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Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Incarceration and the Family Today

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Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Incarceration and the Family Today

Abstract

This presentation will 1) provide knowledge and theory of caregivers as it relates to incarceration, 2) lead the participants through a description of the societal concern of grandparents raising grandchildren as caregivers, and 3) encourage participants to share their own experiences and ideas associated with care giving for children with parents incarcerated.

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More children today than ever before are living with grandparents and other relatives while their parents are imprisoned. *Incarcerated Parents and Their Children*, The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) report published in 2000, indicates that in each state federal prison approximately 600,000 children have parents who are incarcerated (BJS, 2000). According to these figures, more than one child in fifty has an incarcerated parent and millions will face this crisis at some point in their young lives. With the country's incarcerated populations growing at an average rate of 60% per year (BJS, 2000), the number of children with parents in prison will continue to increase. The trend in both law and policy regarding children in out-of-home care is toward early termination of parental rights and placement of foster care or adoption. As the rate at which adults are being incarcerated in the United States escalates, childcare providers, child welfare professionals and educators are experiencing growing numbers of children who have parents in prison. Law enforcement administrators estimate that more than 2 million children have at least one incarcerated parent, and thousands of others have experienced the incarceration of a parent at some point in their lives (U.S. Census, 2000)

Presenter

Suzanne Mayo-Theus is a professional fundraiser and strategic planner, with over 25 years of experiences, who specializes in building donor loyalty and surpassing revenue goals. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Grambling State University, a Master's degree from the University of District of Columbia, and is currently a PhD student in Family Studies at Kansas State University. A compelling speaker and fundraiser, with an easy charm, she fosters confidence and motivates donors to give at phenomenal levels. Suzanne has been responsible for raising over \$50 million for universities and nonprofit organizations. An expert who speaks and consults for organizations in transition, she has been responsible for innovative strategies and keeping ahead of the competition