## A FRAMEWORK FOR IMPROVING INDIVIDUAL AND SYSTEM SUPPORTS FOR REENTERING DADS

- Barriers and Struggles of fathers transitioning back into their children and families lives
- Opportunities for improving this experience for families
- Dads with lived experience tell their stories
- Professionals who walk beside them will share their learnings

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## **MEET OUR DADS...**



### James Chambers

Formerly incarcerate father of 3 grandfather, and activist.



## **Rudy Romo**

Formerly incarcerated husband, father of 5, and advocate. +

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# **MEET OUR PROFESSIONALS...**







Darin Goff Program Manager WA Dept of Corrections

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### CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FACTS: NATIONAL PICTURE

Rutgers University, Children and families of the Incarcerated Fact Sheet, 2104

## Vital Areas of Reentry...

A Framework for Improving Individual and System Supports for Reentering Dads

<ul> <li>Stable, safe housing</li> <li>Employment</li> <li>Stress-free transportation</li> <li>Responsibility for others</li> <li>Establish routines and schedules</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>* Heal and support family bonds</li> <li>* Surround self with positive influences, mentors</li> <li>* Avoid negative influences</li> <li>* Healthy use of idle time</li> <li>* Learn positive self- advocacy skills</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>* Realize much has changed</li> <li>* Think ahead on difficult situations, have a plan</li> <li>* Healthy coping strategies and emotion regulation</li> <li>* Evaluate needs and wants</li> <li>* Expect negative labels</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>* Competing priorities</li> <li>* Over programming/ meetings</li> <li>* Unrealistic deadlines</li> <li>* Distrust of supporting staff/agencies</li> <li>* Mandatory fees/ deductions</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>* Believe you can do it and deserve it</li> <li>* Fight feelings of powerlessness</li> <li>* It will take time to become comfortable with new behaviors and attitudes</li> <li>* Expect others will want to derail you</li> </ul>
Structure & Stability	Positive Family & Community Connections	Realistic Expectations- Fight Disappointment	Justice Responsibilities	Embrace the Idea of a New Life

Help develop coping & problemsolving skills.

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## OPPORTUNITIES FOR SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

Help establish stable housing, Livable wage, Stress-free transportation What role do we each play?

How do each of us relate to reentry dads?

Do we assume they want to be part of their child's life?

Assistance with family and community bonding prior to and after release.

Ensure motivating, supportive relationship with justice officials and support agencies.