

EXHIBIT C-2f

BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED that the appropriate divisions of the Department of Correction and the Department of Community Correction provide a response in writing to this proposal to the committee chair within one hundred twenty (120) days of adoption of this proposal and be available for testimony to explain the written submission at later committee meetings on:

1. Data regarding the number of incarcerated persons who are receiving any type of services or benefits related to parenting or the development and maintenance of relationships with family members from prison, with the data separated for each division to include:

A. A description of the service, benefit, or program;

Parenting Program

Description:	Psycho-educational classes designed for inmates who are parents of children and/or teenagers. Provides information to developing appropriate parenting methods, as well as, assist in helping inmates better understand and cope with issues involved in parenting.
Capacity:	Approximately 800 inmates annually.
Impact:	Classes offered at Benton, Cummins, Delta, Diagnostic, East Arkansas Regional Unit, Grimes, Maximum Security, McPherson, North Central, Ouachita, Pine Bluff, Randall Williams, Tucker, Varner, Wrightsville and Hawkins.
Requirements:	Voluntary class for inmates who are parents.
Staff:	The Centers for Youth and Families/The Parent Center, one full time ADC M/H staff and ADC Chaplains.
Program Components:	Principles of healthy parenting, Child and parental development, Positive discipline, Preparing for parenthood after release, Parenting issues during incarceration, Parenting and recovery issues, Case management in limited cases.

B. The number of incarcerated parents who are receiving the service, benefit, or program;

Approximately 800 inmates annually in the Parenting Program.

C. The number of children with at least one (1) incarcerated parent or the caregivers of these children affected by each specific type of service or program;

Although the ADC does question inmates about family during intake, the agency has no way to verify the information provided is correct. Some inmates will claim to be childless even though they have children out of fear they will be required to pay child support. Other inmates will under report the number, claiming to have only two children when they actually have five. It also is quite common for inmates not to know where their children live or how old they are.

That said, we did run a computer program and it indicated that there are 12,803 children of male inmates and 2,044 children of female inmates.

D. Demographic data, including race, gender, and age for children with at least one (1) incarcerated parent or the caregivers of these children affected by the program;

ADC does not capture this information. Even if we did, there would be no way to verify it. Several years ago, the agency was approached by the federal government to participate in a transitional educational assistance program, which provided services to inmate families in the community. To participate, ADC had to get information from the inmates about their children. The inmates would not cooperate, even though they were told it would help their family. They either refused to provide the information or said they didn't have the information.

E. An estimated cost of the services, benefits, and programs; and

The ADC spends an estimated \$58,000 on staff time for the Parenting Program; ADC has no accounting of the expenditures of the Center for Youth and Families for the program. The other programs outlined in F2 are provided by volunteers at little or no cost to the agency.

F. Any other data relevant to this request;

2. Services within the Department of Correction and the Department of Community Correction that are available to children with at least one (1) incarcerated parent or the caregivers of these children;

The Department of Correction has the Storybook Project at the Wrightsville and Hawkins units. Participating inmates make audio recordings of themselves reading children's books. The tapes are sent home to their children so that the children can enjoy their parents reading to them while they follow along in the storybooks.

Also at Wrightsville and Hawkins is the Even Start Family Literacy Program, which is designed to help break the cycle of poverty and illiteracy and improve the educational opportunities of low-income families with mothers in prison. The program integrates early childhood education, adult literacy or adult basic education (including, as appropriate, limited English proficient students), interactive parent-child activities, and parenting education into a unified, high-quality family literacy program.

ADC also participates in the MiWatch program, which pairs the children of incarcerated females with volunteers in the community who transport them to the unit to visit their mother. This program is conducted by the United Methodist Women and their churches. This a ministry outreach program for both the inmates and their children.

Additionally, ADC is involved in the Child Evangelism Fellowship program, which provides age-appropriate Bible lessons for the children of incarcerated parents.

3. Policies and procedures regarding outreach to children with at least one (1) incarcerated parent or the caregivers of these children; and

None

4. Any recommendations for improving the outcomes of children with at least one (1) incarcerated parent or the caregivers of these children.

None

BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED that if any agency that is specifically requested to provide written data for this interim study is unable to provide the data in whole or in part within the time frame provided or because the data is unavailable, the agency shall provide a written explanation of the circumstances in its response to this interim study.