

Children of Incarcerated Parents (CIP) Advisory Committee

Friday, November 5, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Attendees: Marquess Dennis, Alicia Craig, Christopher Pipkin, Mallory Hulsey, Brad Kirouac, Toni McGee, Jena Moore, Hailey Chenevert, Chabria Easter, Ashley Harvey, Jennifer Prince, Bethany Beinke, Shenice Huff, Richelle Bryan, Spencer Kusi, Danielle Dill, Nicole George, Ellen Lohrenz

Welcome and Introductions

Danielle Dill called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Partner Presentation

Marquess Dennis- Founder/Executive Director of Birthright Living Legacy, Inc.

<https://brlivinglegacy.com/>

Birthright Living Legacy, Inc's mission is to reach fathers through education, expertise and relationship building with other organizations that support and celebrate fathers. This mission includes:

- Celebrating Fatherhood
- Validating Fathers Position in the Family
- Building Leaders in Community
- Strengthen Communication and Relationships
- Support Legal & Financially
- Providing Safe Haven for Visitations

Fathers they reach:

- Experienced fathers
- Abandoned Fathers: Didn't have fathers, but relied on coaches, pastors, or mentoring organizations.
- Supervised Visit fathers (or untrusted): justice involved, divorced or unfamiliar with his responsibilities or rights.
- Step ups: coaches, stepdads, Big Brothers Big Sisters, etc.

What Birthright Living Legacy, Inc. offers:

- Birthright Living Legacy's Fatherhood podcast, a certified custom curriculum, biweekly connections, a private fatherhood Facebook group, and a place to develop community and celebrations.
- A Prison Program has been developed and Birthright Living Legacy is trying to find connections and avenues to get it into jails and prisons.

Future Vision:

- to offer programs that will provide a safe place for men to be a part of their children's lives, to instill the value of a father in his child(ren's) live and to create a community for men of all ages to grow and learn together.
- The organization plans to build a Living Legacy Center in Tulsa, with it being housed in the former State Farm Corporate Office in Tulsa. Fundraising has begun already, and the desire is to have these Living Legacy Centers world-wide.

Birthright's Living Legacy Organizational Needs:

- MORE DADS!
- Financial resources, more people to be involved, guests to be on the podcast, getting awareness for the group itself, and technology. An app is being developed for those incarcerated to have resources available to them to help them parent.

Committee Activities, Discussion & Next Steps

1. Educational Toolkit: Final editing is almost finished and will be released at the beginning of December. Members are asked to notify OCCY P&C office with updated weblinks or contact information changes.
2. Doctoral Fellowship: Ashley Harvey asked for feedback or ideas from the group for her dissertation. She is willing to analyze current CIP data; or collect and analyze data that needs to be researched, partnered on, or if a question is to be studied (health, social or emotional skills, parenting, etc.).
3. CIP 2022 Meeting dates: Meetings will continue to be held on the 2nd Friday of every month and hybrid format. OCCY's P&C staff requests input and contacts for future partner presentations, and to bring the group ideas of interest and expand connections for the benefit of all CIP and this committee.

Partner Announcements

- Jena Moore and Bethany Beinke (Family & Children's Services of Tulsa) shared their staff participated in training with Calm Waters of OKC after hearing a presentation to this group in September. The training was a free, very beneficial and they've already used the training and materials in their work.
<https://www.calmwaters.org/>
- Jena Moore (Family & Children's Services of Tulsa) announced they have applied for a TANF grant to fund parenting in jail programs in rural county jails for women, which lack programs and services. The grant would also be used to provide case management and therapy.
- Tamara Bryan (Pryor Public Schools) announced a new residential training program called Flight School has been established. It is a 15-bed facility that serves men ages 18-25. Initially it was set up for those aging out of foster care but has been expanded to include those without support systems as well. Curriculum and courses include a leadership program, work, mentorship, and job training. Upon completion of the program, residents will have money saved for housing, transportation, and other basic needs. Flight School is a self-sustaining program. Currently there are contracts to procure a 50-bed facility and a 100-bed facility, one of which will start a women's Flight School. On November 30 there will be a Zoom meeting with more information, if you would like to attend please contact Tamara
tamarabryan73@gmail.com
- Richelle Bryan with Prison Fellowship Ministries is hiring 3 remote positions See attached weblink for job description and how to apply. [Employment - Prison Fellowship](#)

Adjournment

Danielle Dill adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Next Meeting Date

Friday, December 10, 2021 10:00 a.m. Meeting will be hybrid format, invitation and link will be sent via email to committee members.