



The United States is infamous for its burgeoning prisons.

Are we doing something wrong? What does this mean for our families? Our communities?

- Over 2.5 million of our children have parents in prison
- Almost all of them live in poverty
- As many as 70% of them will become prisoners themselves

These children and their families live among us as a "hidden population," suffering in silence as they sit invisibly right next to us in our schools and places of work and worship.

The Prisoner's Family Conference offers a distinct opportunity to develop awareness and increase understanding of the uniquely disturbing circumstances and crucial needs of The Prisoner's Family.

Purpose: It is the purpose of The Prisoner's Family Conference to provide insight and initiate action that will elevate The Prisoner's Family to integral, valuable and valued membership in the mainstream community.

Who should come? The Prisoner's Family Conference is vital to all who wish to join the effort to curb these tragic statistics. The conference is relevant for all who work with and serve children and families, as well as those in professions addressing issues affecting the prisoner's family.

- Addictions Professionals
- Attorneys
- Clergy/Chaplains
- Educators
- Government Officials
- Jail & Prison Officials
- Judges
- Mental Health Professionals
- Ministry Workers
- Social Service Providers
- Volunteers serving children & families
- Youth Workers &
- All Who Care to Learn and Wish to DO More

**For further information, please contact: Community SOLUTIONS of El Paso
e-mail: solutionsforelpasso@juno.com or Phone: 915-861-7733**

The Prisoner's Family Conference Schedule*

Wednesday - February 25, 2009

5:00 - 9:00 p.m. Early Arrivals Welcome & Registration

Thursday - February 26, 2009

8:00 - 8:45 a.m. Registration & Welcome Packets
8:45 - 10:30 a.m. General Session - Continental Breakfast

Welcome - El Paso Mayor John Cook
Keynote - Joe R. Williams, Secretary,
New Mexico Department of Corrections

10:30 - 10:45 a.m. Networking Break - Book & Literature Table Browsing

10:45 - 12:00 p.m. Breakout Workshop Sessions

12:00 - 1:45 p.m. General Session - Lunch

Panel - Institutional Representatives:
EPJPD; TDCJ; NMDOC

1:45 - 2:00 p.m. Networking Break

2:00 - 3:15 p.m. Breakout Workshop Sessions

3:15 - 3:30 p.m. Networking Break - Book & Literature Table Browsing

3:30 - 5:00 p.m. Breakout Workshop Sessions

5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Dinner on your own

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. General Session - Refreshments

Networking For Change - Southwestern Style
Facilitator - Ann Edenfield-Sweet

9:00 - 10:00 p.m. Entertainment - The Rubio Family

Friday - February 27, 2009

8:00 - 8:45 a.m. Early Riser Networking
Book & Literature Table Browsing

8:45 - 10:30 a.m. General Session - Continental Breakfast
Keynote - Jay, Alison & Cecily Coleman
One Family's Response to Incarceration
And Re-entry

10:30 - 10:45 a.m. Networking Break - Book & Literature Table Browsing

10:45 - 12:00 p.m. Breakout Workshop Sessions

12:00 - 1:30 p.m. General Session - Lunch

Panel - Steering Committee Representatives
Open Discussion

1:30 - 1:45 p.m. Networking Break - Book & Literature Table Browsing

1:45 - 2:15 p.m. Breakout Workshop Sessions

2:15 - 2:30 Networking Break - Book & Literature Table Browsing

2:30 - 3:45 General Session

Keynote - Chuck Gallagher:
"CHOICES" - Turning Negative
Consequences Into Positive Results
(From One Who's "Been There")

3:45 - 5:30 Farewells to New & Old Friends
Book & Literature Table Browsing
Distribution of CEU's & Attendance Certificates
Drawing for Attendance Prizes

Conference Tracts

Family Perspective:

Members of prisoners' families share needs, concerns, frustrations, fears, hopes and dreams.

Community Perspective:

Providing effective resources to curb the cycle of family incarceration.

Legal Perspective:

Improving relations between those enforcing the law and families of prisoners.

Faith-Based Perspective:

Increasing opportunities for hope among prisoners' families.

Advocacy and

Organizing:

Building solid and effective bridges for change.

Special Issues:

Addressing the unique issues experienced by families of prisoners.

Thursday Evening
Networking Southwestern-
Style
with
The Rubio Family



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(LIST OF WORKSHOPS & PRESENTERS BELOW)

16 CEU's provided for full conference attendance only

*Tentative Schedule – Subject to Change

Click [here](#) for Conference Registration Form

The Prisoner's Family Conference Speakers & Workshop Facilitators

Presentation Title	Presenters & Brief Description
A Family Systems Approach for Successful Reintegration	Timme Pearson, LPC, CMFC addresses the critical significance of developing healthy family support for the prisoner's successful completion of incarceration and reintegration into their community and family, based on her 30 years experience in the field of corrections. (Colorado)
 A Lifetime as The Child of a Prisoner	Cecily Coleman was one when her dad went to prison. She was twenty-five when he returned. She often speaks on her life as the child of a prisoner; advocates for other children and trains many in positions of making decisions about children of prisoners. Cecily will share on being a life's child and daughter of parents who are still together despite all the years of separation. (New York)
Faith, Family and Friends   	Representatives of the Texas Youth Commission: Rebecca Garza , Family Liaison Coordinator; Chaplain, John Stutz , Manager II of the Department of Chaplain Services; Marie Welsch, Ph. D., LPC , Re-Entry Support Services Manager and Winnie Curry , parent of a TYC youth discuss the services available for families of TYC youth and the importance of collaborative efforts from outside agencies to partner in helping the youth succeed in re-entry to their families and home communities. (Texas)
 Family Arrested: How to Survive the Incarceration of a Loved One	Ann Edenfield-Sweet , Founder & Executive Director of Wings Ministry and Wings for L.I.F.E. – offering support and empowerment for the entire prisoner's family; Author of "Family Arrested – Surviving the Incarceration of a Loved One." From her personal experience with the incarceration of a loved one, Ms. Edenfield-Sweet provides insight into establishing and growing a ministry providing effective outreach and support to prisoners' families. (New Mexico)
 Family Roles in Re-entry: Addiction & Relapse Prevention	Eva Eberhardt, LMSW, CAC III Founder and Executive Director of ABC Counseling Center , Ft. Morgan, Colorado. With an extensive history of addiction counseling, most recently inside a prison for female offenders, Mrs. Eberhardt addresses the critical role of the family in the successful recovery process of the returning prisoner. (Colorado)
 Five Stages of Trauma for the Child and Family of a Prisoner & Approaches for Healing	Carolyn Esparza, LPC , Founder & Executive Director of Community SOLUTIONS of El Paso serving children and families of prisoners; Author of "The Parenting Business: Hindsight is 20/20." Speaking from over 30 years personal and professional experience, Ms. Esparza provides a powerful and insightful examination of the persistent detrimental effects incarceration of a family member produces for their children and families, as well as our communities, and offers a hopeful, yet realistic perspective on approaches for healing the resulting wounds. (Texas)
General Session – Panel: Family Issues for Youthful Offenders & Issues for Prison Families	Alberto Alvarez, Chief, El Paso Juvenile Probation Dept.
	Helen Carr Family Liaison for the New Mexico Department of Corrections.
	Kathy Cleere , Ombudsman for Family Services and Wanda Redding , the "Go Kids" representative from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.
 General Session: 25 Years and Counting: One Family's Response to Incarceration and Re-entry	Jay Coleman served 25 years in New York State prisons for a non-violent crime. Through her own needs to survive the prison experience, his wife Alison created Prison Families of New York which has worked with tens of thousands of prison families as well as educators, ministries, advocates, health care providers and policy makers who have come to understand that progressive criminal justice must include the needs of prison families. Alison and Jay's daughter, Cecily , a well-known advocate for children of prisoners, tells her story with humor, poignancy and a common-sense approach to working effectively with prisoners' children. (New York)

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	<p>General Session: CHOICES: Turning Negative Consequences</p>	<p>Chuck Gallagher, Founder of Choices Foundation which provides scholarships for children of prisoners, shares in an unusually authentic style, the consequences of unethical decisions he made in his attempts to build the great American dream for himself and his family, and the process of successfully rebounding from his own incarceration experience. (Texas)</p>
	<p>General Session: One Prison System That Values The Prisoner's Family</p>	<p>Joe R. Williams, Secretary of Corrections for the New Mexico Department of Corrections relates his reasoning for assuring families of prisoners are valued by the prison system. (New Mexico)</p>
<p>Kairos Outside: The Gift That Continues to Give</p>	<p>Jo Chapman, Coordinator of Kairos Women's Ministries and a panel of women who have attended Kairos Outside retreats, and continue to present to other women impacted by the incarceration of a family member, offer insight for those wishing to provide female loved ones of prisoners a safe environment in which to interact with others who are in similar situations, and to learn how to develop small support groups that will strengthen them for the challenges they face. (California)</p>	
	<p>Living with the Label: The Special Plight of the Sex Offender's Family</p>	<p>Susan Rupp, PhD, assistant professor in environmental sciences for a major university, courageously and poignantly shares from her personal experience as the wife of an incarcerated sex offender, of the struggle toward recovery and healing from the unique trauma and relentless stigma experienced by the families of sex offenders. (South Dakota)</p>
<p>Mentoring: An Emerging Best Practice for Children of Prisoners & Roadmaps, Blueprints and Children of Prisoners</p> 	<p>Representatives of Dare Mighty Things, Brian P. Sales and Angie Hess, providing technical support to Mentoring Children of Prisoners programs throughout the country, introduce a new voucher initiative for organizations serving children of prisoners. (Virginia)</p> <p>Olivia Eudaly, representing Amachi, an early pioneer in the mentoring children of prisoners initiative, shares the "real" story behind Amachi Texas to excite others to the opportunity to collaborate for the sake of children of prisoners. (Texas)</p>	
<p>Prison: Practical Challenges to Family Values</p>	<p>Representatives of Legal Services for Prisoners with Children – San Francisco - Cassie Pierson, Staff Attorney; Robin Rederford, community liaison; Sarita "Riri" Wilson, Youth Trainer address issues affecting prisoners, former prisoners and their family members, including: child custody; visitation; obstacles to reentry; challenges of reintegration and effects of the Adoption and Safe Families Act on incarcerated parents and other family members. (California)</p>	
	<p>Speaker: Welcoming Address</p>	<p>El Paso Mayor John Cook – Mayor Cook has been a strong proponent of the work of Community SOLUTIONS of El Paso, which provides specialized services for children and families of prisoners.</p>
<p>The Families RACE for Reentry</p>	<p>Anne Gifford, representing Parents and Partners of Prisoners, of Colleyville, Texas. The workshop identifies major issues facing families of reentering offenders and introduces the RACE model, a concept that helps avoid disastrous reentry experiences by using a Biblical covenant to heal and empower a family broken by incarceration. (Texas)</p>	
	<p>The Family Left Behind: Restorative Justice and Ministry to the Families of Offenders</p>	<p>Roger W. Hollar, Pastor/Director of Mercy Heart, a ministry to families of inmates and ex-offenders located in Ft. Worth. This workshop explores a range of ministry and support services needed to facilitate restoring families and communities. (Texas)</p>
<p>BONUS - Networking for Change – Southwestern Style! (Thursday Night)</p>	<p>Facilitator: Ann Edenfield – Sweet – An evening activity promoting collaboration and cooperation to benefit the prisoner's family, both serious and fun! Special Entertainment: The Rubio Family</p>	

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The Prisoner's Family Conference Site



February 26 & 27, 2009

Radisson Suite Hotel El Paso Airport
1170 Airway Blvd. • El Paso, TX 79925
Phone 915.298.5125 • Facsimile 915.298-5130
www.radisson.com/elpasotx

Located within a quarter mile of the El Paso International Airport, the Radisson provides free 24-hour shuttle service from the airport and to shopping and entertainment within a 3-mile radius of the hotel. The hotel is located within walking distance of many restaurants and fast food businesses. A special room rate of \$125.00 per night is being offered to conference attendees. The deadline for this special rate is: February 10, 2009. When making reservations, mention The Prisoner's Family Conference to receive the special room rate. The Radisson offers:

- Complementary High Speed Internet Services (No additional fee)
- Complementary Hot Breakfast in Hotel Dining Room (Limit 2 per room)
- Complementary Evening Manager's Reception (Limit 2 per room)
- Complementary VCR/DVD Video Library
- State of the Art Exercise Facility
- Heated Indoor and Outdoor Pool and Spa
- Rooms with Mini Refrigerator; Microwave & Coffee Station
- Free Parking

Local numbers for nearby accommodations within one mile of the Radisson:

Marriot {1600 Airway} 915-779-3300 – \$149.00 single room
Microtel {2001 Airway} 915-772-3650 – \$68.95 single room
Hawthorne Inn & Suites 915-778-6789 – \$129.00 single room; \$149.00 suite for 5 people
6789 Boeing (behind the Radisson) (Note: Suites provide 2 king sized beds; 1 pull out couch.
Guest House {1940 Airway Blvd} 915-772-0395 – \$95.00 single room

For further information on accommodations, please contact the City of El Paso Visitor Bureau:
915-534-0601 local or 800-351-6024 toll free.

Visit the City of El Paso Visitor Bureau website for many interesting and fun-filled activities in this historical border city. <http://www.visitelpaso.com/>

Weather & What to Wear: El Paso is called "The Sun City" for good reason. It boasts sunshine at least 305 days a year. February/March weather is typically mild with occasional windy days. The evening desert air can become quite cold. Bring a jacket if you plan to be out at night. Conference attire is casual. Jeans are very appropriate. If you are coming with a group, wear your organization's logo shirts for everyone to get to know you.

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