Motherhood Beyond Bars
Care • Support • Reunify

The Journey of Mother, Baby and Caregiver with Motherhood Beyond Bars (MBB)

Start

I - Pregnancy in Prison

MBB Engagement Milestone

1. MBB Identifies Pregnant Individual

MBB Interventions

- All incarcerated pregnant women in Georgia are transferred to Helms Facility
- MBB identifies incarcerated pregnant women
  - MBB searches GA Prison System Inmate finder for women sent to Helms Facility
  - MBB is notified by current incarcerated women at facility that other woman is pregnant
- MBB establishes connection with incarcerated pregnant mother
  - Mail
  - Phone
- Mother adds MBB staff member to approved contact list
- Staff maintains weekly communication throughout incarceration
  - Money is deposited on the caregivers' JPay account throughout incarceration to ensure communication with MBB, Caregiver, & Baby throughout incarceration

2. MBB Provides Pregnancy Support

- MBB sends introductory services packet
  - Introduction letter
  - Survey
  - Explanation of mother's rights and GA specific laws
  - Educational and one-on-one support for pregnancy, birth
- Needs Assessment
- Does parent have other kids involved in foster care?
  - No
  - Yes
    - ★ 2.8 Potential DFCS involvement
    - MBB continues outreach (i.e. reach out to case manager & hospital if DFCS came or not)

3. Identifying a Caregiver

- MBB receives completed intake questionnaire & coordinates vital documents with mother
  - Expecting mother identifies caregiver
- MBB reaches out to caregiver
- Caregiver accepts assistance from MBB
  - No
    - Continue to write mother, "Thinking of You" cards
    - Encourage communication with other MBB program participants in Helms
  - Yes
- Explain MBB's Programs to Caregiver
  - Educate about Guardianship options
    - Caregiver requires support with Custodial Arrangement
    - Caregiver seeking Guardianship
    - Provide referral to Georgia Legal Services
  - Confirm safe environment for baby
    - Car Seat
    - Sleeping arrangements
  - Explain available government supports
    - SNAP
    - WIC
    - Medicaid
    - CAPS Childcare Subsidy

II - Delivery of Baby

4. Delivery of Baby & Transition to Caregiver

- Mother is transferred to the hospital for delivery
- MBB is notified that mother was transferred to give birth
  - Notification from other incarcerated individuals
  - Post-birth notification from caregiver
- Baby is delivered
  - **Mother**
    - Transferred to Lee Arrendale State Prison 48-72 hours after delivery
    - MBB mails mother Postpartum Questionnaire
  - **Baby**
    - Enters NICU until caregiver arrives
    - Baby is enrolled in Medicare at the hospital before leaving with caregiver
    - If not enrolled at time of transition, MBB works with caregiver on Medicaid enrollment
    - ★ **MBB** is a **Gateway Community Partner** which enables us to apply for services over the phone for caregivers
  - **Caregiver**
    - Caregiver notified of delivery and pickup date
    - NICU staff store Begin Box previously provided by MBB. Caregiver receives Begin Box at pick up
    - Caregiver must watch two infant care videos prior to leaving with baby
    - Caregiver leaves with liability form which has already been notarized by the prison

III - Caregiver Care of Child

MBB Engagement Milestone

5. Ongoing Support Services for Caregiver and Child

MBB Interventions

- **MBB** contacts caregiver within 1 week of baby's arrival, and then at least monthly
  - (All caregivers are assigned a primary MBB contact who is available beyond normal business hours)
- **Diapers** (Delivered to caregivers directly)
- Birthday cards
- Infant development milestone **pamphlets**
- Car seats & clothes (on occasion)
- Connect with other resources
- "Babies Can't Wait" referrals & other early interventions
  - Support infant in Early Head Start (EHS) Programs enrollment & refer all infants to any EHS program director in GA
- **MBB** contacts caregiver **every 3 months** about Harvard School of Public Health survey (if willing)
  - Caregivers and mothers can participate in research and are paid for their participation
  - The research team sends MBB "red flags" obtained from multiple surveys, highlighting common issues experienced by caregivers

IV - Mother Re-entry & Reunification

6. Assistance in Coordinating with Local Resources for Reentering Citizens

- Coordination assistance
  - "Circle of Support" (part of strategic plan currently in development. Put together a group of people to serve as a welcome home committee)
  - Provide "Welcome Home Basket" to mothers upon Re-entry
    - (Includes personal hygiene items, blanket, pillow, purse, towels, water bottle, etc.)
- Immediate connection with healthcare and application for vital documents
- Emergency support for mother upon re-entry (if needed)
  - Housing support
  - Job support
  - Travel support (MARTA stipends for those who need support getting to work)
- Connect mothers to community support for mental health and sobriety
- Communication with parole/probation officers
- Reentry hiring programs where geographically available
- Support mothers (inside and out) to complete DFCS reunification case plan

V - On-going

7. Ongoing Relationship Facilitation with Mother/Caregiver

- **If family has DFCS Involvement:**
  - **MBB** staff directly contacts DFCS Community Support in district for a list of resources for mother (or work with DFCS to create one)
  - MBB works with mother to make sure she has ability to work her case plan and can/have appeared in court for hearings
- Provide assistance for terminating the temporary guardianship

Map Key

- Primary Category
- MBB Engagement Milestone
- MBB Intervention
- DFCS Involvement