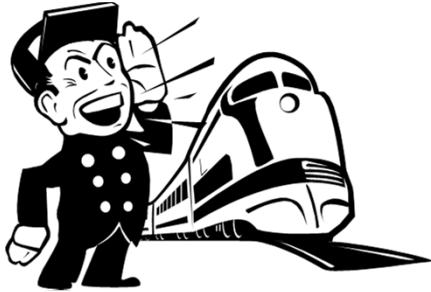


Mind the Gap



Mind the Gap Panel Members

- **Cindy Steinberg**, SHLIF Coordinator DHS-CSED
- **Lori Lofrano**, Department of Corrections
- **Melissa Froehle**, Minnesota Fathers and Families Network
- **Mary Belfield**, Ramsey County Child Support
- **David Mirambeaux**, Case Manager - Goodwill Easter Seals

What is Mind the Gap Effort?

- Prisoner Reentry Initiative
- Three year grant project (9/1/09 - 8/31/12)
- Funded in part by Federal 1115 Grant
- Partnership between CSED, DOC, G/ES, MFFN, AAFS, Hennepin and Ramsey Counties

Goals

- ☐ Build collaborative partnerships
- ☐ Improve information sharing
- ☐ Train and educate professionals who serve offenders;
- ☐ Provide specialized child support case management services to offenders

Expected Outcomes

- ☐ Best practices
- ☐ Improved paternity testing procedures for inmates
- ☐ Improved interface between PRISM and DOC computer systems
- ☐ Production of case summary data sheet

Department of Corrections Role

- ☐ Participant identification and tracking
- ☐ Streamline genetic testing of inmates
- ☐ Increase frequency of data exchange
- ☐ Expand data provided in interface
- ☐ Develop case summary document

MFFN Role
Minnesota Fathers and Families Network

- ☐ Coordinate Steering Committee
- ☐ Facilitate Kick-off and training events
- ☐ Conduct program evaluation

Evaluation

- ☐ Process Evaluation
- ☐ Outcome Evaluation
- ☐ Outcome evaluation will be based on:
 - Pre and post comparison among individual participants
 - Comparison to fathers who were eligible but did not enroll in Mind the Gap
 - Fathers in MCORP control group

Evaluation Indicators

- ☐ Key indicators for outcome evaluation:
 - ☐ Child support
 - ☐ Fathering
 - ☐ Recidivism

So what do we know so far?

- ▣ Eligibility
- ▣ Enrollments
- ▣ Case Characteristics

Role of the Child Support Officer

- ▣ Communicate regularly with case manager
- ▣ Review for application of SHLIF strategies
- ▣ Get the order right and keep it right
- ▣ Maintain coding for evaluation requirements

What works with this population?

- ▣ Work to build trust
- ▣ Acknowledge their rights as fathers
- ▣ Offer referrals for collateral services
- ▣ Reinforce good behavior
- ▣ Demonstrate that you want obligor to succeed



Goodwill Easter Seals role

David Mirambeaux- Case Manager

- Dad
- Ex-offender
- Domestic Abuse Therapist
- Group Facilitator
- In recovery from alcohol, drugs, and crime for the past 7+ years.
- Published author- Count time, an offenders guide to success.

Case Management

☐ Intensive 1 on 1 services that include:

- Development and Monitoring
- Monthly Fatherhood Plans which motivates goal setting
- Connection to Child Support
- Mentoring

Employment services

- Weekly Job Clubs
- E.R.T.- Employment Readiness Training

Parenting Classes

12 week curriculum that includes:

- Child Development
- Child Guidance
- Family Management
- Personal Development
- Health and Safety
- Co-Parenting

Goodwill/Easter Seals Resources

- Basic Computer Trainings
- Construction, retail, and automotive skills training
- Employment Counseling
- Housing search assistance
- Referral to "Bridging"

Other services offered

- Transportation assistance
- Clothing support
- Professional clothing support
- Mental Health Services Therapy
- Substance abuse support through referrals
- Legal services for those who qualify through Central Minnesota Legal Services

Barriers

- Previous lifestyle
- Stigma that they cannot be trusted
- Addiction
- Resentment of the Judicial System.
- Shame
- Belief that their children are better off without them.
- Belief that they will never, no matter what they do, get the opportunity to be part of their children's life.

Successes

- One client called me to ask for my help because he was falling back into his old ways. I placed him in housing and work within two weeks after the phone call.
- Two-thirds of the clients are keeping regular contact with their child. The other ones that cannot have contact are working towards making initial contact.
- Through regular contact, the clients are keeping a positive mind frame thus enabling them to avoid returning to prison.

Mind the Gap

Will make a difference because we believe that anyone with the right support and guidance can make a positive change in their life.

This positive change helps the family and our society as a whole. The positive change I talk about has happened to me and I believe that with Mind the Gap, it can happen for many.

FATHER PROJECT

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MINNESOTA

Questions?



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Thanks for your interest
in Mind the Gap!
