

OPRE Report #2018-69

Trauma-Informed Approaches for Programs Serving Fathers in Re-Entry: A Review of the Literature and Environmental Scan

**A Special Topics Study of the Parents
and Children Together Evaluation**

June 2018



APPENDIX A

**METHODOLOGY FOR LITERATURE REVIEW
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN STUDY OF
TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACHES**

This appendix provides a description of the approach we took to gathering information about trauma experiences among fathers recently returning from prison, programs that implement trauma-informed approaches to serving this population or similar populations, and trauma-specific services that are delivered or could potentially be delivered to fathers recently returning from prison. We used three primary data sources: (1) a literature review, (2) an environmental scan of programs, and (3) key informant discussions. We describe each of these sources below.

A. Literature review

To gather information about trauma experiences of fathers recently returning from prison, we implemented a database search to identify relevant literature. To ensure we included pertinent literature while avoiding the processing of many irrelevant references, we considered only journal articles and grey (unpublished) literature, such as project reports, white papers, and government reports, published between 2000 and 2016. We used the search terms “trauma” and “men” and “incarceration.”

Literature Review Databases and Search Term Definitions

Databases:

SocINDEX	PscylINFO
Academic	SCOPUS
Search Premier	Google Scholar

Search term definitions:

Trauma (trauma OR posttraumatic OR post traumatic OR potentially traumatic event OR violence OR abuse OR neglect OR assault OR toxic stress OR trauma-informed OR maltreatment)

Men (father OR fatherhood OR men)

Incarceration (prisoner OR inmate OR ex-prisoner OR offender OR ex-offender OR criminal justice OR prison OR arrest OR re-entry)

Program (intervention OR treatment OR healing OR program)

The database search generated 174 abstracts. Upon further review, we excluded 134 abstracts that were not directly relevant to the purpose of the task. We obtained and reviewed full-text articles of 40 studies. About half of the articles described programs and interventions used to treat the effects of trauma among men recently returning from prison. Fourteen articles described the types, correlates, extent, and timing of traumatic experiences among men, while five articles described trauma-informed approaches to working with fathers recently returning from prison. We identified additional articles through recommendations from subject matter experts we interviewed and through targeted searches to address gaps in our knowledge.

B. Environmental scan

To assess the extent to which trauma-informed re-entry programs for fathers exist, we first conducted a brief scan of websites known to provide trauma information or services. We utilized our existing knowledge of trauma programs and resources; recommendations from key informants and the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE); as well as Google searches to identify the websites. We then reviewed publicly available information on these sites to identify trauma-informed programs that serve fathers with past criminal justice system involvement, adults re-entering the community after incarceration, and male trauma survivors. We also searched for additional information on programs identified through the literature review. ReFORM grantees were excluded from the scan because we plan to visit them to assess more fully the extent to which they take a trauma-informed approach.

Programs Interviewed

Addictions Care Center of Albany: Re-Entering the Albany Community Through Treatment (REACT)

Montgomery County Offender Re-entry Program (MCORP)

Prince George's County Offender Re-entry Program (PGCORP)

Connecticut Mental Health Center and Yale University School of Medicine Living Free Program

Father's Support Center

Structured Employment Economic Development Corporation

We identified 41 programs that appeared to implement a trauma-informed approach or provide trauma-specific services. We identified and selected for further review four programs that serve recently incarcerated adults through SAMHSA's offender re-entry programs and two programs that serve recently incarcerated fathers through ACF's Responsible Fatherhood program. These programs were selected due to their potential

Websites

National Child Traumatic Stress Network

Child Welfare Information Gateway

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices

National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors

Trauma Center at Justice Resource Institute

Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress

International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies

for generating information useful to other fatherhood programs that may be interested in implementing trauma-informed approaches for fathers recently released from prison.

We conducted one-hour discussions with each of the six program directors to better understand how the programs have implemented trauma-informed approaches and the facilitators of and barriers to doing so. Topics included the program’s organizational policies, staff trainings, implementation of trauma screening, and the extent to which the core principles of trauma-informed approaches were implemented. A research analyst and either a senior researcher or the project director conducted the calls.

C. Key informant interviews

To supplement the information gathered through the literature review and environmental scan, Mathematica and OPRE jointly identified five experts in trauma-informed approaches with whom we held one-hour telephone discussions (Table A.1). The purpose of the discussions was to identify (1) programs implementing trauma-informed approaches or delivering trauma-specific services for fathers recently released from prison, (2) facilitators of and barriers to successful implementation of trauma-informed approaches for fathers recently released from prison, and (3) trauma-informed programs or services that could be adapted to meet the needs of these fathers.

Table A.1. Key informant interviews

Name	Organization	Title
Lori Beyer	Community Connections	Director of trauma training and education
Mary Blake	SAMHSA	Public health advisor; co-chair, Women and Trauma Federal Partners Committee; and SAMHSA project officer for the National Center for Trauma-Informed Care (NCTIC) and the GAINS Center
Lisa Callahan	Policy Research Associates	Senior research associate and team lead for the GAINS Center’s technical assistance for the Behavioral Health Treatment Court Collaborative
Joan Gillece	National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors	Director of the NCTIC and the National Technical Assistance Center for the Promotion of Trauma-Informed Practice and Prevention of Seclusion and Restraint
Dimitri Topitzes	University of Wisconsin; Institute for Child and Family Well-Being	Associate professor; associate director of program design and clinical services

