

CRAINE HOUSE
RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS
AND DAY REPORTING PROGRAM

Contact Information

Program Director: Cheryl Justice, Executive Director

Address: 3535 North Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, Indiana 46205

Phone: 317-925-2833

Fax: 317-925-2834

E-mail: cajustice1@aol.com

A Reflection of the Community

This public-private partnership in Indianapolis is focused on making a safer and better place for young children and their mothers who are under criminal justice supervision. Craine House is a family residential facility with a day reporting branch serving women under community corrections custody. There are 6 women and 11 children currently in the living facility, and 25 women in day reporting.

The women are referred to Craine House from both jail and prison. Some stay in the Marion County Jail until they are sentenced to Craine House Programs, others are in prison for a period of time and finish their sentences at Craine House. This is a rigorous and demanding program that requires participants to cooperate. If they are not successful in the program, they may go back to jail or prison, depending on their violations, and the discretion of the court. While involved with Craine House, the women must meet the following requirements:

- Attend school or gain a G.E.D.
- Find employment
- Pay rent and subsistence
- Stay off drugs and alcohol
- Keep a curfew
- Meet state and county supervision requirements
- Practice appropriate parenting skills.

Such requirements shape the phased progress of women in the program. Oversight is provided by: Craine House staff, Marion County Community Corrections, and a Board of Directors. The Craine House program has evolved gradually over the past twenty-two years. During that time, the Indianapolis community, the private sector and the state Department of Corrections have wrestled with ways to break the cycle of abuse, poverty and crime. They want to reduce the odds that predict the children of offenders are at least four times more likely than other children to become criminals.

* This case study was compiled from a variety of sources, interviews and publications. It is not intended to be an endorsement by the authors of a particular program, method or approach. The case study is intended to provide an illustration and example of one type of approach to mother-child programs.

Craine House was conceived as an alternative sentencing program for women and developed through the leadership of Episcopal Charities Network and Prison Ministries. The Reverend Jackie Means and John P. Craine were involved in developing offender transitional services in the community. In 1978, Craine House started as a residence for women who were leaving prison. The State Department of Corrections and Episcopal Diocese donated money for the original program. Craine House acquired a three story residential building, on a large fenced lot in a residential neighborhood of apartments and houses.

For nearly ten years, Craine House operated successfully providing housing, counseling, job placement and support for an average of 12 women at any given time. Then an incident unrelated to Craine House happened in Indiana that caused a punitive public outcry—a man on work release killed his wife. Shortly after that incident, in January of 1990, Craine House was closed as the state retreated from its commitment to work release and transitional living programs.

In December 1992, Jim Hmurovich, who was with the Department of Corrections initiated the process of reopening the program. He was assisted by the Episcopal Diocese, civic leaders, and former Mayor Goldsmith, who was then a prosecutor. They then re-established the Board of Directors. Craine House received a startup grant from the Indianapolis Foundation and several others. State community corrections funding became available through the county. The building was originally zoned for 15 adults and when it reopened, the zoning did not have to be changed. Craine House reopened in 1993 as a program designed to accommodate female offenders and their young children. The reopening was assisted by a visit to Summit House in North Carolina.

Lessons Learned Along the Way

Balancing offender-based programming with family programming has been a continuing challenge. The staff has learned to make the program more family focused by involving the community and other professional services in Craine House programs. The program's use of existing community resources has helped everyone recognize the needs of offenders' families and to focus on the best interests of their children. For example, in areas where custody is an issue they may be able to develop a stronger parent-child relationship, a better environment for the child and a safety net for the family.

From the beginning, staff recognized the need to involve key elected and criminal justice officials as well as church and civic leaders to gain adequate funding. Because Craine House is a small, independent program, funding levels each year have not kept pace with the need for additional services. For example, they initially provided the day reporting services for free. Once they were established, they were able to negotiate partial reimbursement for day reporting costs from the county.

The small size of the program presents both advantages and challenges. For example, there is remarkable intimacy, involvement and consistency due to the small staff size. Many staff have worked for the program for a period of more than six years. Staff

longevity has been achieved by hiring persons who are motivated to do this type of work and find the challenges rewarding. On the other hand, it is difficult to provide adequate staff coverage around the clock, seven days a week.

The Craine House Mission

The purposes of Craine House are to keep families together, to prevent recidivism and to prevent transfer of a criminal life style to the next generation. The agency's mission is accomplished by delivering an alternative sentencing and family living program. Originally, the mission of the program was to provide transitional living, employment training and placement and to assist in meeting drug-free living requirements. While family unification has always been important, it is now emphasized because this is a family-focused residential program. Women who are in the non-residential day reporting program also receive assistance with family issues such as custody, parenting, and child care but the emphasis is on drug free living, compliance with custody requirements, and education or job development.

Program Basics and Services

Craine House services are based on four types of activities: prevention, intervention, treatment and rehabilitation. These are phased activities in both the day reporting and residential programs.

Prevention activities include: head start and early childhood education, completing a series of parenting classes, diagnostic assessment and play therapy for the child, mentoring and peer support for the moms. Treatment and diagnostics are used to prevent abuse and the cycle of crime and poverty that is so common in the lives of female offenders and their children. Health, nutrition and hygiene are stressed throughout the program.

Intervention activities are geared to holding the offender accountable, monitoring her behavior and providing structure or sanctions when needed. All intervention activities are included in case records for each offender and child. Client records are monitored by the staff of Marion County Community Corrections. Accountability data for each case include: breathalyzer, urinalysis, pass verifications, visitations, room inspections, daily shift notes, incident and conduct reports.

Treatment activities include group and individual counseling, participation in narcotics anonymous and alcoholics anonymous groups. Midtown Mental Health provides an initial substance abuse assessment. This is followed by treatment set up by one of two other providers. A Program Director (MSW) provides individual substance abuse counseling or makes referrals to an outside agency.

Rehabilitation activities include GED classes through the Indiana schools, and educational tutoring. There are employment services through a number of programs: INET, American Works, Keys to Work, the Impact Program Job Readiness, and

Mapleton Fallcreek. In addition, outside classes in self-esteem, money management, training, women's health, enlightenment, exercise and fashion are offered through church and community groups.

Indicators of Positive Results

Measurement of success has been based on:

- retention and graduation in the program;
- minimizing rearrest after program completion;
- payment of support;
- number of graduates employed and not on welfare;
- compliance with county and state requirements.

Craine House is reviewed annually by the Marion County Community Corrections Agency. This is a program audit that surveys compliance with state and county requirements, administration, personnel, services, records and results. Program audits consistently have found the program to be a quality program.

Program results were analyzed in a report by William H. Barton, Ph.D., Indiana University School of Social Work, and presented in a report dated October 1999. He noted that over half of all female prisoners in Indiana (over 600) were convicted of low level felonies and misdemeanors. An analysis of 80 women and 107 children assigned to Craine House since 1993, indicated that the average length of stay was 151 days. Fifty-three were graduates of the program, 22 were terminated and 5 were still in the program. For those who graduated from the program (70% of terminations), 21% recidivated within a year but 79% did not recidivate. Total client fees paid were \$76,000 for an average fee paid per family of \$1,030.

A 1996 report indicated that 19 out of 28 graduates were no longer receiving AFDC and were employed. This indicates substantial improvement after graduation because about 80% of those entering the program were unemployed and on welfare.

Long Term Goals and Challenges Remain

Staff identified a number of areas to be improved depending on resources and other agency support. They include: transitioning women from welfare to work, specialized substance abuse services, mental health services, child development baseline testing and play therapy, and extended aftercare for the women who leave the program. Craine House is working to find affordable housing. The medical and legal communities provide voluntary help with medical and legal needs, but a more systematic arrangement with dedicated resources remains a long-term goal. Women need continual help with parenting, child-care, child support and custody issues. They often do not fully understand their rights and obligations.

Tips for Those Starting New Programs

The leadership of Craine House has been remarkably stable and this has made it possible for agencies to continue funding its programs over the years. Building relationships and educating community leaders about the needs of children and mothers in the justice system takes time, but yields long-term benefits. Organizers of new programs should look to the voluntary sector and other agencies for help. Craine House has an array of dedicated volunteers who help plan and execute fund-raisers. Corporations and endowments have also been generous over the years and this should be part of any start-up organization's plan. It is imperative to plan the program to collect data that will help to measure program effectiveness. A research and evaluation plan should be established at the beginning. Design the program to include services that address factors associated with the needs of women offenders and their children. Use proven methods for treatment and prevention components.

Listen carefully to the input of the women, children and staff about how the program is impacting them. Motivate staff and residents by involving them in decisions and frequent discussions concerning their progress. An open helping approach to residents makes it easier to communicate with them and to develop their social and parenting skills. Handle the difficult issue of support for residents pay by requiring them to sign their paycheck over so that collection of the support payment will not be a problem. Such methods establish the ground rules and assist with supporting the children.

Production of this document was supported by awards # 2000-DD-VX-0015 and #2000-DD-VX-0012 from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, United States Department of Justice. The points of view represented here are those of the authors and do not represent the position of the U.S. Department of Justice.

