

# Performance-based Standards

Committed to treating all youths in custody as one of our own.

# **Family Participation**

### Why is it important to involve families?

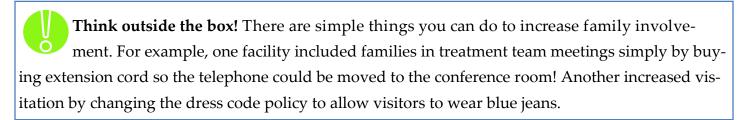
- Families and facilities share the common goal of helping youths return to the community with the skills and supports needed to stop re-offending;
- Research has shown that supportive family contact during incarceration is associated with better behavior while in facilities and better outcomes once released, including reducing the involvement of siblings; and
- ♦ Families want and are ready to participate!

### How do I get families involved?

- Create a Family Council—For suggestions, refer to PbS' guide: "Developing a Family Council;"
- Establish a family night, family dinners or other events bringing families into the facility for informal fun;
- Reach out to the family as soon as the youths comes to the facility to answer questions and address any concerns the family may have about the facility or the juvenile justice system; and
- Include family members on the treatment team and communicate with them regularly.

#### What have other facilities done?

- Assessed youths' family and social supports through formal survey or informal questions;
- Created new orientation packets for families;
- Offered free weekly phone calls home;
- Revised of visitation policies to include siblings and increase visiting hours;
- Provided transportation to the facility; and
- Implemented parenting programs for youths with children.





Be sure to promote the events and opportunities for families!

Thanks to the Family Participation and Treatment Planning group at the 2014 PbS State Coordinators Training, led by Tonya Wright-Cook, and to Ryan Shanahan, presenter from the Vera Institute of Justice, for their ideas and input.