



## Ambassadors for Hope Serving Children with a Parent in Prison

Spring 2019  
[www.ambassadorsforhope.com](http://www.ambassadorsforhope.com)

### Lindsey's Blog- the Family Services Advocate

As the days go by, I am getting more settled in my new position as the Family Services Advocate. I have been actively working with children to meet their basic needs and am putting a strong focus on the child's connection with the incarcerated parent. Currently, I am working with a family that has three children and they are a wonderful example of how families can stay connected even while a parent is incarcerated. I was able to assist their mother with getting replacement birth certificates so that the three kids can go into the prison to see their dad. This family also participated in the Ambassadors for Hope Teddy Bear Program, which was extremely special to the entire family. Additionally, I was able to assist in getting a picture of a dinosaur that the incarcerated parent drew to the mother so that it could be put onto a birthday cake for the oldest child's birthday. You can reach me at 717-299-2831 or by email at [lober@compassmark.org](mailto:lober@compassmark.org).



Lindsey Ober, Family Advocate

### PA Sentencing Laws and the Trauma Effects on the Family

James T. Hansberry, a member of the Ambassadors for Hope Advisory Council, and Lindsey Ober, Family Services Advocate, gave a presentation at the 6th annual Global Well-Being and Social Change Conference held at Millersville University called "A Closer Look: PA Sentencing Laws and the Trauma Effects on the Family". This presentation examined PA sentencing law as applied to a case involving the accidental shooting of a young child by her older brother. The children found the gun in the living room of their apartment. It had been left there by a family friend with a felony record. The presentation examined the potential legal ramifications that could flow to the defendant. Lindsey Ober examined this tragic incident in terms of the traumatic effects this event had on the children and their mother.

### Ambassadors for Hope:

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**Ambassadors Advisory Council:** Robin Boyer, John Churchville, Robert R. Cooper, Dr. Mary Glazier, Mike Hansberry, Eric Kennel, Tara Lowe, Amy Marenick, Ken Marzinko, Tracy Rennecker, Dr. Carrie Smith, Jen Strassenburgh, Mark Unger

We meet the fourth Friday of each month.

## Outcomes, Impact, and More!

Dr. Carrie Smith, a member of the Ambassadors for Hope Advisory Council and associate professor of sociology at Millersville University, wrote a [Family Services Advocate Program Evaluation for 2017-2018](#).

As seen in the table below, the program has been highly effective in meeting the needs of the children, as the percentage of children needing assistance in every area decreased at 90 days.

Table 4 Children's Needs Assessments at Intake and at 90 Days for 2017-2018 (n=24)

(Number of Children Whose Caregivers Requested Access to Service; Percentages in parentheses)

Need	Intake	90 Days	Outcome
Access to incarcerated parent	20 (83.3%)	6 (25.0%)	<b>IMPROVED</b>
Access to food stamps	17 (70.8%)	7 (29.2%)	<b>IMPROVED</b>
Access to clothing	9 (37.5%)	7 (29.2%)	<b>IMPROVED</b>
Access to food	8 (33.3%)	4 (16.7%)	<b>IMPROVED</b>
Access to health insurance	9 (37.5%)	5 (20.8%)	<b>IMPROVED</b>
Access to cash assistance	9 (37.5%)	7 (29.2%)	<b>IMPROVED</b>
Access to stable housing	6 (25.0%)	3 (12.5%)	<b>IMPROVED</b>
Access to WIC	9 (37.5%)	3 (12.5%)	<b>IMPROVED</b>
Establishment of legal guardianship	9 (37.5%)	8 (33.3%)	<b>IMPROVED</b>
Access to therapy	5 (20.8%)	1 (4.2%)	<b>IMPROVED</b>
Access to primary care physician	3 (12.5%)	1 (4.2%)	<b>IMPROVED</b>
Access to support through CYA	3 (12.5%)	2 (8.3%)	<b>IMPROVED</b>
Access to parenting classes	2 (8.3%)	1 (4.2%)	<b>IMPROVED</b>
Access to domestic violence services	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	<b>IMPROVED</b>
More than one service requested	23 (95.7%)	9 (39.1%)	<b>IMPROVED</b>

Do you know the difference between a JAIL and a PRISON?

- JAILS are normally for short-term incarceration (less than 2 years) or for those awaiting processing or trial.
- PRISONS are for persons serving sentences longer than two years.

In Lancaster County Prison, in February, the average stay was 113 days. 447 inmates were discharged and 457 were admitted\*.

\*Warden's February report

### Articles on incarcerated parents

1. ['Kids corner' at Boyle Co. jail motivates incarcerated parents](#)
2. [America's Other Family-separation Crisis](#)
3. [Telangana government runs nursery for prisoners' children](#)
4. [Factors That Shape Parent-Child Reunification After a Parent is Released From Prison](#)

Ambassadors for Hope and Millersville University announce the *Ambassadors for Hope Scholarship* for a student with a parent in prison. Scholarship details in summer newsletter!

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