



## **Supporting Children of Incarcerated Parents: A TRAINING FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS**

Children of incarcerated parents are in every child care program and school district in America. Nationally, one child in 28 has an incarcerated parent; in Vermont that number is much higher—one in 17. Over the course of a year, 6,000 children in Vermont experience parental incarceration; they go to bed at night missing their mom or dad in prison. Sometimes these children are known to their teachers, caregivers and counselors; more often they are not.

Notably most schools, child care programs, and social service agencies do not have resources specifically designed to address the concerns of children with an incarcerated parent. Sadly, when prisoners serve time, so do their children. Too often, the support necessary to reduce the harmful and life-long effects of parental incarceration is lacking.

This training will provide staff in child care and educational settings with information and activities designed to increase their capacity to respond to the needs of these children, their caregivers, and their incarcerated parents. Participants will be empowered to build a supportive climate in their classrooms to help children process grief, release shame, establish caring relationships, and build healthy self-esteem.

### **Facilitator**

The training will be facilitated by Tricia Long, MA, Director for Resilience Beyond Incarceration, a program of the Lamoille Restorative Center, in Hyde Park, VT. Tricia, a licensed clinical mental health counselor, has over 25 years experience with expertise in complex developmental trauma, disrupted attachment, grieving, and resilience.

<b>Date and Time</b>	Saturday, October 24, 2015 9:00 to 1:30
<b>Location</b>	Mud City Kids Child Care Center 1092 Park Street, Morrisville VT Snacks and lunch will be provided



## Learning Objectives

### By the end of this workshop, participants will have:

- Examined the stigma of incarceration, the myths that perpetuate it, and how it affects children;
- Reviewed the pathways and profiles of incarcerated parents and their children, including current information about Vermont offenders and their crimes;
- Engaged in self-reflection regarding personal attitudes, reactions and perspectives on families involved in the criminal justice system, and how these impact children in our care;
- Identified the steps in the criminal justice process, and their distinct stress points for children;
- Considered the impacts of race, class and ethnicity on children and families of the incarcerated;
- Assessed the Bill of Rights for children of incarcerated parents;
- Explored typical feelings, behaviors, and needs of children of the incarcerated;
- Practiced responding to children's spoken and unspoken fears and questions;
- Developed strategies for responding to the needs of the children, their parents and families, within the context of the child-care setting;
- Gathered books and classroom resources to help support the children of incarcerated parents;
- Considered agency practices, forms, and policies that could be changed or enhanced to better meet the needs of these children and support the parent-child bond.