

A NEW JUSTICE PARADIGM: TAPPING SOCIAL NETWORKS



Families Outside Friday, May 21, 2010

FAMILIES ARE PART OF THE SOLUTION



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A Family-Focused Perspective

1. Poor families involved in the justice system are often also involved in multiple governmental systems
2. Both families and workforces are experts in solving problems related to cyclical incarceration and crime
3. Application of the family-focused approach requires innovative methods for collecting data and measuring outcomes at the family level





Bringing a Family Focus to Corrections Practices: What the Research Says





Family and successful reentry

Relationship between family, community ties, and successful reentry increasingly recognized. (Home Office, 2006)





Maintaining family ties

Incarcerated men who maintain “strong family ties” while in jail or prison demonstrate higher levels of post-release success. (Hairston, 2002)





Visitation and housing, employment outcomes

Prisoners who received at least one visit during their incarceration were three times more likely to have accommodation upon release, and more than twice as likely to have employment, training, or educational placement arranged. (Niven and Stewart. 2005)





Family and recidivism

- People interviewed four to eight months after release cited family as the most important factor in helping them stay out of prison.
- 92 percent reported getting financial support from someone in their family and 88 percent were living with family. (LaVigne et al., 2004)





Family and recovery

Family relationships have a significant influence in preventing relapse among parolees dealing with addiction. (Slaght, 1999)

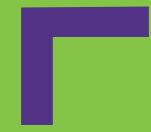




Family and employment

Studies have found that “intimate partner and family relationships [are] significantly related to the intermediate reentry outcomes of employment and staying off drugs.” (Visher et al., 2004)

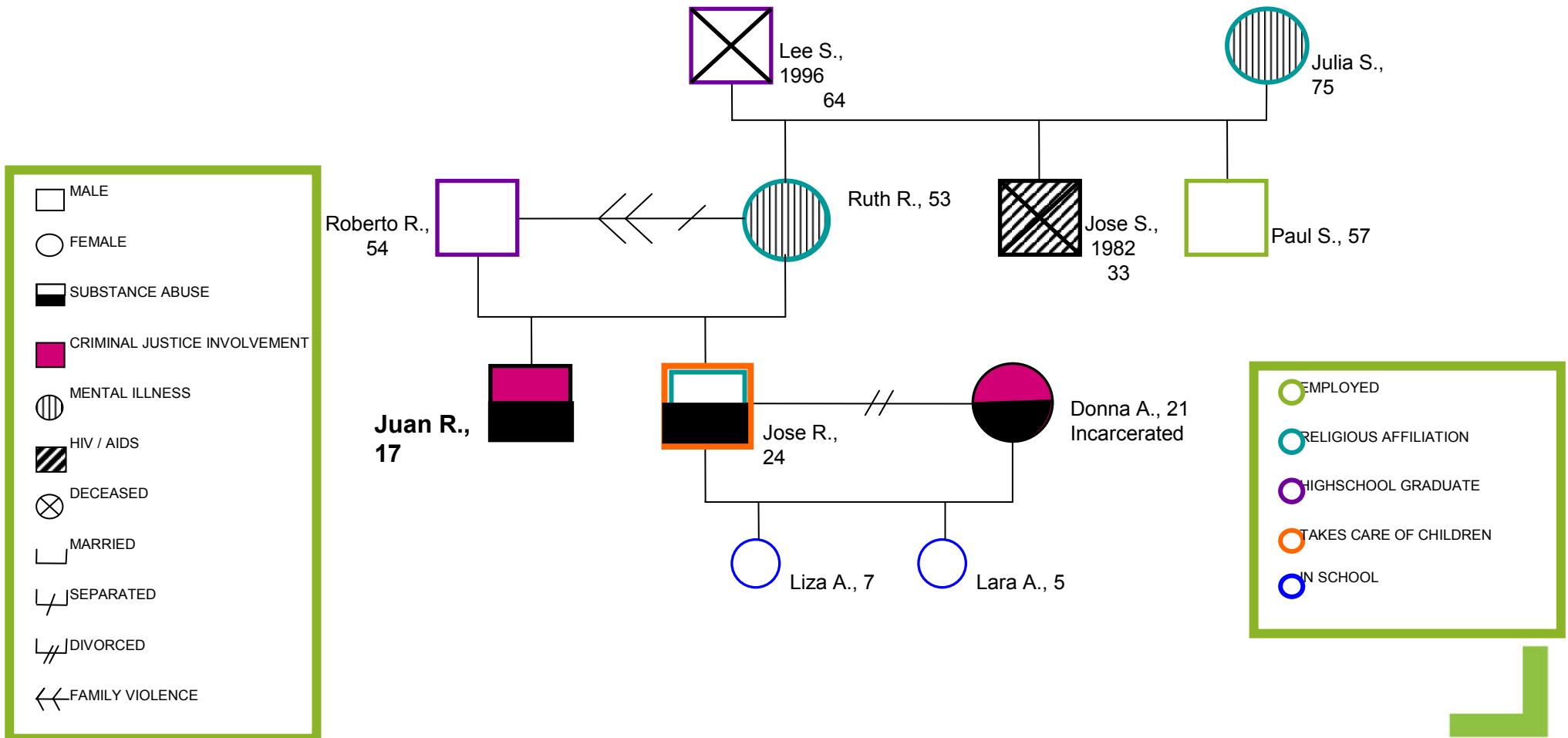




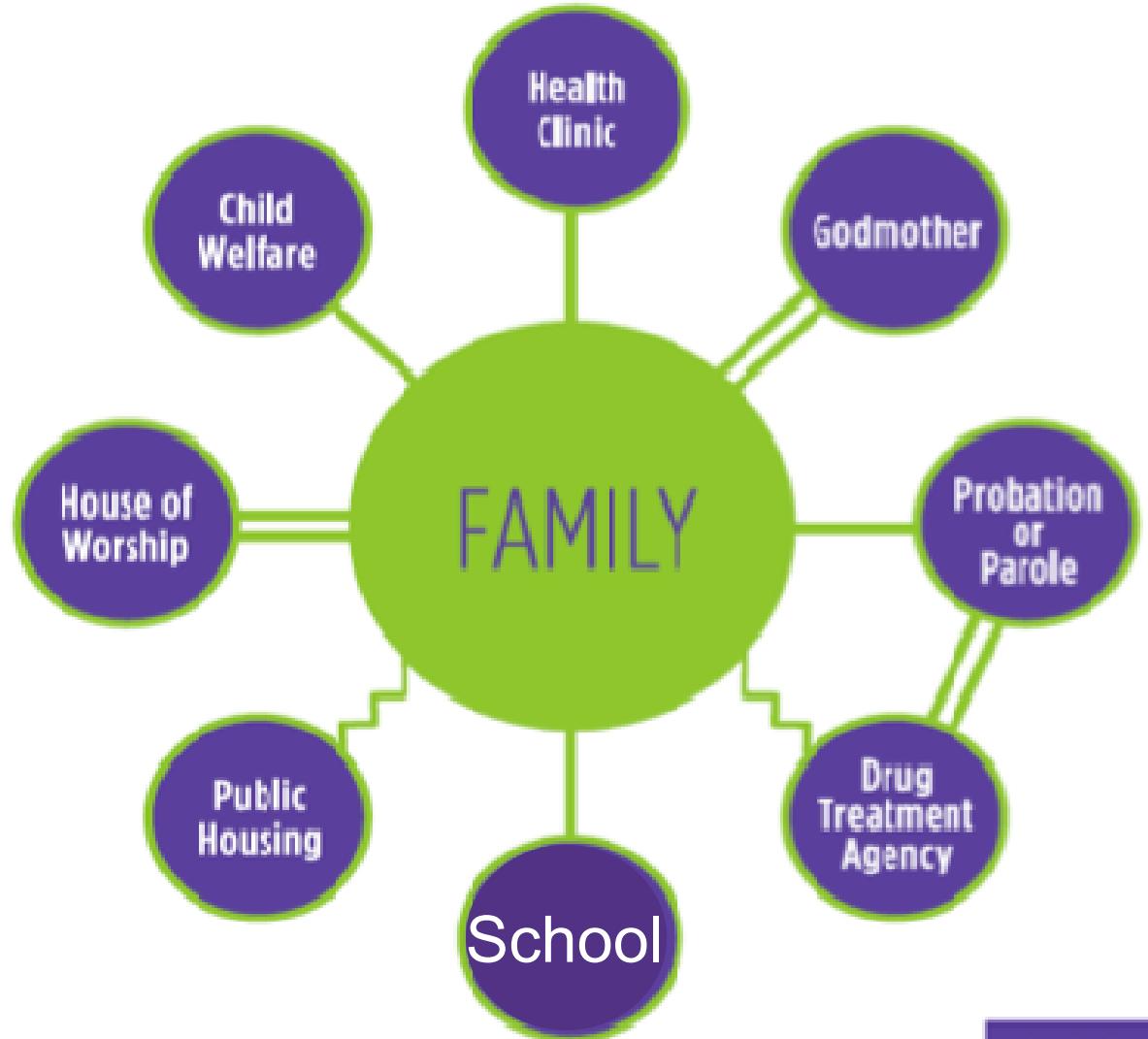
The Family Justice Approach



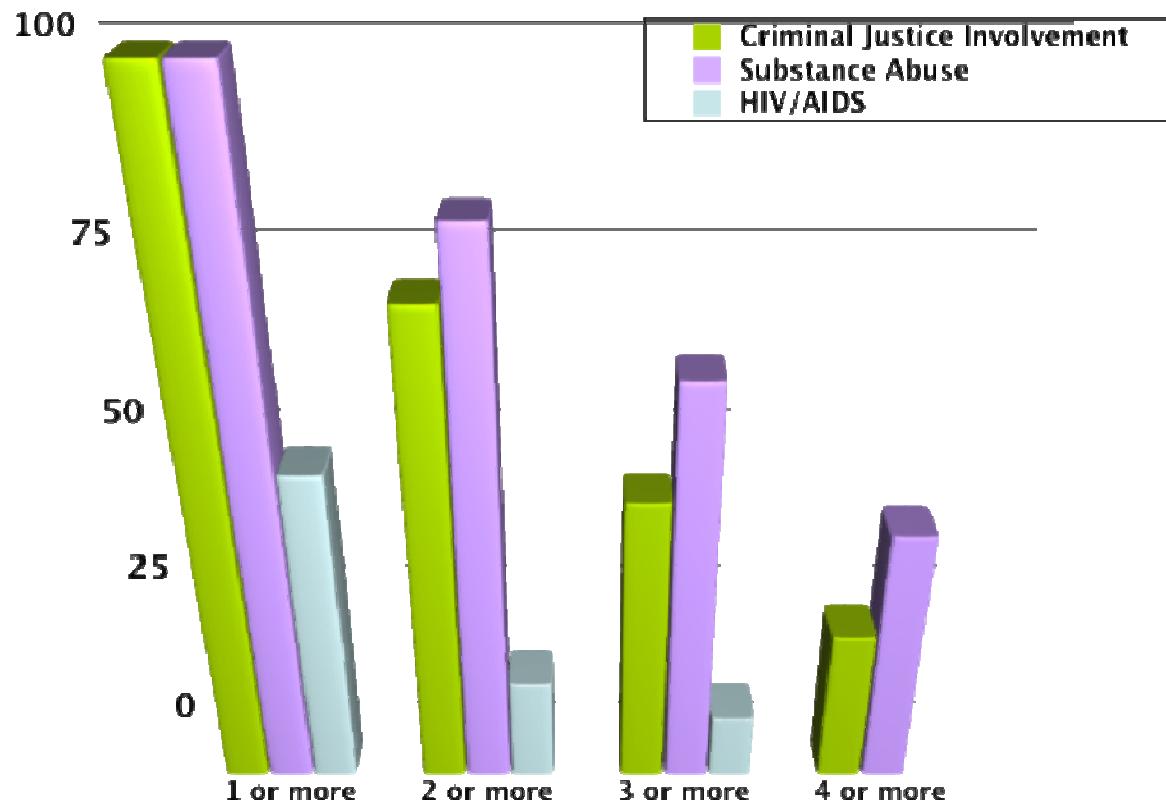
Strength-Based Genogram



Ecomap

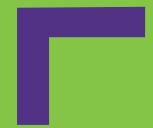


Ethnographic Study



- **72%** of the families had two or more family members with a history of **criminal justice involvement**.
- **82%** of the families had two or more family members with a history of **substance abuse**.
- **49%** of the families had at least one family member with **HIV/AIDS**.

(Barreras et al., 2005)



Things to Consider



Institutional Ecomap





How we measure outcomes

- Change modes of data collection from individual to family
 - Family Case Management Data System
- Provide incentives to corrections professionals to improve outcomes for families, not just individuals





Strength-based Practices

- Strengths-based practices are proven to increase client well-being (Kisthardt, 2006)
- Juveniles who work with probation officers using a strengths-based approach are 81% less likely to be re-arrested (Kurtz and Linnemann, 2006)
- Positive psychology: Positive emotions “broaden our intellectual, social, emotional and physical resources” (Skinner, 2008)

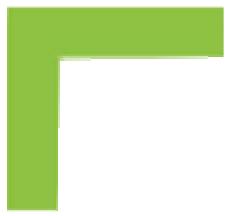




Funding Streams

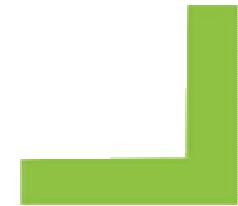
- Families in the U.S. are given large amounts of resources at high cost, yet agencies look at them with a limited focus
- Innovation is critical in finding creative ways for cross-agency cooperation in the search for funding





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In the World

Ghandi



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