

Development of An Awareness in Our Young Men

Week 1:

We start with why a young man gets locked up, then we identify his actions that led to incarceration.

Week 2:

The basics we expose the negatives in his life that are the cause of his problem.

- a) Level of education;
- b) Negative consequences of his actions that impact his family;
- c) What changes that need to be made in his behavior.

Week 3:

We work on instilling a purpose for his future by discussing his limited skills in his educational and personal life. We bring a San Francisco employer to inform the young men that low skills means low earning power. They also learn the demographics of the job market. Then we then bring in an SEIU representative who will come and talk to the participants about union jobs and what it will take to be employed.

Week 4:

We stress "doing the right thing" so that will help our participant begin to develop a new outlook. We take a robbery scenario and discuss all parts of that crime. We take their opinions in writing and analyze the thinking it takes to rob someone. We also have them think about their victims.

The Young Father's Program uses this awareness approach with our participants because we use a more realistic language that is geared towards our young men. Traditional language and concepts have not and will not work - they have been unable to move forward.

Learned Behavior

- A) Anger and Aggressive Behavior
- B) Negative Attention Seeking
- C) Destructive Behavior
- D) No Coping Skills

A father must overcome these areas of his life before he has a child whom he must teach on how to live as a human being.

Support for a father in developing alternative plans, we start directing positive activities for him and his family.

We also work on his self-esteem. We emphasize their strengths, skills providing a balance between negative and positive behavior. Our tool kit is using the essay form from the young father's perspective

Our approach is to identify the father's issues and guide him towards his goal of being effective with himself and his young family.

The Vehicle

Our participants use the essay format to express themselves and the reason for their actions. Discussions on areas of negative plans that landed him in the position that he's in.

During our sessions we write what they are feeling at that moment. Then we do one-on-one as a review of his thinking.

Bonding

Many of our participants have their idea of bonding in the gang. Of this group of people, many find negative love, negative bonding. This area is written and discussed often to show new ideas and new ways of thinking.

Family Life

A young father feels he is stuck emotionally for not caring about his family. In this area we use positive role models, we confront the negative behavior in his actions that cause pain towards his mom and/or dad and his victim we then have them write about what they want in a family.

The Young Father's Program uses this awareness approach with the participants because traditional language and concepts have not worked in the past and will not work in the future. We use a more realistic language that is geared towards today's younger generation.