

Home Visiting for Justice System Involved Parents

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Session overview



- Policy and practice context
- Tailoring home visiting programs to meet the needs of system involved young parents
 - Florida: Young Parents Project
 - Massachusetts: Healthy Families Massachusetts
 - Nevada: Early Head Start
- Discussion

Fast Facts

○ Adults in the system

- 7.3 million under correctional control –1 in 31 adults (Pew, 2009)
- 2.2 million in state or federal prison (BJS, DOJ, 2018)
- 105 thousand women in state or federal prison (BJS, DOJ, 2018)
- Around 4% women pregnant at admission to state or federal prison (BJS, DOJ, 2006)

○ Children affected

- 2.7 million kids have an incarcerated parent –1 in 28 children (Pew, 2010)
 - 1 in 57 White children
 - 1 in 28 Latino children
 - 1 in 9 Black children
- Approximately 1.3 million of those children are under 10 years old



Justice system ill-equipped to serve pregnant and parenting individuals

- Few protections and services for pregnant and parenting women
 - Focus limited to health and safety
 - Almost no programs aimed at improving parenting and child well-being
- Progress in recent years at state and county levels. Piloting approaches that are developmentally-informed, trauma-informed, gender-responsive, and community-based. Goals include:
 - Promoting healthy relationships, self-sufficiency, and well-being;
 - Increasing access to formal and informal social supports;
 - Keeping children and parents together; and
 - Reducing delinquency, family violence, and crime.



Potential interface with home visiting

- Home visiting is well-suited to provide support to system-involved parents, with its tailored one-on-one approach and flexible service delivery structure.
- Few—but favorable—evaluations.
- Collaborative relationships between home visiting programs and justice systems can be built on common goals. There are some challenges to address.

Juvenile Justice System and Decision Makers: Flow Chart

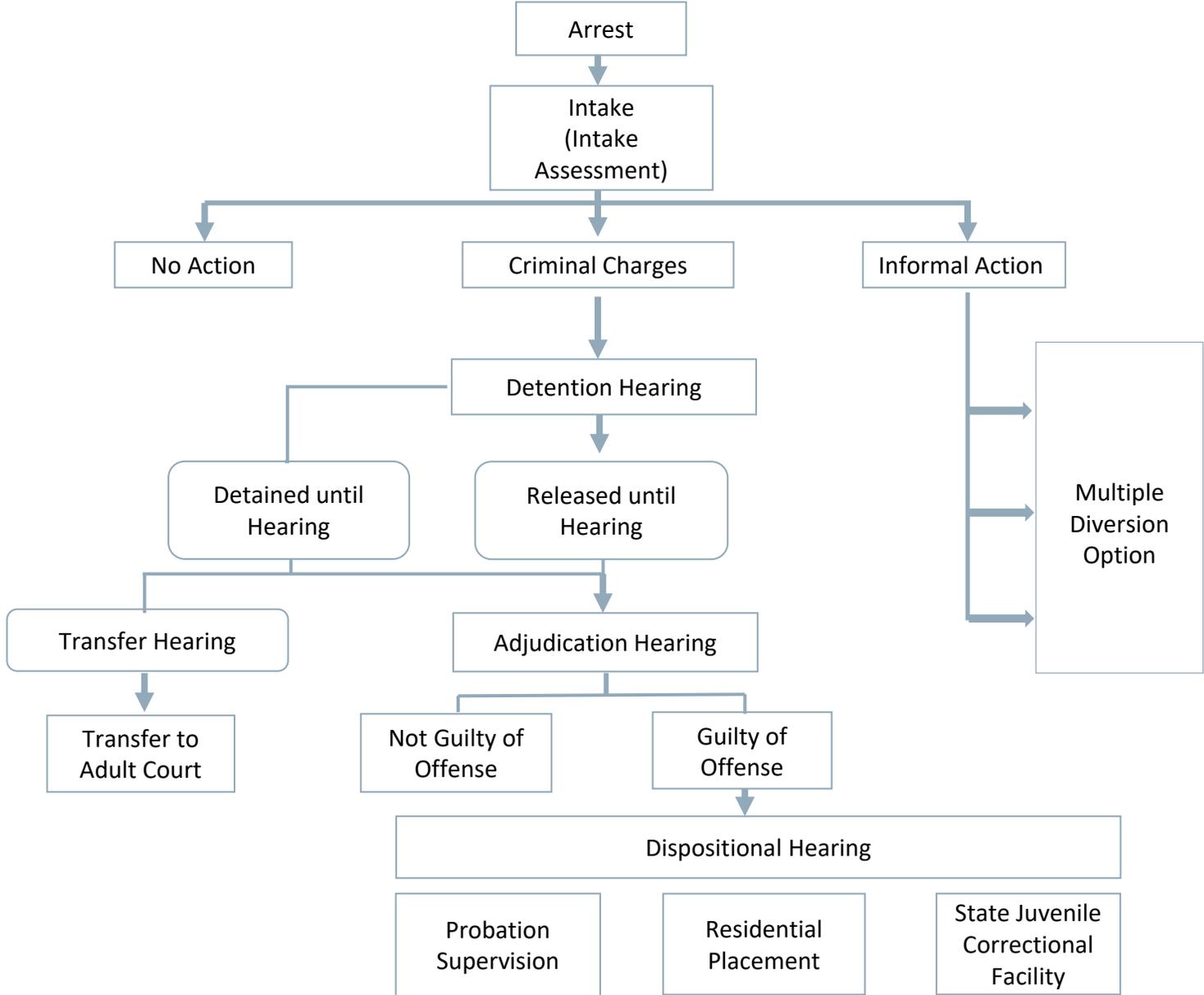
Feeder Systems:

Child Welfare

Education

Health

Housing



Decision Makers:

**Child Welfare Agency
Schools
Health Care Providers**

Law Enforcement

**Probation
Courts (Judge, DA, Defense Attorney)**

**Detention Administrators
(state, county)**

**State Juvenile Justice Agency
(dispositions including out of home placement)**



Florida State University's Young Parents Project



A partnership with the
Florida Department of
Juvenile Justice



Florida State University Young Parents Project

Based on a reflective practice model from
Yale University - *Minding the Baby*[®] - An
Evidence Based Model

- Arietta Slade, Ph.D
- Lois Sadler, PhD, APRN-BC, PNP



FSU Young Parents Program

Selection of treatment model:

- Focus on mother-child relationship
- Based on theories of attachment
- Includes physical and mental health
- Population: Young families in urban, low-income environments
- Service provided through home visiting, with extensive outreach for court-involved youth



The image on the left side of the slide is a vertical banner. At the top, it shows a close-up of a woman with dark hair and skin, wearing a white shirt, holding a baby. Below the photo is the circular seal of Florida State University, which features three torches and the year 1851. The text 'FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY' is written around the top of the seal, and '1851' is at the bottom.

Minding the Baby[®]

Employs primarily Master's Level Professionals for high need families to include weekly home visits

- Infant Mental Health Specialist
- Nurse Practitioner or Registered Nurse

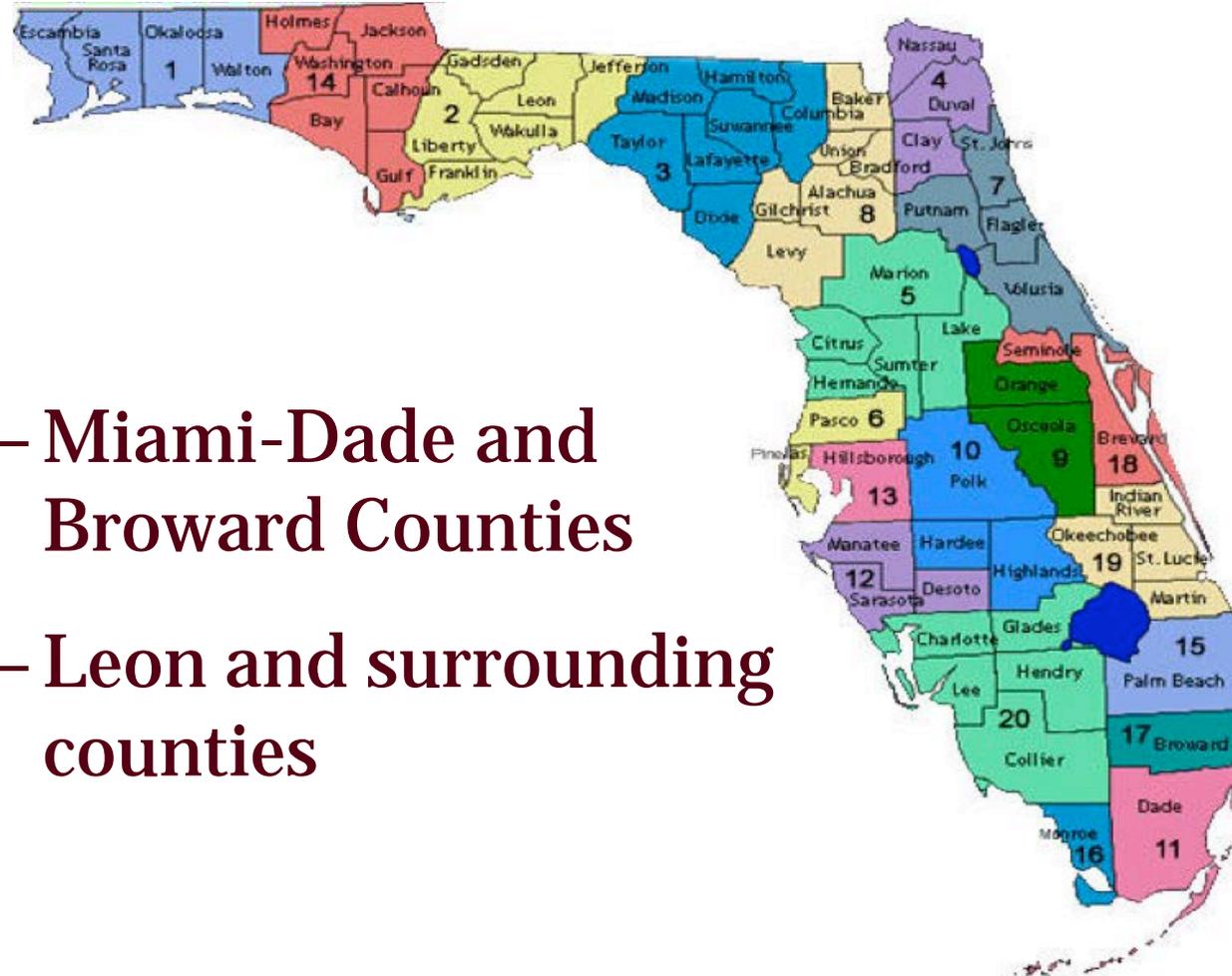
In the Florida project, a Social Worker has been added to the team to work with the court and support concrete needs.

**“Being held in the mind of
another”**

Jeree Pawl



Our Work With Court-Involved Teen Parents and their Children – in 7 Florida Counties



- Miami-Dade and Broward Counties
- Leon and surrounding counties

Transitions

Challenges & Opportunities



Resistance

Engagement

Disconnected

Social
Supports/
community
resources

Identity as a
Teenager

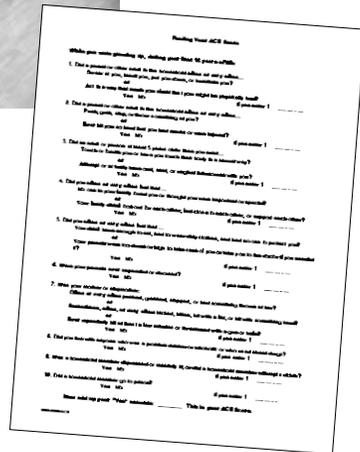
Identity as a
Young Parent

The ACE Study

The Life Long Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences



Of 17,000 respondents, two-thirds had at least one ACE.



- Physical, emotional, or sexual abuse
- Emotional or physical neglect
- Household mental illness, alcoholism or substance abuse
- Family violence
- Incarcerated family member
- Parental separation or divorce

ACEs Connection to Teen Pregnancy

- The relationship between ACEs and adolescent pregnancy is strong. As the ACE score increased, the likelihood of a teen pregnancy increased.

– Pediatrics, Feb. 2004



ACEs Connection to Sexual Trafficking

- Youth charged with trafficking have the highest rates of adverse experiences. Flaherty et al., 2013
- This finding has important implication for services provided to maltreated youth and juvenile offenders. Narramore et al., 2015



Sexual Trafficking

- Florida, particularly South Florida, serves as a major hub for sex trafficking
- High incidence among court-involved youth
- Unique service needs for young women who are pregnant or parenting



Levels of Involvement

Unresolved childhood sexual abuse Parent did not acknowledge abuse or seek trauma treatment

Parents used children for their own gain, ages 10 – 12 To support needs for drugs/alcohol/resources

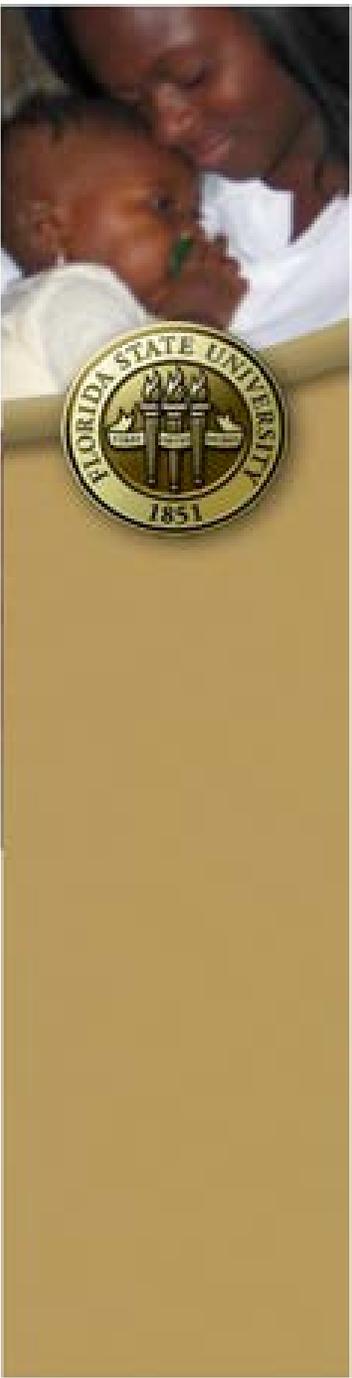
Teen moves into "The Life", ages 13 – 15 Unsupported, moves onto the streets into the world of trafficking

Teen enters the court system, age 15 Law violation or dependency needs. Court learns teen is pregnant or parenting



Prevalence of the Issue

Court-involved young parents are dealing with the long-term impact of sexual abuse and trauma while simultaneously learning to parent a young child.





In delinquency court,
the focus is primarily
on the **teen**.

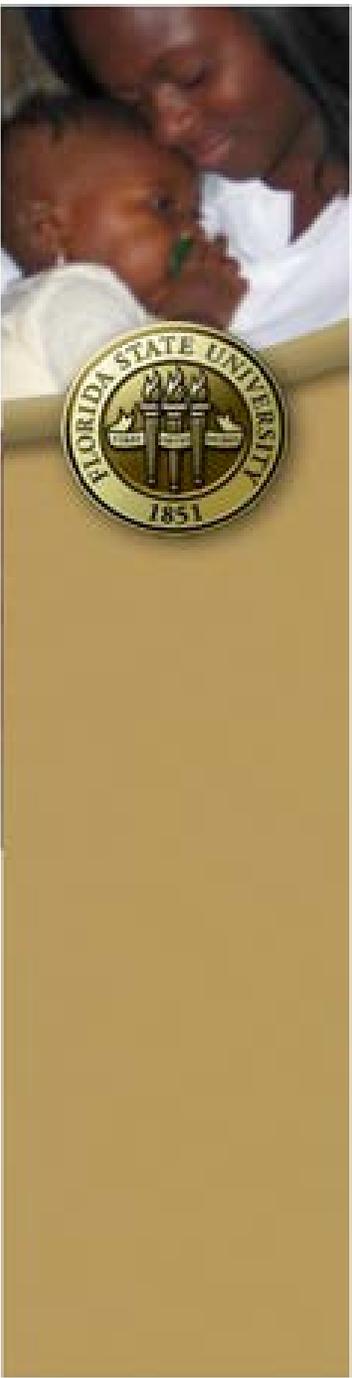
In dependency court,
the focus is primarily on
the **young child**.



Complexity of This Work

Simultaneous attention to:

- Working with justice involved youth
- The requirements of contracting agencies
- Court orders
- The teen as a youth in care
- The teen as a parent
- The needs of the baby
- The developing parent/child relationship



Serving court-involved young families

- Address previous trauma over time
- Critical role of multi-disciplinary teaming
- Importance of outreach - again, and again, and again
- Address concrete needs
- Respect their role as young parents
- Advocacy with the courts and other community partners – new focus on young families



Where are we headed next?

- Understanding more about engaging fathers
- Training Juvenile Probation Officers
- Analyzing available data
- Increase understanding of how to build parenting capacity among trafficked youth



Both teens and babies need...

- Dependability & availability
- Predictability & consistency
- Repeated experiences that leave them feeling worthy, loveable, capable, & competent



Thanks to Our Partners!



2nd Judicial Circuit
for Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon,
Liberty, and Wakulla Counties



Healthy Families MA

- Healthy Families MA (HFM) provides voluntary, universal, strengths-based, family centered, intensive home visiting services for all first time parents, age 20 and under, across Massachusetts.
- Participants can enroll during pregnancy, or up to the child's first birthday and receive services until their child turns three.
- HFM is offered statewide, in every community

Healthy Families MA

- We have the capacity to serve 2,900 families each year
- In FY18 HFM served 2,667 families
- Approximately half were newly enrolled
- Our network consists of: 145 home visitors, 24 supervisors, and 22 coordinators
- All staff utilize our web based Participant Data System (PDS)
- Between March 2017-September 2018 HFM served about 300 court involved young parents

Home Visiting – Justice System Collaborations Study

- Goal: to identify promising practices from YPP and HFM that can be applied broadly to home visiting programs that are interested in adapting services for this population.

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Method and Sample

- We conducted thematic analysis on 13 qualitative interviews with:
 - 4 home visitors from HFM
 - 4 home visitors from YPP
 - 2 probation representatives from Florida's DJJ
 - 3 young system-involved parents who participated in HFM

Research findings overview

- Special considerations for working with this population
- Obstacles to home visiting – justice system collaborations
- Promising practices from YPP and HFM
- Recommendations



Special considerations for working with system-involved parents in home visiting programs

Just for the sake of knowing, my participant is involved, they're committed, they're out in the community but they have these stipulations. They're on probation. Oh they got arrested. What's gonna happen now? Just so that as a home visitor I know, "I'm not gonna be able to see them until this point in time." It would give me a better understanding of not receiving a call back from the parent, not being able to reach the parent. Also so that I know what it means to be in pretrial, or trial. Or they got a revocation. We don't know what the heck that means. What is that doing for my service level? Can I put him on reengagement? Can she get bail? Wait, she was locked up, how did she get a revocation when she was locked up?

-HFM Home Visitor

- Being system-involved creates inconsistency and unpredictability in parents' lives.
- Providing support for participants' system involvement is demanding on home visitors' time, and may require increased flexibility.



Obstacles to home visiting – justice system
collaborations

What I've run into a lot is that the justice system doesn't understand a home visiting parenting program. They think that we're therapeutic, they think that we're another clinician, and I've had to repeatedly try to explain to different facilities or different people, that's not who I am. This is my role, this is what I do, this is what I'm here for. So I think that that's a huge barrier, because I know one of the things in the DYS system is when a participant goes into a facility or is locked up, their outside connection to therapeutic services ends and they see the clinician that's in that facility. So trying to explain to them, no no, they're a parent, this is who I am, this is what my service is, this is who we are...

-HFM Home Visitor

- Lack of formal relationships, knowledge and shared outlook
 - System representatives are unfamiliar with the concept of home visiting.
 - Home visitors may be unfamiliar with system processes, procedures, and people.



Promising approaches from YPP and HFM

Maybe [the mother] got a violation of probation because she didn't show up to her last court date or something like that. She'll tell me she didn't come to her last court date because her baby was sick and she was in the hospital. But then we'll get into the court room and she won't tell her public defender that that's what the reason was. So the public defender will go up in front of the judge and not have much to tell the judge other than she just wasn't here. So I've been able to help teens understand how the public defender is able to help her in sharing her situation. If she doesn't share, there's nothing to help the judge understand why she didn't meet her requirements. I will prompt the mother and ask her if she wants to share. "It might be helpful to let him know this." But ultimately it is her decision whether to share.

-YPP Home Visitor

- Supporting system-involved parents does not require legal expertise
 - Behavior management techniques to avoid probation violations or new offenses
 - Keeping the baby in mind
 - Community resource connection
 - Empowering parents with skills to navigate the system
 - Emotional support

- Formal partnership between YPP and Department of Juvenile Justice
 - Information sharing
 - Home visitors can influence probation case plans of parents in YPP
 - Home visiting contributes toward community service hours (probation requirement)



- Transfer co-visits for system-involved parents in HFM who moved and would be switched to a new HFM program site.
 - Joint visit between old home visitor, new home visitor, and participant.



Recommendations

- Specialized cadre of home visitors who are equipped to provide court-related support and advocacy
- Create strict guidelines and procedures about information sharing





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Maria Reyes-Vargas, Jamie Selby, Bridget A. Walsh,

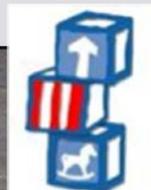
January 31, 2019

Eighth National Summit on Quality in Home Visiting Programs

Washington, DC



University of Nevada, Reno





Speakers

Bridget Walsh, Ph.D, CFLE

Jamie Selby, MSW, LSW

Maria Reyes-Vargas, CLE



Channel 4



Inspiration for Innovative Program Development

- ❖ How it began: PAT and MIECHV
- ❖ Starting in the Jail
- ❖ Safety protocols
- ❖ Background checks
- ❖ Tour of Jail
- ❖ Orientation
- ❖ Researched other programs to model after

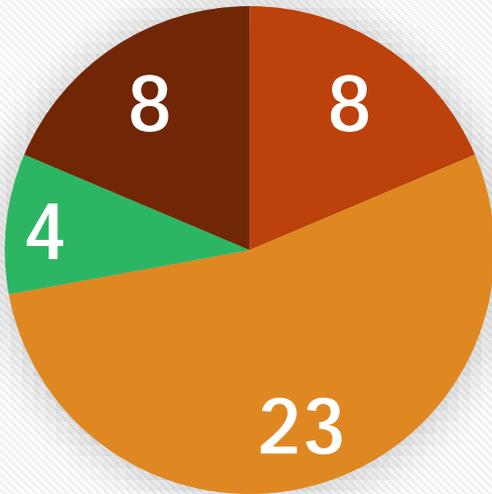
TAILORING TO FIT NEEDS

- ❖ Early Head Start model- Using PAT curriculum as main approach.
- ❖ Individual vs groups visits- how do we reach out to all?
- ❖ Meeting program standards
- ❖ Opportunities/lessons





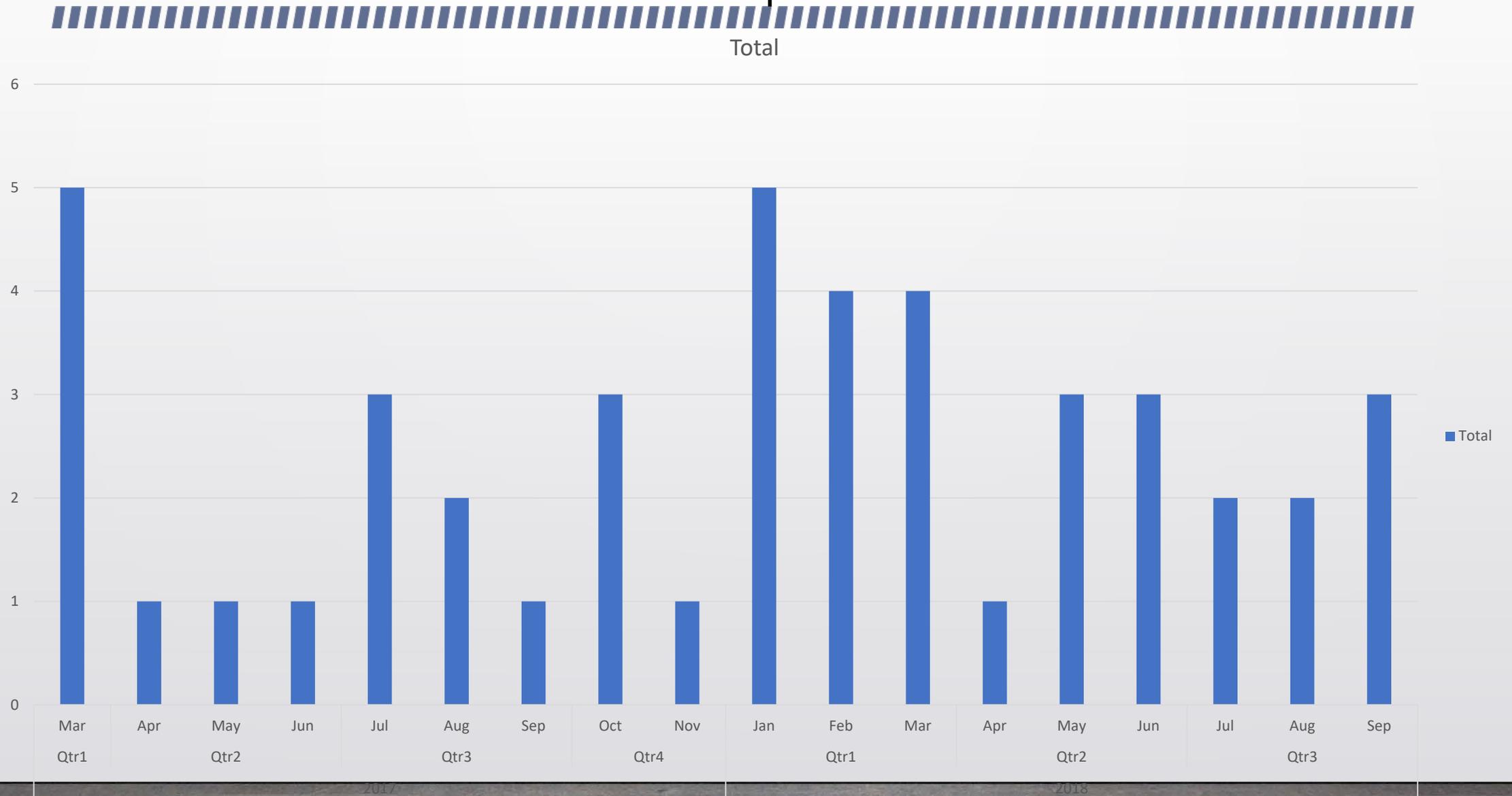
While at the jail... AND



- CPS
- Substance Abuse
- Adoption
- Homeless

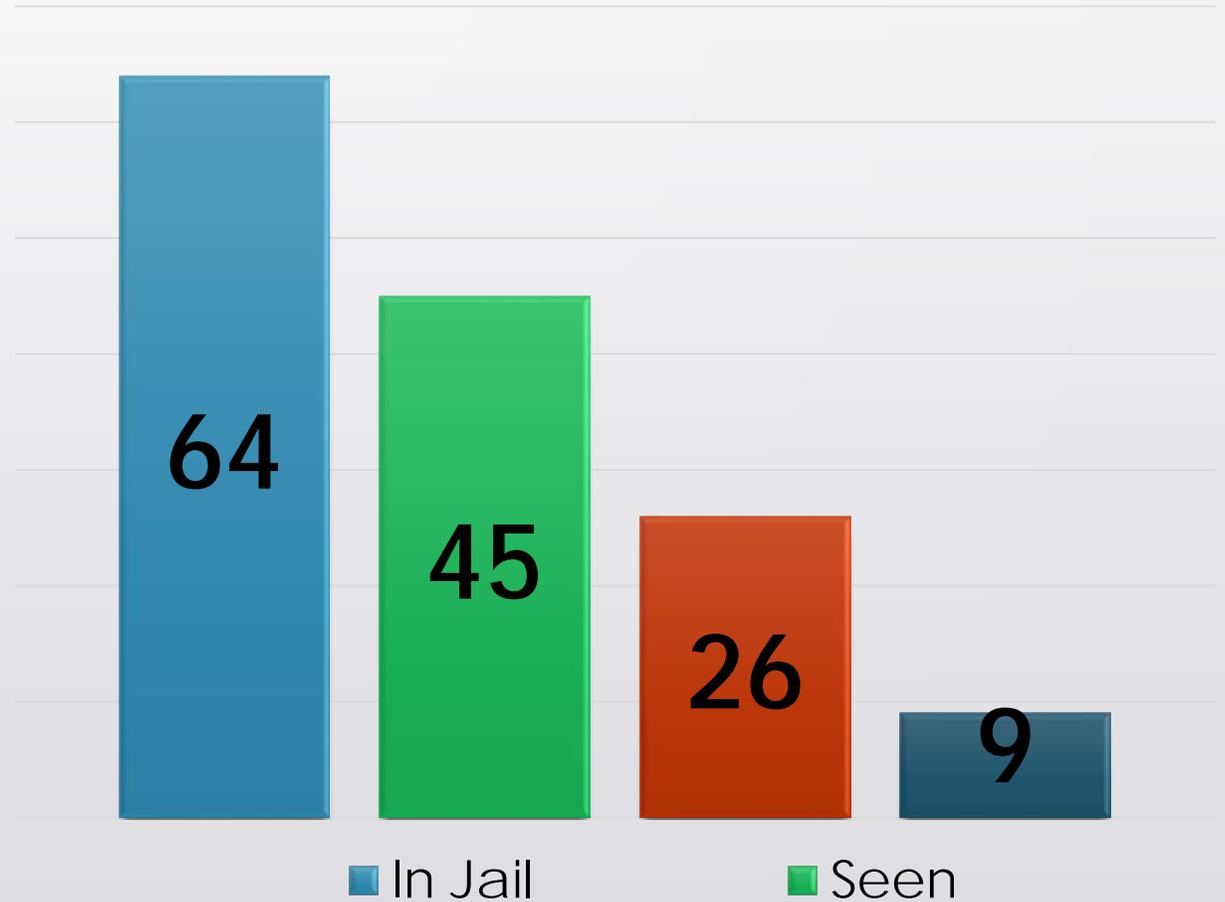
- ❖ What a visit looks like
- ❖ Common scenarios
- ❖ Opportunities/lessons

Women Seen per Month



PROCESS AND CHALLENGES

- Environment
- Meeting Performance Standards
- Continuity after release
 - Trusting relationship
 - Prison
 - Rehabilitation
 - Sudden release
 - Poverty/homelessness





Challenges that Led to Evolution

- ❖ 1. Individual or Group?
- ❖ 2. How to make the topics relevant
- ❖ 3. Mandatory or Voluntary
- ❖ 4. Infirmity
- ❖ 5. Case Load
- ❖ 6. Paperwork
- ❖ 7. Adjusting to the Facility turnover and changes to programs



Home Visiting with Justice System Involved Parents: A Qualitative Study

- ❖ RQ1: How do home visitors in one EHS home-based program, which includes pregnant women in jail, experience and describe their services?
- ❖ RQ2: What are the experiences of pregnant inmates and released women involved with home visiting services?
- ❖ RQ3: What barriers are experienced while providing services by the home visitors and accessing services by the pregnant inmates and released women?
- ❖ RQ4: What supports and strengths are experienced by the pregnant inmates, released women, and home visitors?
- ❖ RQ5: What differences and similarities are there of pregnant inmates and released women in regards to other parents (non-jail group) in one EHS home-based program?

Groups			
Home Visitors	0	0	0
Non-Jailed Parents	0	0	0
Released Women from Jail	X	X	
Pregnant Women in Jail	0	0	

0 represents one focus group; X represents individual interviews



Current Data Collection

- ❖ *"you know, cause it's like. I feel like if it wasn't for my home visitor, maybe I wouldn't have gone thirty-eight (38) weeks. I would have been stressed out, maybe had complications, had a premature baby."*
- ❖ *"...anywhere in life, people are gonna try to wear you down, also to have somebody by your side, uh like a home visitor that you know has credentials and is actually trying to help you be the person that you can be, is amazing."*
- ❖ *"...is there anything you're needing right now or whatever and and that's when I go "well I'm looking for a place" and "oh would you like a list on housing?" you know, so she makes it pretty easy to like get that kind of stuff."*
- ❖ *"I got a little stepping stone to, you know, to help me out"*

Moving Forward

- ❖ Continuing to adjust policy, curriculum, caseloads to meet the program's needs
- ❖ How to better follow inmates after release
- ❖ On-going training and support
- ❖ Collaboration opportunities (local to national resources)
- ❖ Continue data collection (Spring 2019)





Questions or Comments?





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