

# What do you know about incarcerated teens in Washington?

- ▶ Age range is 12-21. What's the median age?
- ▶ Top four counties of commitment?
- ▶ % dealing with chemical abuse/dependency?
- ▶ % with gang affiliation?
- ▶ Gender – male or female?
- ▶ % with mental health issues?
- ▶ Top three offenses?
- ▶ 33.5% have \_\_\_ priors

# General information about incarcerated teens in Washington<sup>1</sup>

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- ▶ Age range is 12-21. **Median age is 17 years old**
- ▶ Top four counties of commitment? **King (21.6%) Pierce (9.2%) Clark (8.2%) Snohomish (8%)**
- ▶ % dealing with chemical abuse/dependency? **57.2% drugs/alcohol**
- ▶ % with gang affiliation? **38.4% gang affiliations**
- ▶ Gender – male or female? **92.5% male**
- ▶ % with mental health issues? **60.8% mental health issues**
- ▶ Top three offenses? **Robbery (21%) Assault (19.9%) Burglary (13.6%)**
- ▶ 33.5% have **0** priors

# Serving the Captive Audience

## Public Library Service for Incarcerated Teens

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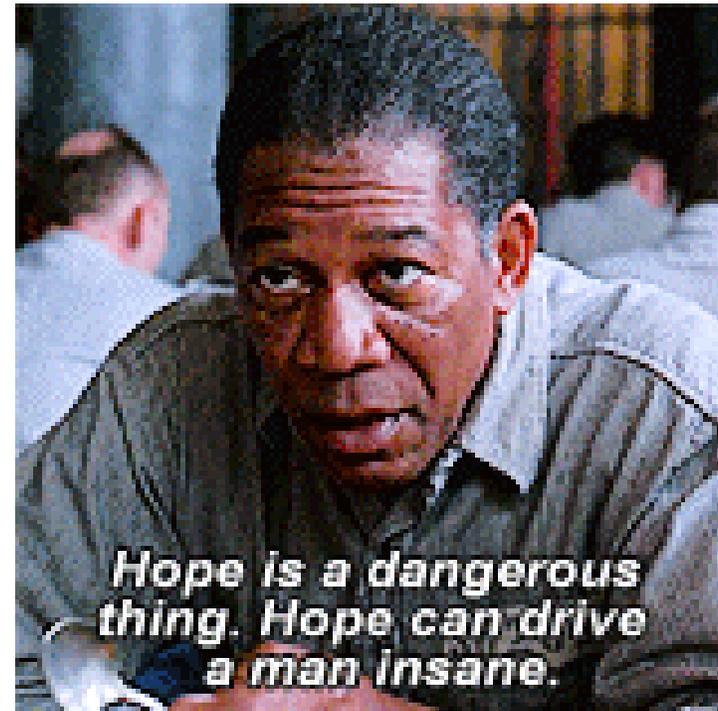
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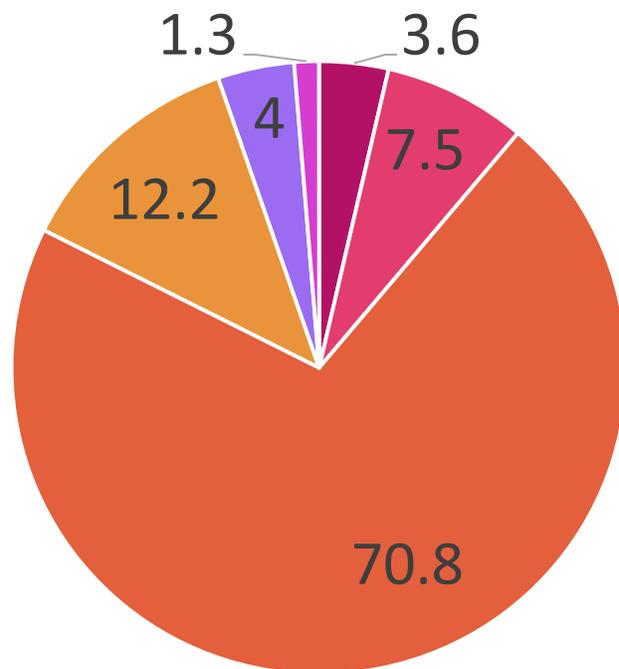
# Incarcerated populations in Washington State

- ▶ County jails
- ▶ Correctional facilities
- ▶ Community Justice centers
- ▶ Detention centers
- ▶ State prisons
- ▶ Federal prisons
- ▶ Also, consider unaccompanied immigrant children 2

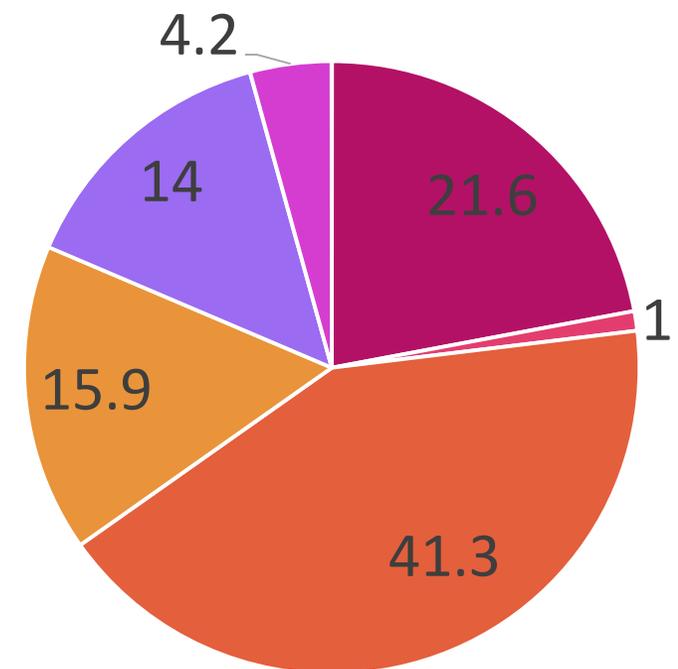


# Race and Ethnicity in Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration (JRA)

WA State Demographics <sup>4</sup>

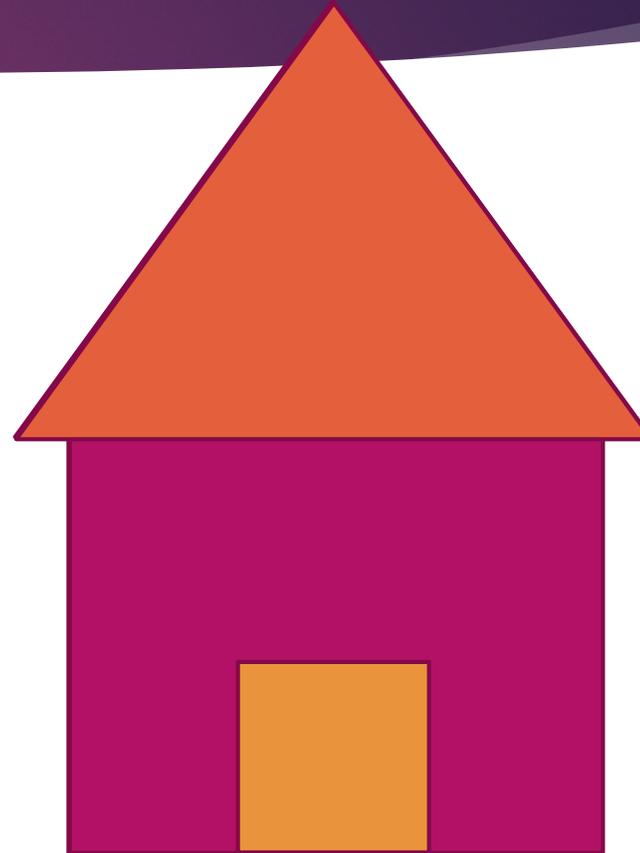
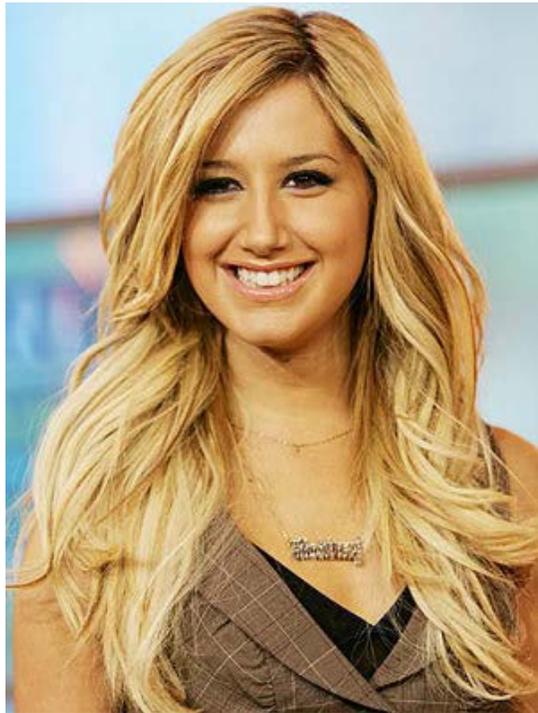


WA State JRA Demographics <sup>5</sup>



\*As of 2000, census data separated out the terms "Hispanic/Latino" as an ethnicity. "Federal standards mandate that race and Hispanic origin (ethnicity) are separate and distinct concepts and that when collecting these data via self-identification, two different questions must be used." The percentage of Hispanic/Latino was approximated in order to compare to JR reported demographics. <sup>3</sup>

# Case Study: Meet “Lily”



# Lily's journey into detention

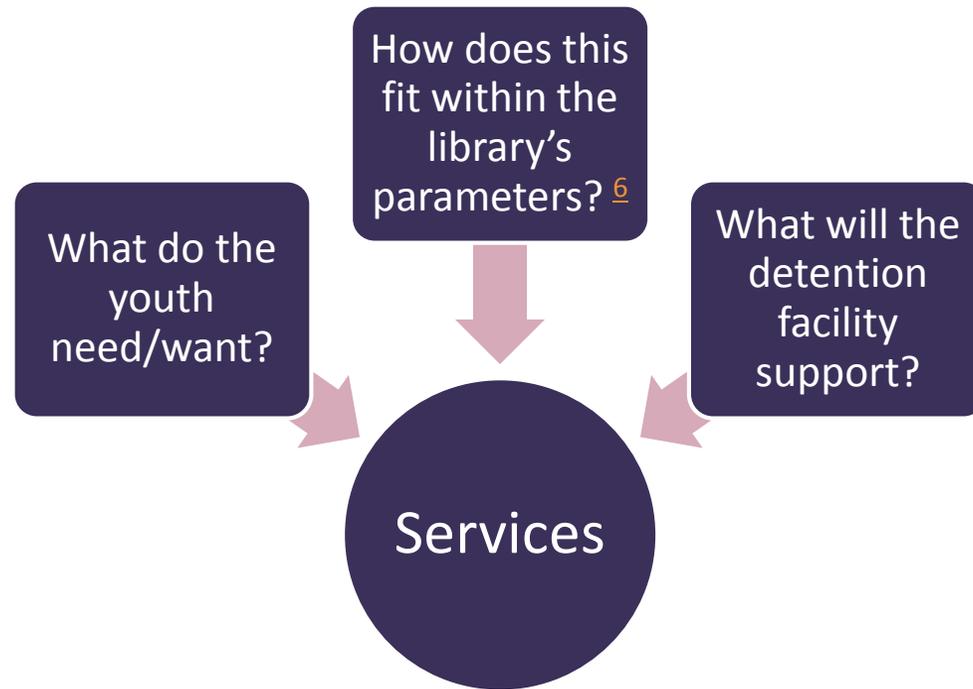
- ▶ Prosecuted and convicted for felony "assault three, class c felony."
- ▶ Minor with felony, Green Hill School (Chehalis), Naselle Youth Camp (Naselle), Echo Glen Children's Center (Snoqualmie)
- ▶ As a female, she can only be sent to Echo Glen



# How to walk in the front door

- ▶ System support/Management buy-in (in theory)
- ▶ Laying the groundwork
- ▶ Management buy-in *again* (for real)
- ▶ Inside Man 🙄
- ▶ Brainstorm meeting with all parties
- ▶ Background checks
- ▶ Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) training

# Factors to...you know, factor in.



**What objections might you have or might your library have to detention services?**



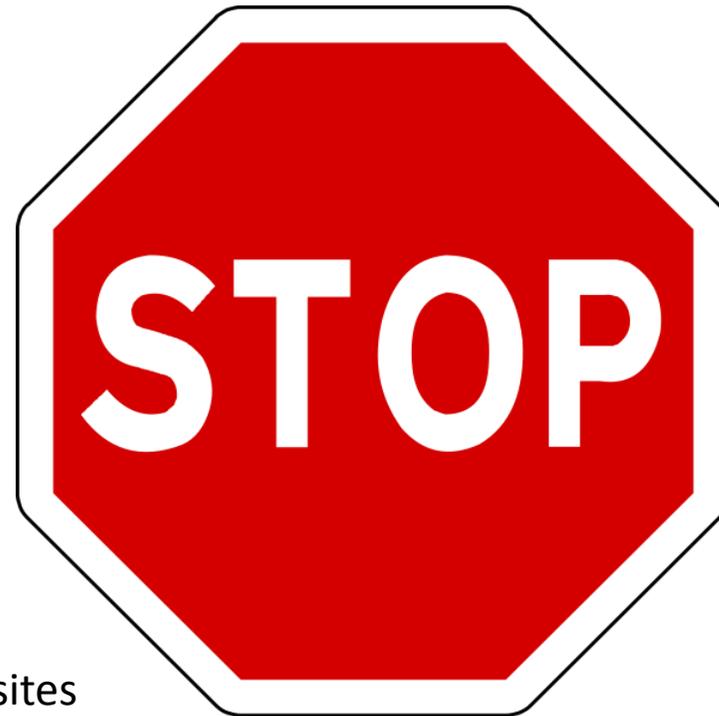
# Here were some from our team

I'm scared to work with delinquents,  
let alone felons

We don't have the staff

That little voice, "Why is this kid here?"

I don't even have time to visit my other sites



This is going to take a lot of time

These patrons have challenges  
I'm not trained to handle

Why do THEY deserve our time and money?

# Staffing



- ▶ Make your team
- ▶ Our magic number is 2 staffers for a program
- ▶ Leveraging internal departments within library system
- ▶ Non-librarian classifications

*If you don't want to be there, you should serve in a different capacity, because the kids will know.*

# Safety and Security – What's allowed?



# Programs for Professional Development

- Resume writing workshops (in-house)  
Useful Links [1](#) [2](#) [3](#)
- [Microsoft Imagine Academy](#) (previously Microsoft Office Specialist)



*"I'm trying to find a way to balance your strengths against your felonies."*



# Programs to Inspire

- [Motivational speaker](#)
- [Native American flute](#)
- [Author visit](#)



# Programs for Creative Expression

- Poetry and performance
- Rap writing workshop
- Songwriting with literature emphasis
- Poetry slam
- Graphic novel workshop
- Makey Makey



# Partnerships/Funding

- ▶ The most important partner: Site buy-in (Echo Glen in this case)
- ▶ WSL Makey Makeys
- ▶ WSL Microsoft Office
- ▶ Friends of the Library
- ▶ Presenters cut us deals to work with population



# Evaluating. What worked, what didn't



# Evaluating yourself in this service

- ▶ Are YOU a fit for this?
- ▶ Is this a FIT for you?
  
- ▶ Activity: self-evaluation



# Shifting Goals

Began with very concrete goals (necessary for our project charter...and still are)

In reality, our goal is to create a positive association in teens' minds about public libraries

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Godard, Paul. *Meeting of the Spirits*. 2005. Flickr. Web. 26 Mar. 2016.

*Where ever these teens go, there will be a library available.*

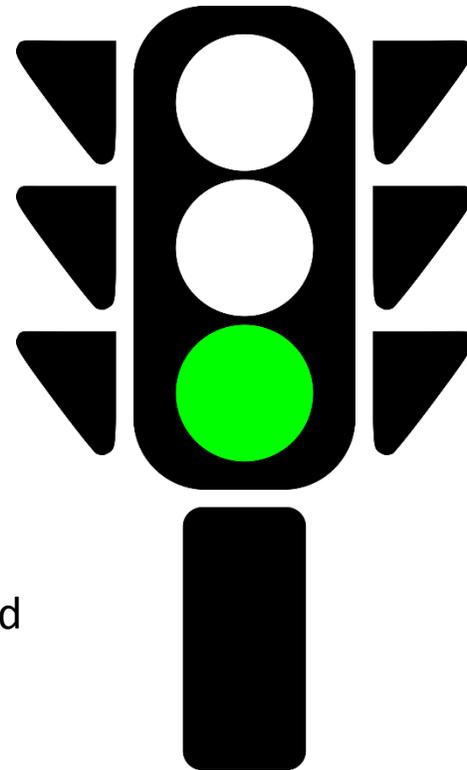
# Best Practices

(in no particular order)

1. Don't be afraid to try. Don't be afraid to fail
2. Kids are happy with what we bring, but that doesn't mean that we can't improve (fit for audience, quality of presentation or presenter)
3. Check your professional ego.  
Service to detention facilities → It's not about "The Library"
4. Work to achieve project goals, but know that excitement for service can lead to scope creep
5. It's all about the individual connection with teens
6. Site buy-in and extensive follow-through

# Youth incarceration is complex but the public library has an important role to play

Enrichment



Access the library regardless of conviction (when so many other rights are lost and doors are closed)

Exposure to new ideas and concepts

No pressure services

Life skills resources after reentry is completed

Inspiration on what follows incarceration

# Works Cited

- 1,5. "Demographics/Characteristics of Population\* For Residential - State-Wide Population On January 11, 2016." *Washington State Department of Social and Health Services*. Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration. Web. 15 Mar. 2016.
3. United States of America. Bureau of the Census. *Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin: 2010*. By Karen Humes, Nicholas A. Jones, and Roberto R. Ramirez. GPO, Mar. 2011. Web. 10 Mar. 2016.
4. "Demographics/Characteristics of Population\* For Residential - State-Wide Population On January 11, 2016." *Washington State Department of Social and Health Services*. Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration. Web. 15 Mar. 2016.
6. On aligning services with agency goals: Rockefeller, Elsworth. "About Aligning Teen Programs with Strategic Initiatives." *VOYA* Vol. 38. No. 4. Oct. 2015: 40-41. Print.

## Further Resources

2. "[Unaccompanied Children Released to Sponsors By State](#)." Office of Refugee Resettlement. 25 Mar. 2016. Web. 28 Mar. 2016.
  - ▶ [Youth Detention Resource List](#) of websites, books, podcasts, etc.
  - ▶ "[Indicator Selection | KIDS COUNT Data Center](#)." [KIDS COUNT in Washington](#). Annie E. Casey Foundation. Web. 28 Mar. 2016.

# Questions?

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