

5/10/2023



**Georgia Department  
of Human Services**

Division of Child Support Services

# **Prison Paternity and Reentry**

**Kiska Dennis-Gear and Wende Parker**

Outreach Program Managers for the Division of Child Support Services

A photograph of a woman with long brown hair and a young child with curly brown hair, both laughing heartily. The woman is wearing a blue and white striped shirt, and the child is wearing a teal shirt. They are sitting on a couch with a red and black striped pillow. The background is a light-colored wall.

# *stronger families*

FOR A STRONGER GEORGIA



# Division of Child Support Services

DCSS aims to increase the reliability of child support paid by parents when they live apart from their children by:

- Locating parents and establishing paternity
- Establishing and enforcing support orders
- Increasing health care coverage for children



DCSS Outreach Services have partnered with other government and community agencies to develop a comprehensive network to assist parents with employment and job training services:

- Fatherhood
- Parental Accountability Court
- Prison Reentry – Justice Involved Individuals
- Access and Visitation







# Program Overview

**Employment-based program**

**Statewide program offered to both men and women**

**Connects participants with resources leading to career employment**

**Assists parents court ordered to pay child support prior to contempt**

**Increase self-sufficiency, financial, emotional, and parental involvement**



# Program Services

Skills  
Assessment

Resume Writing

Employment  
Referral

GED  
Preparation and  
Testing

Short-Term  
Training

Prison Paternity  
Testing

Prison Re-Entry  
Training and  
Support

Federal Bonding

Emotional  
Wellness  
Training

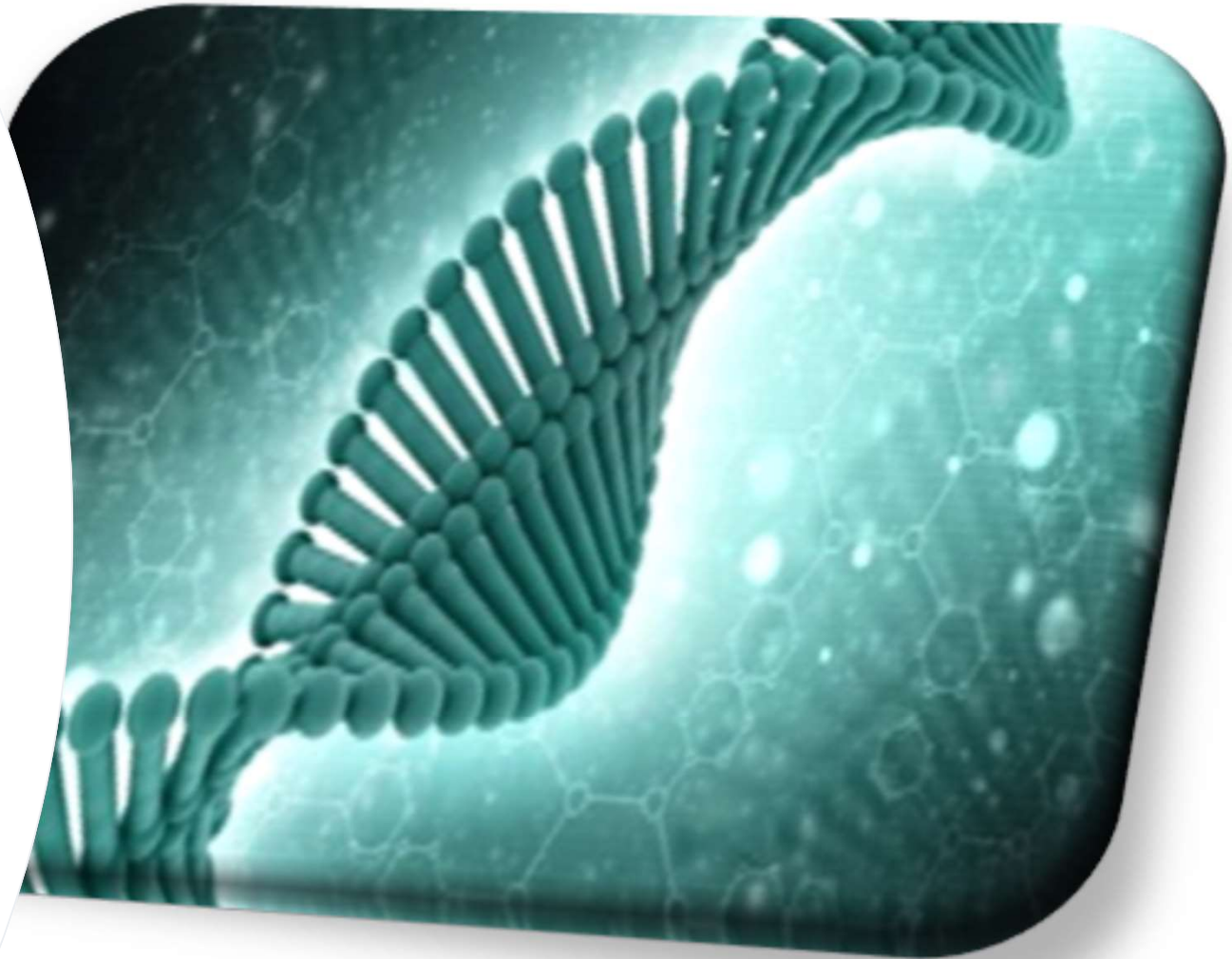
Cultural  
Sensitivity  
Training

Continuous  
Accountability  
Coaching



# Prison Paternity

Division of Child Support  
Services



# Prison Paternity

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- Purpose
- History
- Impact





# Paternity Benefits

- Establishes Connection of Father to Child
- Builds Family Ties
- Family Health History
- Financial Benefits
- Peace of Mind

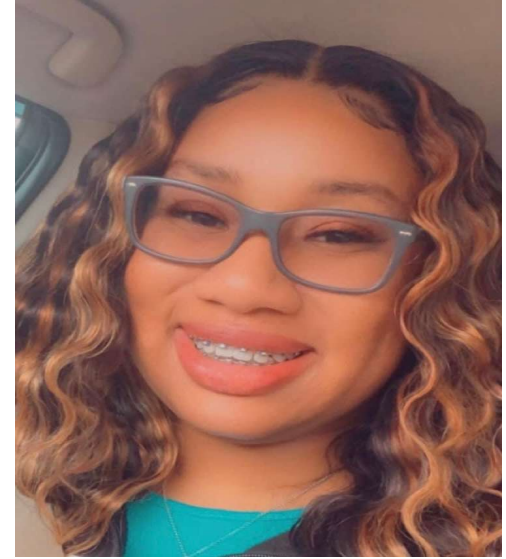




**Leslie**  
Prison Paternity  
Supervisor



**Missie**  
Lead Prison Paternity  
Coordinator



**Chantel**  
Prison Paternity  
Coordinator

# **Prison Paternity Team**

Division of Child Support Services



# Program Goals



EDUCATE



AWARENESS



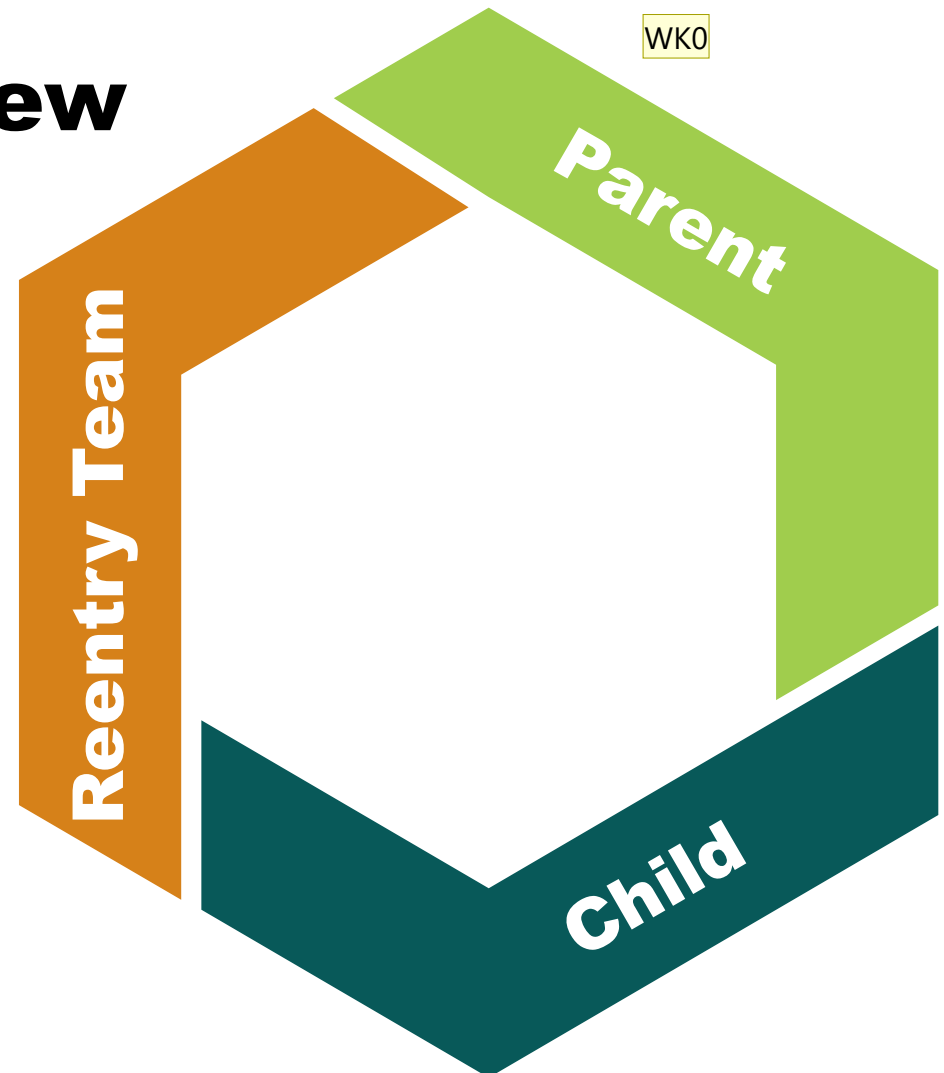
TESTING



# Prison Reentry Overview

The program strives to increase parental accountability, self-sufficiency, and child support collections:

- Provides free DNA testing
- Weekly Education Sessions & Support Groups
  - *24/7 Dad curriculum*
  - *Understanding Dad for Moms*
- Referrals for Access & Visitation
- Connecting with Community Resources





## Slide 25

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# DHS Partnerships WKO

## MOU - Department of Corrections

- Allows DHS and designated vendors access to GDC facilities & equipment
- Eligibility: Individuals with active child support cases
- DOC provides list of individuals within the GDC facilities for DCSS to identify eligibility for paternity testing and education on child support and other programs provided by designated vendors

## MOA - Department of Community Supervision

- Purpose: To identify child support obligors via data sharing (interface)
- DCS monitors individuals with child support cases and enforces compliance as part of the probation



## Slide 26

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**WKO**

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# Services Offered



Child Support Case  
Review



Parenting Skills:  
Responsible Mothers  
and Fathers



Referrals to Housing &  
Other Needs



Access and Visitation  
Referrals





# 2023-2024 MISSION

DEVELOP  
CONNECT  
CONFIRM  
ENSURE





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**Fatherhood**

**Program Manager**

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Division of Child Support Services

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**Parental Accountability Court & Reentry**

**Program Manager**

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