

# RPAAG

# Circles of Care Initiative Update

Patricia Buck, Principal Investigator  
Hannah Conkin, Project Manager

We have accomplished a lot

As our Project Manager,  
Hannah is indispensable

# Where we are and what we have done

- I. Built a strong youth cohort
- II. Community Forums
- III. Developing parent and family member cohort
- IV. Focal goal of developing intergenerational cohort with advanced training in: RP, advocacy, and research to serve as trainers, Circle of Care members, family-school-youth liaisons, develop CR RP
- V. Developed relationships with key organizational partners and community leaders
- VI. Hired a full time Americorps Fellow to work with Hannah
- VII. Coordinating advocacy for youth who have experienced exclusion
- VIII. New DOC policies in the works

# Youth Served, Circles of Care

- I. Setting up Circles of Care
  - A. Youth report that they lack trusted adults and teachers to participate in these Circles at the moment
    1. Our response=working with parents
  - B. Two pilot Circles set up
- II. Started with 14 youth served. One moved
  - A. Majority of group is boys, one girl is on our executive planning team
  - B. Two Somali young women sometimes find it difficult to work with boisterous boys so Hannah works with them separately
- III. Youth Projects
  - A. Working on a website, a logo, and a podcast
  - B. Participating in recreational activities as a cohort, including outings to Nature Trails, Basketball
  - C. Participating in restorative conversations with project manager about gun violence, advocacy
  - D. Doing research & presenting at AERA
  - E. Ali Ali on juvenile justice reform and spoken word
  - F. Participating in Community Forums

# Family & Student Response to Programming

- I. Youth and parent/adult cohorts have responded extremely positively to the programming pieces we have started and continue to offer, including:
  - A. Connecting families and their youth to legal advocacy and relational supports
  - B. Community Forums with expert guest speakers
  - C. RP and civil legal aid training workshops with KIDS, RJP and Lalee
  - D. Have provided permission to access student records

# Prevention of contact with Juvenile Justice System

- I. No contact with JJ system for any of our youth
- II. Offered advocacy in meetings with school officials

# Movement on Key Pieces of Initiative

- I. Two MDOC Policies added in short time span so that a Somali RJ/RP practitioner can work with our youth cohort and parent/adult cohorts on trainings
- II. Americorps VISTA member position for three years of this project
- III. One pilot Circle for a student with folks that have training, another in development
- IV. Cohorts of youth and parents/adults.
- V. Grant writing with a focus on supporting participatory monitoring and evaluation
- VI. Part of Sewell coordinated team of CBOs working with the district

Questions?

