



P.O. Box 999 (Mailing)
1600 Chestnut Street (Physical)
Susanville, CA 96130

CSE IVR 1-866-901-3212
Fax (530)251-2667
SDU IVR 1-866-325-1010
Email lccss@lassen.cse.ca.gov
Web site www.co.lassen.ca.us

NOMINATION SUMMARY

In January 2013, Herlong Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) reached out to Lassen County DCSS to discuss collaboration within their re-entry programs. The Outreach Project was developed, with the goal of offering inmate information seminars and correctional staff training. This provided awareness of the child support program with a strong emphasis being placed on inmates addressing their child support cases prior to release from incarceration. Born from a shared interest in addressing inmate child support program questions, concerns or issues prior to incarceration release, child support team members designed, developed, and delivered a program which was the first of its kind in the nation. The inmates are now taking interest in their children, making payments on their cases and are having frequent contacts with their Local Child Support Agency (LCSA) prior to and after release. By encouraging information exchange with the inmates and their LCSA's over \$433,900.00 has been zeroed out either by case closure, initiated either by the Custodial Party or the LCSA, or participation in the Compromise of Arrears Program (COAP).

A strong partnership was forged between the Herlong FCI and Lassen County DCSS that has prompted inmates to change; they are taking an active interest in their children. Of the approximately 218,000 federal inmates the majority (about 60 percent) are estimated to be parents of children under the age of 21, according to the most recent BOP data.

There was no budget for this project, just the time and energy of all Team members. On May 22, 2013, our first Outreach seminar was held for California based prisoners, intergovernmental prisoners, those prisoners based in the Camp, and with the Herlong FCI staff. Our return visit for our one-on-one meetings with the inmates was August 26, 2013. With the seminars we are able to obtain essential current locate information on the inmates. The program development was a highly interactive process between the agencies that resulted in two outreaches since its implementation with two separate visits to the prison by Lassen County DCSS staff for each outreach.

During the seminars the inmates were able to complete a Case Assistance Form. Lassen County DCSS researched every inmate's case based on the information provided, regardless of which county or state the case was assigned to. For most LCSA's, this was the first verification they had that an inmate was incarcerated in a federal prison and were able to obtain release dates for these participants. Upon return for the second portion of the outreach session, Lassen County DCSS staff met one-on-one with each inmate to provide the results of the research done on their case. This information included which LCSA was managing their case and the contact information, whether the cases were open or closed, what order was in place, how much the order was for, if current support

was being charged, if arrears were owed and if so, to whom, and if needed, how their local Family Law Facilitator could be reached. Staff was also able to serve some inmates with Summons and Complaints on behalf of other LCSA's as federal prison staff cannot do so under federal policy.

The numbers may be small, but in the two sessions Lassen County DCSS has held, a total of 71 inmates with California cases participated and these inmates had a total of 96 cases. The results can be seen in Table 1.

Lassen County Department of Child Support Services was honored to win the 2014 CSAC (California State Association of Counties) Challenge Award for our county's outstanding program.

In summary, the statistics show that this outreach project has been essential in gap performance management between LCSA's and participants who are incarcerated. As the Bureau of Prisons incarceration system does not interact with the CCSAS CSE system, locate of each participant is essential for case management in service of Summons, modifications of current orders, and closure of cases that meet criteria. Incarcerated participants have been educated on the necessity of maintaining contact with their LCSA's, what paying child support truly means in preparing for re-entry after release, the language to use when speaking with their LCSA, the responsibility of cleaning up old debt. They understand paying child support is a way to show they care for their children. All involved in the collaboration hope that inmates will leave incarceration prepared to engage in their child support case and actively participate in their children's lives.

As Civil Servants, this Outreach Project has been near and dear to our hearts. It is not often that you can look a man in the face and say "You matter to your children. To them you are daddy and always will be." They have a chance maybe for the first time to make a small difference in their relationship to their child. This is why this Outreach Project should be awarded the 2014 Achievement Award.

TABLE 1

Total cases with inmates released prior to information exchanged with 2 nd session	4
Total cases with Inmates that had closed cases, yet attended both sessions	17
Total cases with Inmates still incarcerated with \$0.00 Orders and no arrears owed	20
Total cases with Inmates still incarcerated with \$0.00 Orders and arrears owed	8
Total cases with Inmate incarcerated and made first payment from prison	5 cases on one inmate for total of \$10.00 paid in February 2015
Total cases with released inmates with \$0.00 orders, no arrears, and cases closed	6
Total cases with released inmates who are now employed and paying child support	10
Total cases with released inmates who are employed and cases are open for medical enforcement only	4
Total cases in which LCSA's were able to close those cases due to verified incarcerated information	15 for total of \$377,733.53
Total cases with released inmates that applied for COAP and were approved	6 for total of \$155,495.56 reduced
COAP breakdown	2 cases closed with lump sum payment 4 cases still opening and released inmate is paying
Total cases with a released inmate that has not paid	1