



Greetings from the Family-Based Justice Center



We're spotlighting an underrecognized topic this month—the challenges faced by incarcerated LGBTQ people, some of whom are parents and caregivers.

The number of LGBTQ parents and caregivers in prison is not well documented. According to a survey by the [Black and Pink](#) newspaper of 1,118 of its incarcerated LGBTQ readers, 45 percent reported having children, yet only 29 percent of the parents had any contact with their children. An alarming 85 percent of all respondents claimed to have experienced solitary confinement. Black, Hispanic, mixed-race, and Native American LGBTQ people were twice as likely to have been in solitary confinement as were their white counterparts, often for “protective custody” that is not wanted by the person in question. And [a survey of transgender people](#) found that the rate of incarceration among transgender Americans was more than double that of the general population.

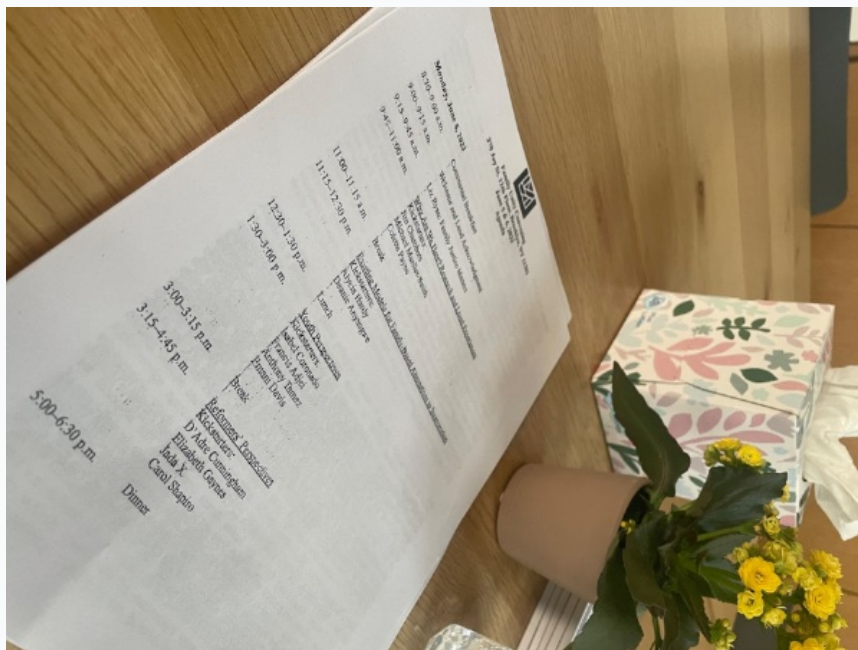
Here are some national and state organizations working at the intersection of LGBTQ and the criminal justice system:

- [COLAGE](#) provides support and advocacy for children with LGBTQ parents.
- [Family Equality Council](#) advances equality for LGBTQ families by building community, changing hearts and minds, and advancing social justice for all families.
- [Who Speaks for Me](#) is an advocacy and activist-driven organization aiming to create alternatives to incarceration for women, girls, and LGBTQ people and opportunities for them to heal from trauma.
- [LGBT Books to Prisoners](#) is a donation-funded, volunteer-run organization that sends books to incarcerated LGBTQ people across the United States, free of charge.

Staff Highlights:



Family-Based Justice Center staff visited Washtenaw County, Michigan. The program, [Specialized Alternative to Sentencing Support \(SASS\)](#), is a collaborative effort between The Corner Health Center and the Washtenaw County justice system, focused on diverting young caregivers, 12 to 25. The program is funded by OJJDP's Family-Based Alternative Sentencing Program.



Family-Based Justice Center staff participated in a national conversation about family-based alternative justice programs, held at the NYU Marron Institute of Urban Management. The two-day convening included leaders from think tanks and community-based organizations, people with lived experience, civil servants, and researchers, who had a robust conversation on the past, current, and future practices of programs that divert parents and primary caregivers from the justice system and provide resources and services to them and their families.

In the News:

A new Atlanta non-profit aims to provide resources and services for children of incarcerated parents, through college and career-readiness training. Read the full article [here](#).

A bill that would require the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to house incarcerated parents in facilities closest to their children is making its way through the Senate. Read more about the progress [here](#).

A series addresses the impact of long prison sentences on families and highlights a man incarcerated in North Carolina and his family. Read part three of the series [here](#).

OJJDP Updates:

OJJDP continues its longstanding support of LGBTQ youth. Last year, the Office awarded \$1 million to create the [National Resource Center for Justice-Involved LGBTQ+ and Two-Spirit Youth](#) to help juvenile justice practitioners meet the needs of this community. OJJDP has also developed a framework to guide its approach to serving LGBTQ and Two-Spirit youth, including a policy statement with recommendations for their treatment in the juvenile justice system.

RESOURCES:

- See OJJDP's Model Programs Guide literature review on [LGBTQ youth in the juvenile justice system](#).
- Follow OJJDP on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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