influence the prisoner has on the daily life of the woman, her personality and her

emotional health? How much control does the prisoner have over the woman? Do the women feel loved?

Is there romance in the relationship and if so, what is its manifestation? Why does a normative woman choose to involve herself in romantic relations with a prisoner? The lecture offers answers to all of these questions. The lecture is based on a large-scale study in which 37 couples participated in in-depth face-to-face interviews in the tradition of the qualitative-phenomenological approach.

All men were prisoners and all women normative and law-abiding. Findings reveal the perceptions and interpretations of normative women who maintain a romantic relationship with prisoners and the way in which they understand the consequences of these romantic relationship on their emotional and mental health, their happiness, their well being and their lives in general.



DAY: Friday October 20, 2023

10:20-11:20

BREAK OUT SESSIONS:

I. THE PATHFINDER CLUB, PAVING A TRAIL FROM HURT AND HARM TO HOPE AND HEALING

LETICIA LONGORIA-NAVARRO & VICTOR TRILLO JR.

II. 28 YEARS OF INSIGHT AS A NONPROFIT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,

ANN EDENFIELD SWEET



DAY: Friday October 20, 2023

Time: 10:20-11:20

BREAK OUT SESSION WORKSHOP I of II



Three million children currently have a parent in prison, and it is estimated that ten million children have experienced parental incarceration at some point in their lives. The experience of parental and family incarceration can leave youth feeling unseen, unsupported, and affected by stigma and shame that can lead to significant negative outcomes. The PATHfinder Club creates supportive paths for youth whose lives have been impacted by incarceration. A community is co-created where club members feel comfortable and confident to stay connected to school and other supportive programming, expand their resilience, conquer challenges, embrace opportunities for healing and

self-expression and connect in meaningful ways with their peers, loved ones and their community. Through art, expression and community PATHfinder Club members pave a trail from hurt and harm to hope and healing. Club sessions feature mindfulness, art, writing and community building to help counter the experience of shame and stigma. Club members stand together, stand tall, stay strong and speak out to create meaningful change in their lives, in their families and in the world!

The program, its impact, and growth are possible because of building supportive networks and collaborations. Intentional efforts were made to create connections, to improve support and engagement with the work and to build collaboration toward shared goals that positively impact children impacted by incarceration and the systems they engage with. Presenters will share about collaborative projects of The PATHfinder Club with key partners created to educate, empower, and create meaningful change by sharing the voices, and wisdom of youth impacted by incarceration.



DAY: Friday October 20, 2023

Time: 10:20-11:20

BREAK OUT SESSION WORKSHOP II of II



If you're involved in or considering launching a non-profit, this presentation is a must-attend. Join Ann Edenfield Sweet as she shares invaluable insights gained from nearly three decades at the helm of a thriving non-profit organization.

With a career dedicated to driving positive change for families, Ann's journey is a testament to unwavering commitment and resilience.

In 1986, Ann's life took an unexpected turn when she received devastating news about her husband's arrest. Overnight, she found herself ostracized and isolated. The challenges she faced during this turbulent time led her to embark on a mission to support

families impacted by incarceration. Ann's transformative journey culminated in the establishment of, a non-profit dedicated to equipping families with essential life skills, training, and education.

Join us for a candid discussion as Ann candidly shares the rewards and challenges, she's encountered over her remarkable 28-year journey. Discover how her experiences have shaped not only the organization but also the lives of countless families in need. Gain valuable insights into the crucial role non-profits play in supporting those left behind, and learn how you too can make a meaningful impact. Don't miss this opportunity to glean wisdom from Ann's extensive experience and empower your own non-profit endeavors. This session promises to be an inspiring and enlightening exploration of what it takes to create lasting change for families in need.



DAY: Friday October 20, 2023

Time: 11:20 – 11:50



Prison Families Alliance (PFA) is dedicated to supporting families and friends impacted by their loved ones' incarceration in the United States. With over 6 million individuals in jails, prisons, on parole, and probation, PFA recognizes the millions more serving a sentence outside of bars.

Their core mission is to provide vital support and information to these families and children. This is primarily achieved through virtual support meetings, offering a

space for connection, shared experiences, and understanding. Additionally, PFA offers educational resources to raise awareness about the profound effects of incarceration on families, advocating for empathy and positive change.

In this workshop, co-founders Barbara and Julia will highlight the transformative impact of PFA's support. Through personal stories and testimonials, they will demonstrate how virtual meetings have helped families and youth navigate the emotional challenges of having a loved one in the system. PFA also serves as a resource hub, providing speakers and information to those in need, fostering unity and empowerment for a often overlooked community. By showcasing PFA's vital work, Barbara and Julia aim to inspire others to join in the effort to improve the lives of those affected by incarceration.



"In every corner of this program, you may have noticed the presence of flowers, the vitality of wildlife, and the resilience of plants. These elements are not merely decorative, but hold a deeper significance. They are a living tribute to Carolyn's enduring philosophy:
'Bloom Where You Are Planted'

This sentiment embodies the belief that regardless of circumstance, one can flourish and make a meaningful impact. As you depart from this conference, we implore you to carry this wisdom forward in your lives. See every moment as an opportunity to grow, to share your ideas, and to extend empathy to those around you, no matter where you find yourself or who you are with.

Let these natural wonders be a constant reminder that, like them, you too have the capacity to thrive and enrich the world around you."

Prison: The Hidden Sentence

WE OFFER

WORKSHOPS:

Youth Support
Arrest, Court, & Incarceration
Trauma Recovery
Empowerment
Family Reentry

WEBINARS:

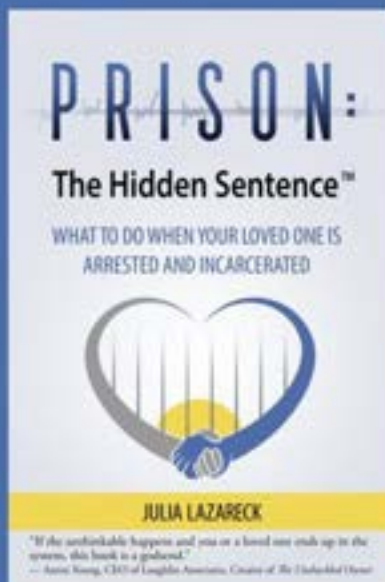
Prison the Hidden Sentence provides live and recorded webinars led by peers and professionals to provide the information you need to know.

PODCASTS:

Prison The Hidden Sentence podcast provides awe-inspiring stories and information from people impacted by incarceration, law enforcement, legal counsel, and others.

PrisonTheHiddenSentence.com/podcast

See Prison The Hidden Sentence website for a full list of workshops and webinars.



Scan the QR Code to Get The Book:
Prison The Hidden Sentence



PrisonTheHiddenSentence.com
Contact@PrisonTheHiddenSentence.com

Prison Families Alliance

Empowers the prison family through support, education, and guidance.





Barbara



Kim



Avon



Jim



Julia



Melissa



Kayla

*Board
& Planning
Committee*

InterNational
PRISONER'S
FAMILY
CONFERENCE

Barbara Allan - Barbara Allen was a schoolteacher, wife and mother who had no contact with the criminal justice system until 1966 when her husband was imprisoned. As she tried to deal with her feelings of isolation and confusion, she became aware of a new organization, The Fortune Society, whose goal was to disseminate information about a failing prison system.

In a letter she wrote to Fortune, she said that she was doing time on the outside. That was the beginning of Barbara's advocacy.

Barbara, along with two other women, formed Prison Family Anonymous, an organization that provides support and advocacy for loved ones impacted by the juvenile or criminal justice system. That organization has morphed into a virtual international support group, Prison Families Alliance. A source of pride for Barbara was the work she did to institute contact visits in her state. She served on the board of directors of New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty; was on the Advisory Board of a maximum-security prison for women; a Victim's Advocate of the Lauderhill Police Department; and volunteered at Women in Distress, a domestic violence agency.

Currently she is on advisory the board of New Hour for Women and on the board of directors of the International Prisoners Family conference.

Barbara has been published in the Congressional record, written her memoir, "Doing Our Time on the Outside: One Prison Family of 2.5 million" and advised on the publication of the folio edition "All I Ever Wanted... Stories of the Children of the Incarcerated." She has appeared in two documentaries and has collaborated with the theater company "Houses on the Moon" to help bring stories of the Prison Family to the stage.

Kimberly (Kim) Dearman - Kimberly Dearman a native of Mississippi and now a Texan, resides in Dallas, Texas with my husband. I am a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi and the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) Law School. I spend my time when I am not working on the conference, as a petroleum landman. Due to many injustices in my life and others, I

became active in the criminal justice reform arena in 2007 and met Carolyn Esparza not too long after that she invited me to the board of the International Prisoners Family Conference where I met my new family. A funny thing about me is I am obsessed with sloths and Baby Yoda, having a slew of sloths and Baby Yoda stuffed animals and other memorabilia throughout my house.

Dr. Avon Hart-Johnson stands out as a distinguished social science researcher, author, and passionate advocate for social justice. Her extensive body of work encompasses self-help books and scholarly articles. Notably, she co-authored a series of children's books addressing sensitive topics such as separation, loss, grief, and family member incarceration, demonstrating a profound dedication to the well-being of young minds navigating challenges. Her upcoming release, "Children with Incarcerated Parents: Caregivers, Superheroes, and Silver Linings," provides deep insights into the effects of incarceration on family dynamics and child development. It also offers valuable strategies for promoting emotional well-being and overall health. This enlightening book is scheduled for release in the Fall of 2023.

In addition to her prolific writing, Dr. Hart-Johnson is a respected university educator, a compelling keynote speaker, and an active champion of social justice. She leads the Advocacy in Action Coalition, a national collective devoted to reforming the criminal justice system. Dr. Hart-Johnson also holds the position of vice president at the International Coalition for Children With Incarcerated Parents and spearheads research initiatives at BiblioMethods, leveraging literature and narratives for holistic well-being.

Her academic achievements include master's degrees in forensic psychology and information systems management, along with a Ph.D. in human services counseling. She holds certifications as a Trauma Support Specialist (CTSS) and a Grief Recovery Specialist/Practitioner (GRS).

Julia Lazareck – Julia's journey began alongside her brother's 15-year incarceration, a challenging period that ultimately inspired her to create a transformative support network

through Prison: The Hidden Sentence™. This empowering initiative, born out of her own need for understanding, offers solace and camaraderie to those facing similar struggles. Julia now dedicates herself to conducting interviews nationwide and serves as a dynamic speaker at industry events and organizations, working tirelessly to raise awareness, educate, and equip individuals dealing with the impact of a loved one's imprisonment.

As the co-founder and president of Prison Families Alliance, Julia stands at the forefront of advocacy for change on behalf of families affected by the criminal justice system. Her deep-seated interest in the repercussions of incarceration on friends and family was ignited during her brother's 15-year sentence. Tragically, he passed away in 2012 due to Hepatitis C, still serving his time in prison. Julia's profound realization that she had been sharing this sentence with him from the outside led her to unveil the hidden sentence they both endured. Through her blog, podcast, publications, and presentations, she offers invaluable insights into the complex journey of prison families.

Julia's commitment to providing information, support platforms, and hope extends through both "Prison Families Alliance" and "Prison: The Hidden Sentence." Her mission is to empower anyone with a family member in the criminal justice system, ensuring they find the resources and understanding they need.

James (Jim) Prager – Board Secretary - Jim Prager is a prison survivor who was released in 2000. Since 2005 Jim has been an advocate for humane treatment of offenders, reentry programs which bring communities together, and a less harsh view of prisons and the individuals who live there.

Jim has been active in the International Prisoner Family Conference for many years, is a member of the Board, and a participant in Advocacy in Action. Jim is the author the book Mind of a Molester written under the name of Kenneth Quinn. He earned a social work license in 2011.

Melissa Victor – Board Asst. Treasurer Melissa Victor discovered the importance of standing up for justice early in life. This ignited her lifelong commitment to advocating for equality and fairness. Raised in Texas, she was deeply influenced by her family's values of community, justice, and equality. Holding a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from the University of Houston, Melissa focuses on driving positive change within the criminal justice system.

With over 15 years of volunteering experience with the International Prisoners Family Conference, Melissa's passion for advocating for those affected by the criminal justice system shines through. She also dedicated four years to Community Solutions, a cause dear to her heart. Melissa firmly believes that systemic change is key to creating a more just society. She is dedicated to reforming the prison system, eliminating the school-to-prison pipeline, and combating systemic racism. Melissa looks forward to continuing her impactful work for a brighter future for all those touched by the criminal justice system.

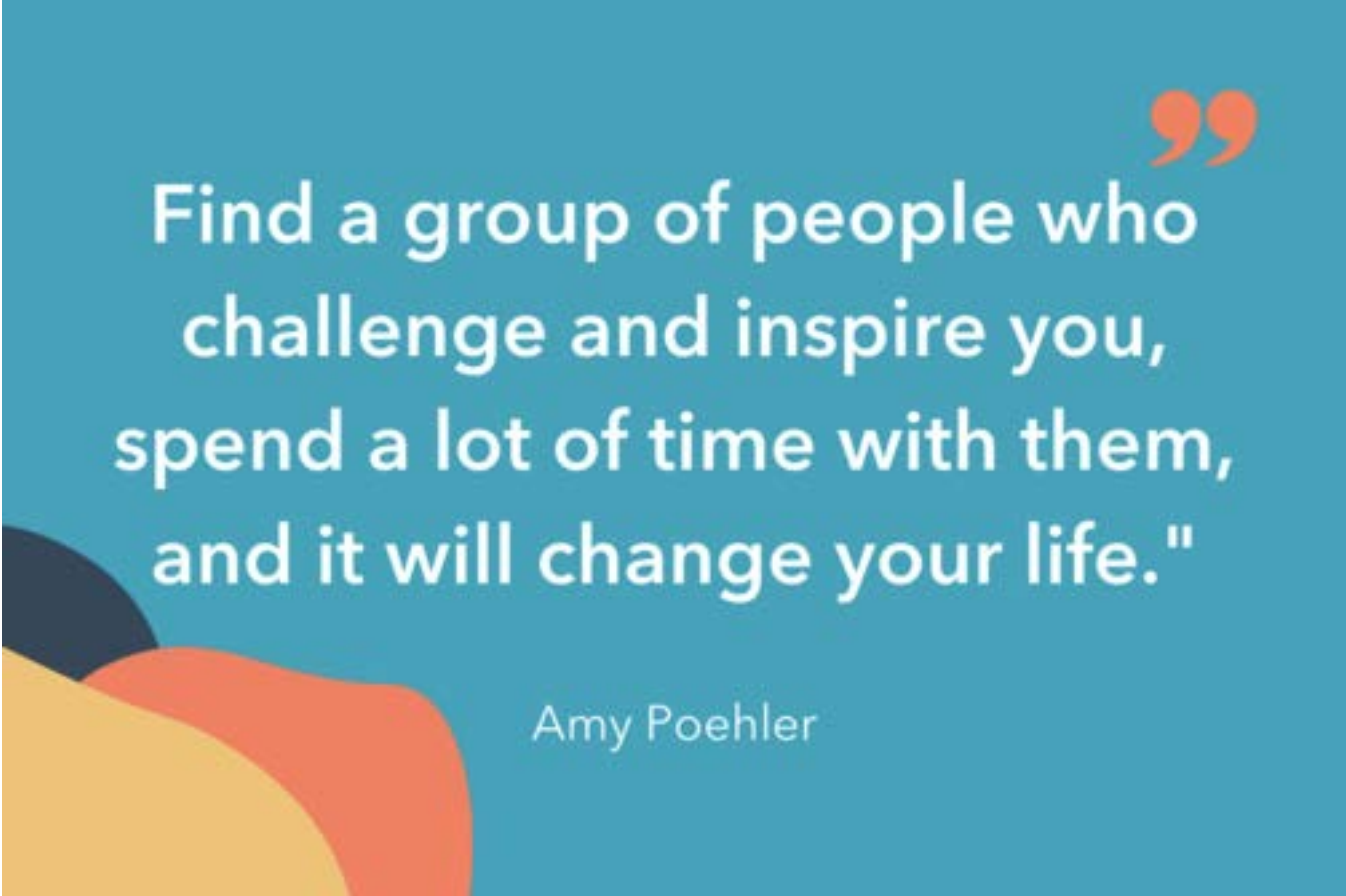
For over a decade, Melissa has been dedicated to her beloved job at Starbucks. Above all, her heart brims with adoration for Shiggity, her rescued canine companion who blissfully remains unaware of his canine status.

Kayla Victor – Board Chair is a curiosity enthusiast who has worked on an eclectic range of projects including; helping companies build and leverage business to business relationships and bridge community outreach efforts while having the most fun possible.

Kayla has been the event coordinator for the International Prisoners' Family Conference for the past 13 years. She is a solution-based problem solver who thinks strategically outside of the box and looks at businesses from a 360 degree viewpoint and strategizes to always put people first. Her diverse experience; includes working with a variety of companies, from small business to Fortune 500 including an eclectic range of projects in communication integration, advocacy, government affairs, marketing strategies, project management, business development, entertainment and food/hospitality management.

Kayla mentors many young adults, volunteers with a variety of organizations and is passionate about teaching kids they have boundless opportunities to build their skills and guiding them to see a more productive future.

For Kayla the journey of gratitude has been ongoing. As of the commencement of the 2023 conference, she will have embraced 912 days of gratitude. Alongside this, she finds immense joy in exploring the world through travel and capturing moments through her photography.

A quote by Amy Poehler is displayed on a blue background. The quote is in white text and is enclosed in large orange quotation marks. The quote reads: "Find a group of people who challenge and inspire you, spend a lot of time with them, and it will change your life." In the bottom right corner of the blue area, the name "Amy Poehler" is written in white. The bottom left corner of the blue area features decorative, overlapping shapes in dark blue, orange, and yellow.

Find a group of people who challenge and inspire you, spend a lot of time with them, and it will change your life."

Amy Poehler



To Our Presenters

A Special Thank You!!! Enormous gratitude is extended to our extraordinary presenters for sharing their wealth of knowledge and experience as well as their valuable time

Many are not aware that our presenters register for the conference far before the conference begins, and a portion of their registration fee is applied to prison family member scholarships.



JOIN WITH US

**Volunteers
needed**

**for 2024 Conference
Planning
Committee**

**If you are interested in helping us with planning. Please
contact us at info@prisonersfamilyconference.org**

Planning
Marketing
Fundraising

Conference Speakers Bio's

Jess Angel – Advocacy in Action Team Jess, is a dedicated powerhouse, who is driven by a deep passion to make a difference in the lives of others. To turn her empathy into action, Jess embarked on a journey of learning and self-improvement.

Recognizing the importance of support for those going through challenging times, Jess pursued and completed Peer Support training, empowering herself to be a guiding light for others in need. Additionally, she became a Certified Trauma Support Specialist, equipping herself with the expertise to assist individuals navigating trauma.

Christina Bellasalma, is the Special Programs Coordinator, Silent Victims of Crime was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. She first explored her interest in law and criminal justice while attending the University of California, Irvine where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Science with an emphasis in Public Law.

In 2017, she moved to Miami, FL to continue her education at the University of Miami. While working on her Masters degree in Criminology with a focus in Criminal Law, she began a six month internship with the Federal Bureau of Investigations while simultaneously working as a mentor and intake coordinator for a local nonprofit that provides wrap-around services for at-risk young men. It was only after these experiences that she decided to pursue her PhD in International Crime and Justice to investigate root causes of crime and begin empirical research on alternative methods of crime prevention.

She first came into contact with Silent Victims of Crime in 2022 when they were involved in her research study on community-based organizations that work in crime prevention, and she now works for the organization as a special programs coordinator. Currently a PhD candidate and adjunct professor at Florida International University, her dissertation topic is on children of incarcerated parents.

Christina has given presentations on her research and other criminal justice related issues at conferences around the country and has her research published in various criminology journals.

Dr. Carma Corcoran Dr. (Chippewa-Cree) directs the Indian Law Program at Lewis and Clark Law School. She is an Adjunct Professor in the Indigenous Nations Studies Program at Portland State University. Community:

Dr. Corcoran is very involved in the Native American issues. In addition, she presents across Indian Country on a variety of Social Issues that are important for Native American people. Scholar: Dr. Corcoran is a member of the 2019-2022 Class of the Whisenton Public Scholars. Fellowship:

Dr. Corcoran is one of the 2021-2022 Native Hope Fellows.

Author: Dr. Corcoran's book, "The Incarceration of Native American Women: Creating Pathways to Wellness and Recovery Through Gentle Action Theory" will be published by the University of Nebraska Press in June 2023.

Ann Edenville Sweet – has dedicated her career to driving positive change for families. In 1986, Ann's life took an unexpected turn when she received devastating news about her husband's arrest. Overnight, she found herself ostracized and isolated. The challenges she faced during this turbulent time led her to embark on a mission to support families impacted by incarceration. Ann's transformative journey culminated in the establishment of, a non-profit dedicated to equipping families with essential life skills, training, and education.

Join us for a candid discussion as Ann candidly shares the rewards and challenges, she's encountered over her remarkable 28-year journey. Discover how her experiences have shaped not only the organization but also the lives of countless families in need. Gain valuable insights into the crucial role non-profits play in supporting those left behind, and learn how you too can make a meaningful impact.

Don't miss this opportunity to glean wisdom from Ann's extensive experience and empower your own non-profit endeavors. This session promises to be an inspiring and enlightening exploration of what takes to create lasting change for families in need.

Captain Jeff Davis is a U.S. Army Veteran, serving in Desert Storm/Shield, and has 27 years of law enforcement experience. Captain Jeff Davis currently oversees the Special Operations Division, which encompasses the Drug Enforcement, Criminal Interdiction, K-9, Warrants, and Civil Units. Captain Davis is the Commander for Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) and the Crisis and Hostage Negotiation Team. Captain Davis is the NARCAN Program Coordinator and a member of the Denton County Felony Drug Court Team. Captain Davis was awarded the Denton Police Officer of the Year in 2001. He received the National VFW Narcotics Officer of the Year in 2003 and the FBI Golden Eagle Award in 2003.

Dr. Jacquelyn (Jackie) Frank is a professor of Human Services and Aging Studies at Eastern Illinois University. She earned a Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology from Northwestern University and a Master of Studies in Law (MSL) from the University of Illinois College of Law. Jacquelyn's research and collaborations focus on juveniles incarcerated as adults, individuals serving sentences longer than 20 years, and reentry after long term incarceration. She also delivers Chronic Disease Self-Management and Diabetes Self-Management workshops in prisons throughout the state of Illinois.

Amy Frost, MBA and MA Spiritual Psychology My passion is supporting people at work, career transitions and life with cutting edge and tried and true career development and self-resilience tools and techniques. My life motto: Do Good; Bring Friends! I love helping people learn the skills of creating and maintaining healthy friendships. I am an author, a facilitator, collaborator, and a professional agitator. I am a long time member of the Association of Comprehensive Energy Psychology and Humanitarian at

Work (Free Resources for Resilience: <https://r4r.energypsych.org>). I have used tapping and energy psychology techniques in all my training, coaching and presenting for twenty years. Why? Because they work!

Dr. Ronit Haimoff Ayali

- Clinical Criminologist, Couple and Family therapist .
- Head of the Department of Criminology and Law Enforcement, Beit Berl College.
- Head of the bachelor's degree program of Criminology in Community and Education, Beit Berl College.
- Lecturer and Researcher.
- Specializes in qualitative research, mainly in the field of Criminal and Prisoner populations and in the subject of Romantic and Marital Relationships in complex populations especially prisoners and normative spouse.
- Worked over 10 years as a therapist and rehabilitation of criminals, prisoners and addicts to psychoactive substances at the Israeli Prison Services.
- Serves as a Public Representative on Parole Boards.

Vicki Lynn Henry is with Missouri Alliance for Family Restoration. Over the years, she has pled her case to State and Federal Congressmen, spoken to large and small audiences, planned conferences, helped to find housing for those in need, conducted support groups, been interviewed by national media personnel and so much more. One of Vicki's passions is to educate registrant family members and supporters. This task, while slow and frustrating for some, can become an empowering and transforming effort. When successful, this effort can be satisfying and rewarding for the teacher and the student. In fact, Vicki takes every opportunity to educate on this topic; from lawmakers to prosecutors, to prison administrators to strangers in an elevator. Vicki is a true advocate who considers this work to be her calling. When she is not attached to her laptop or otherwise knee deep in her life's work, she likes gardening, making fudge, searching Pinterest for ideas, and spending time with her family.

Captain Kevin Hunt – Part of the Sheriff's Transition and Re-entry Team in Suffolk County New York.

Tavares James is the Founder of Lifeline Education Connection, an organization whose purpose is to educate individuals who have faced obstacles to achieve aspirations in the areas of sales strategies, personal finance & entrepreneurship. Lifeline Education Connection has provided financial and entrepreneurship strategies to many students who have taken what they have learned and applied it to make significant improvements to their lives.

Dr. Geoffrey Johnson is the Vice President and Executive Director of DC Project Connect (DCPC). He brings a wealth of knowledge about the criminal justice system to DCPC, as he has over 30 years of federal law enforcement and forensic audit experience. During his last tenure, Mr. Johnson served as the Assistant Inspector General for Investigations at the Peace Corps. Dr. Johnson is an author and researcher, providing critical insights regarding the impacts of incarceration on family systems. He is

the author and co-author of several topic specific books in this research domain. He is trained as a trauma support specialist, grief recovery specialist, and has been instrumental in directing DCPC programming for institutions such as the DC Department of Corrections and Anne Arundel County Jail. In his current role as Executive Director, he oversees the operations, provides strategy, and ensures fidelity for the service delivery and programming integrated in the day-to-day operation of DCPC, which has recently transitioned into a community-based organization. Dr. Johnson serves on the Board of Directors for Fairview Residential Reentry Center, in Washington, D.C.

Serena Martin-Liguori serves as executive director of New Hour for Women and Children—Long Island, a nonprofit dedicated to supporting women and children impacted by incarceration. New Hour provides direct-service programming across Long Island’s three jails and reentry support to women across the state returning to Long Island. New Hour empowers directly impacted women to engage in dismantling the carceral system. Prior to leading New Hour, she was the executive director of Herstory Writers Workshop, which is dedicated to bringing marginalized voices to the community. Serena served as associate director of policy at the Correctional Association of New York’s Women in Prison Project, where she spearheaded legislative initiatives and policy advocacy prison reform. She was a key organizer of the successful effort to pass the Adoption and Safe Families Act Expanded Discretion Law for incarcerated parents and the Anti-Shackling Law, which prohibits the shackling of incarcerated parents during labor. Serena is a survivor of isolated confinement, received her associate’s degree in the College Bound Program at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility and her bachelor’s degree from Adelphi University. Serena co-founded the Justice for Women COVID-19 Task Force along with WCJA, serves on the Suffolk County Police Reform and Reinvention Task Force and co-chairs the NYS Governor Hochul’s NYS Domestic Violence Long Island Regional Council. She is a recipient of the 2023 Press 100 List, 2023 Organization of the Year Award from Sepa Mujer, 2023 NAACP Islip Town Legacy Award, 2023 Activist of the Year Award, Brookhaven and Islip Democratic Women’s Caucuses, 2022 Houses on the Moon Leyton Award and the 2018 Citizens Against Recidivism award. In her free time, she enjoys preparing her family’s favorite Puerto Rican meals with her son.

Leticia Longoria-Navarro is the Executive Director of The Pathfinder Network, an Oregon-based nonprofit that provides justice system-impacted individuals and families the tools and support they need to be safe and thrive in our communities. She partners with team members to provide leadership, vision, community, and support to the organization to ensure the greatest impact with the communities they serve. Leticia has worked in schools, prisons, community corrections and in community-based service settings leading and implementing change and innovation. She is a skilled leader, practitioner, developer, trainer and evaluator of evidence-based programs and practices. Having been personally impacted by parental and family incarceration, Leticia is an expert on the profound impact of incarceration on the whole family. She is known for her enthusiastic and engaging leadership style and vision for lifelong learning and guiding individuals, organizations, and systems through change.

Prof. Nancy Loucks OBE is the Chief Executive of Families Outside, a Scottish voluntary organization that works on behalf of families affected by imprisonment. Prior to this, she worked as an Independent Criminologist, receiving her MPhil and PhD from the Institute of Criminology at the University of Cambridge, and in 2012 was appointed as Visiting Professor at the University of Strathclyde’s Centre

for Law, Crime and Justice. Nancy was awarded an OBE in the Queen's 2016 New Year's Honors List for services to Education and Human Rights. She co-chaired the Justice & Care Workstream for the Independent Care Review and the Independent Review of the Response to Deaths in Prison in Scotland; chairs the Board of the International Coalition for Children of Incarcerated Parents (INCCIP); is a Board member of Children of Prisoners Europe (COPE; Secretary General from 2015-21); and is a member of the Global Prisoners' Families Research Group at the Centre for Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Oxford.

John K. McLaughlin – Author, John McLaughlin spent half his life bootstrapping his start-up business to an industry leader. His desire to teach what he spent his career learning led him on a remarkable journey through the gates of a minimum-security prison where he taught entrepreneurship for almost three years. John has an MBA, a teaching certificate, and a marketing management certificate from Harvard Extension University. John enjoys riding a tandem bicycle with his wonderful wife, Reba on the greenways of Charlotte, North Carolina where they live with two extremely spoiled cats, Moe and Joe. You can learn more about John's current teaching program at: <https://www.lifelinetoasoul.com>

Kristin Miller, Ph.D. - Psychologist, DCEP, Matrix Reimprinting, TFT and TTT Humanitarian Trainer specializes in treating developmental intergenerational trauma. Kristin adapted many of Eden Energy Medicine skills to build Resources for Resilience and Emotional First Aid materials and trainings through ACEP Humanitarian Committee and facilitates community trauma management programs along with leading psychospiritual support groups for humanitarian outreach. Awarded 2019 ACEP Humanitarian of the Year.

Dr Briega Nugent is an independent research consultant and Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Salford. Over the past 18 years she has worked for the government, private, academic and third sector. Briega's research interests are in poverty, social exclusion and criminal justice. Recently completed projects include a study into the costs of prison and supporting someone on release for families; an evaluation of the overdose response teams as a test of change in three different areas in Scotland; working alongside Media Education and people with lived experience in prison, she helped to develop resources promoting positive mental health and preventing suicide. She conducted a ten-year longitudinal evaluation of the 'Moving On Project' from 2009-2019, set up to support young men leaving custody (Action for Children). She evaluated the Scottish Prison Service's Suicide Prevention Strategy 'Talk To Me' in 2017/18.

Briega is currently evaluating the Scottish Prison Service's Control and Restraint training. She is also working with Media Education to develop resources with people in prison to promote positive sexual health and engage in support for blood borne viruses. She is an associate of the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research.

Allegra Pocinki - Allegra received her B.A. from Swarthmore College in 2014, where she majored in History and Political Science. Following graduation, she worked as the senior center coordinator for the Center on Children and Families at the Brookings Institution, a public policy think tank in Washington, DC. Allegra is interested in racial disparities in the criminal justice system, more specifically the impacts

of incarceration for those "doing time on the outside." Her work seeks to examine how women form social networks - both online and in person - to mitigate the effects of the incarceration of their loved ones.

Jim Prager is a prison survivor who was released in 2000. Since 2005 Jim has been an advocate for humane treatment of offenders, reentry programs which bring communities together, and a less harsh view of prisons and the individuals who live there.

Jim has been active in the International Prisoner Family Conference for many years, is a member of the Board, and a participant in Advocacy in Action. Jim is the author the book Mind of a Molester written under the name of Kenneth Quinn. He earned a social work license in 2011.

Shante Richardson - Shante Richardson is the esteemed founder of the Prison Wives Society, a community providing vital support, empowerment, and resources to women navigating the complexities of being partners to incarcerated individuals. With a deep understanding of their unique struggles, Shante has created a safe, inclusive space for these women to connect, share, and uplift each other, fostering personal growth and resilience.

Through various initiatives, including a partnership with the National Paralegal Center for low-cost legal services, Shante has demonstrated unwavering advocacy for prisoner family support. Her book, "Surviving the Sentence: A Guide for Prison Wives," offers practical advice, emotional support, and strategies for navigating these challenges. Additionally, the Prison Wives Journal, a transformative tool she created, encourages self-reflection, growth, and maintaining healthy connections with incarcerated loved ones.

Shante Richardson's empowering talks highlight the pivotal role prison wives play in breaking cycles of incarceration and forging brighter futures. With her compassionate approach, Shante continues to inspire and guide prison wives towards personal growth, resilience, and positive change, leaving a lasting impact on their lives and the lives of their incarcerated partners.

<https://thepriisonwivessociety.org>

Dr. Judith R. Smith is a clinical social worker, psychotherapist, professor, and author of Difficult: Mothering Challenging Adult Children through Conflict and Change, Rowman & Littlefield, 2022. She lives in NYC. She offers on-line support groups to older mothers with adult children who have serious mental illness, substance use disorder, and/or involvement with the criminal justice system.

Kimberly Thornton is a highly educated individual who holds an Ed.D. in Adult Learning and Higher Education, an M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education, and a B.S. in Elementary Education. She has a great sense of humor which she uses to effectively convey important messages about child development and early childhood education, making the learning experience enjoyable. In 2019, Kimberly was named the Sam G. Winstead Volunteer of The Year by the YMCA OF Metropolitan Dallas - Park South YMCA, thanks to her relentless passion for sharing her knowledge to advance the education and care of children and families.

Kimberly has a wealth of professional experience, including serving as a faculty member in the School of Education at Dallas College, owning and operating her own childcare center, teaching Prek 3 - 2nd grade students both locally and internationally, consulting, and providing professional development training on high-quality instructional early childhood materials to educators, parents, and administrators. She has also worked on the creative team to develop episodes and learning materials for the Barney & Friends television show.

Kimberly's no-nonsense approach and extensive knowledge of young children's education and care are contagious, making her an exceptional educator and advocate for children and families.

Victor Trillo Jr. is the PATHfinder Club Program Coordinator at The Pathfinder Network. Weekly Victors leads a group of 30 youth at the PATHfinder Club, Paving a Trail of Hope, from hurt and harm to hope and healing. He is a community leader, committed to supporting and uplifting youth and families impacted by incarceration. As a person with lived experience as a child of an incarcerated parent and an incarcerated parent, he is driven to build a community of support and opportunity for those he works with and his community. Victor is a passionate, inspirational, and dedicated advocate who is expert in mobilizing community.

Tiffany Walker is a business owner and advocate for prison reform in Michigan. Her passion for prison reform was born out of her own personal experience. Her brother was incarcerated for over 17 years, and she saw firsthand the devastating consequences of isolation and incarceration. Through her work with Citizens for Prison Reform, she aspires to engage, educate and empower families to become powerful advocates and agents of change.

Trunella (Trudy) Williams, here after identified as (Trudy) is currently the Director of Utilization Management with Team Wellness Center. Team Wellness Center is an Integrated Behavioral & Physical Health Community Organization, located in the Detroit Metropolitan Area. Team Wellness has 5 Behavioral Health Clinics that provide services to adults and children. Many of the persons served are either individuals returning home from incarceration or children of individuals currently or previously incarcerated. Team Wellness offers a full array of Behavioral Health, Primary Care, Dental, Vision, Podiatry, Mobile Dentistry services and much more. Trudy previously was the Director of Programming for Team Wellness, where she was instrumental in developing Programs while at Team Wellness: these Programs include Permanent Supportive Housing; Individualized Placement and Supports Supportive Employment Program as well as numerous Vocational Trainings. Trudy has assisted in Team Wellness community partnerships including Michigan Rehabilitation Services, Michigan Department of Corrections Parole and Probation, Detroit Police Department, WIC and Friend of the Courts Mobil Clinic.

Trudy's professional roles includes being a trainer for the National Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Permanent Supportive Housing Program as well as currently she is a Fidelity Reviewer for the State of Michigan regarding the Individual Placement and Supports Program Evidenced Based Model. Trudy holds a Master of Arts degree in Organizational

Management with a focus in Mental Health.

Trudy is currently a board member with Citizens for Prison Reform, a grassroots organization that focuses of advocacy of families who has an incarcerated loved one(s), Chair of the Outreach Committee with Citizens for Prison Reform as well former Chair of the Family Advisory Board (FAB) to the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC), Trudy was recently appointed as a member of the permanent Family Advisory Board (FAB) to the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC).

Scott Wisenbaker is a Speaker, Author, and Founding Executive Director of Solutions of North Texas. (SONTX) Clean and sober since 1995, Scott has worked in the addiction field since 1997. In 2006 he saw the need for a unique approach to fighting addiction on a community level and a robust Re-Entry program to reintegrate men and women recovering from addiction back into the community and founded Solutions of North Texas. SONTX is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), licensed as a Chemical Dependency Treatment Center by the State of Texas, and Partnered with The National Sheriff's Association to provide nationwide addiction and reintegration programming. As of 2023 SONTX has provided direction and/or directly worked with over 20,000 individuals. www.sontx.org/justice

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