

## Psycho-educational Training for Inmates at the Orient Road Jail

### OVERVIEW

The psycho-educational parenting program aimed to change attitudes such as appropriate expectations of a child's abilities and skills, empathy towards a child's needs, use of alternatives to corporal punishment for child discipline, and parental expectations of their child's responsibility in keeping them satisfied with parenting. All of the participants improved significantly in understanding their child's skills and abilities.

See [Elements of Promising Practice in Programs Serving Fathers Involved in the Criminal Justice System](#) for more information

### Focus

Responsible Fatherhood

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

#### Target Population

Male inmates

#### Service Delivery Unit

Individuals

#### Curriculum

The Real Life Parenting Skills Program

#### Dosage

Once a week for five weeks for 90 minute sessions

#### Setting

Correctional facility

#### Location

Orient Road Jail in Tampa, Florida

#### Adapted and/or Created for Hispanic Population

No

#### Demographics of Population Served

- Approximately 64 percent of the participants were either Hispanic or African American, 36 percent were Caucasian.
- Approximately 40 percent of the participants were between 25- and 35-years-old. Another 35 percent were between 19- and 24-years-old.
- About two-thirds (65%) of the participants were fathers. The other inmates identified themselves as father-figures for a child or soon to be fathers.

- More than half (57%) of the participants had not completed high school with 30 percent reporting completing the 10th grade. Another 30 percent reported completing high school.

## **PROGRAM EVALUATION**

### **Evaluated Population**

Twenty-six male subjects waiting to complete a substance abuse program who volunteered to participate. See *Demographics of Population Served* for demographic information for the evaluated population.

### **Study Design**

- Pre-post test
- Pre-tests were completed at the first session prior to any discussions. Post-tests and a satisfaction survey were completed during the final session. Sessions were completed in two groups, with the second commencing after the first had completed all sessions. Each group was led by the same facilitator and co-facilitator.

### **Outcomes**

Inappropriate expectations; Empathy; Corporal punishment; and Role reversal

### **Results**

- *Inappropriate expectations*
  - There was a significant improvement in changes in appropriate exceptions from a mean of 20.26 to 21.35, indicating a better understanding of their child's skills and abilities.
  - Men of color showed marginal improvements on all four constructs.
  - All measures besides Inappropriate Expectations were marginally lower at post-test for Caucasians.
  - Means for Caucasian men were higher than means for men of color for all four constructs.
  - Comparisons between men of color and Caucasians on the four constructs generally did not show significant differences between the two groups.
- *Empathy and Corporal Punishment*
  - The men of color group had positive changes on empathy and corporal punishment.
  - These results approached statistical significance at  $p < .05$ . Inmates reported on the satisfaction survey that they were satisfied with their facilitators' understanding and deliverance of curriculum material.

### **Results for Hispanic Subgroups**

None reported



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