



Family Support Project for the Rehabilitated

Rediscover Happiness, Rebuild Family

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I. 2009 to 2011

II. 2011 until now

The Ministry of Justice launched this project in 2009 to engage social organizations in jointly strengthening family support network for inmates and the rehabilitated, in an aim to facilitate smooth re-entry of the rehabilitated through family support and acceptance, and ultimately reduce recidivism.

All branches of Taiwan After-care Association will utilize deferred prosecution fines and cooperate with non-profit legal entities, institutions, organizations and schools of all levels that are

registered in accordance to related laws, have robust administrative organization, and are verified by governing agencies to have no financial problems in the past three years.

I. 2009 to 2011

According to recent data compiled by the Ministry of Justice, nearly 30,000 inmates are released annually; as for newly admitted inmates, nearly 50% are recidivists. Among the rehabilitated with their parole revoked, the majority are involved in drug-related cases. Furthermore, domestic and overseas studies show that how well released inmates adapt to family life and employ-

1. Authored by Director of Taiwan After-Care Association Taipei Branch.

ment correlates highly with their likelihood of recidivism (Rex, 1996; Tseng, 2007). Also, providing inmates opportunities to be in touch with their families while they are in prison helps to reduce recidivism and encourage positive behavior (Jen, 2006). According to the study conducted by Yang and Lin (2007), 95% of inmates reveal that they are willing to right their wrongs and start afresh during their time in the prison so that they do not let their family down. Therefore, connections and mending of family relationships are important aspects during the rehabilitation process that foster smooth re-entry for the rehabilitated.

Taiwan After-care Association Taipei Branch and Libertas Education Foundation have joined forces to launch family support project for the rehabilitated at Taipei Prison and Sindian Drug Abuser Treatment Center, Agency of Corrections, Ministry of Justice, targeting “interaction between drug abusers and addicts and family members,” and using “family resilience” and “logotherapy” as the project’s theoretical foundation.

1. Objectives

- (1) To provide inmates, the rehabilitated, and their family members a sound communication channel to fully demonstrate the positive function among family members.
- (2) To help inmates and the rehabilitated solve issues when they are faced with difficulties in family, such as employment, communication, and parenting education.

2. Target Group

- (1) Inmates of Sindian Drug Abuser Treatment Center who are being released in six months, and are evaluated by correctional institutions as having weak family support.
- (2) The rehabilitated evaluated as being at high risk by Taiwan After-care Association Taipei Branch, who need immediate intervention.

3. Source of Cases

- (1) Ordinary inmates or drug abusers during compulsory treatment assessed by Taipei Prison and Sindian Drug Abuser Treatment Center as having



difficulties returning to their own families (families are willing but show poor communication) through investigation.

(2) The rehabilitated who seek help on their own behalf.

(3) Current cases of Taiwan After-care Association Taipei Branch.

(4) Individuals reported or referred by other systems (judicial agencies, drug abuse prevention centers, neighborhoods, schools, or juvenile detention houses).

4. Project Content

(1) Home Visit

To learn about the family's situation, and invite family members to attend the family visit held at noon and family forum in the afternoon on the second day of New Life Camp.

(2) New Life Camp

A. Each camp runs for 3 to 4 days. Personnel include Life Fighters, former addicts who have successfully overcome substance abuse, group counsellors, and other staff members.

B. The class framework is based on family resilience and logotherapy. The purpose is to help participants reconstruct the ability of "self-reflection" and mend relationships with their family through the classes.

C. To trigger "family resilience," family visit is arranged and family members are encouraged to attend.

D. At the camp, group counselors will accompany the inmates to write a letter of love to their family members to sincerely express their gratitude and ask for forgiveness.

E. For inmates with no family members attending the family visit, counselors will hand-deliver the letters to their family members.



(3) Family Visit and Family Forum

(4) Six Classes of “Home Re-Entry” Group Guidance

A. Target Participants: Inmates who have participated in “New Life Camp.”

B. The group guidance runs for two months, consisting of a total of six classes. Contents include:

- (a) The truth about drugs—harm to people and traits of and responses to addictive personality.
- (b) Understanding emotions and feelings.
- (c) How to communicate effectively.
- (d) The essence of love—gender education and parent-child education.
- (e) Community connection—future career planning (including education and employment, and legal and health

knowledge).

(f) Establishing support system (learning the importance of belief and introduction to self-help groups such as AA groups).

C. Individual Counselling and Guidance, and Home Visit

(a) Provide individual counselling and guidance to inmates who are willing to make changes but have problems returning home.

(b) Collect family information of individuals, and conduct home visit to establish preliminary positive communication channels and help them eliminate obstacles to returning home.

D. Follow-up after Returning Home

(a) Continued follow-up for at least six months after release from prison.

(b) Conduct family therapy for individ-





uals when necessary.

(c) Provide assistance to solve financial, educational, or employment issues faced by family members.

E. Establish Family or Individual Self-Help Groups in correspondence with the Branch

(a) Class materials for individual self-help groups are compiled with reference to AA groups, and feature the 12 principles to recovery: admitting that one is powerless over one's problem, accepting and making use of spiritual resources, making the decision to change, making a search of one's true

self, showcasing one's true self, recognizing one's inner power, discovering strengths and eliminating shortcomings, learning to forgive and let go, making amends to past wrongs, examining one's own behaviors, searching for one's own inner wisdom, and practicing the principles in life and passing on to others.

(b) Family self-help group classes are based on the "family resilience" theory, featuring: re-examining one's relationship over the course of life with the biological family; one's genogram; recognizing each family has its own issues, feelings and perceptions, and commu-

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母親心情不好的時候，郭蘇明陪（右）會躺在旁邊陪她聊天、逗她開心。
記者劉時均／攝影

毒販回頭 賣鍋扮老菜子

【記者劉時均／台北報導】冬日某午，身材瘦小的郭蘇明陪著行動不便的八十多歲老母親，到台北市龍山寺附近散步；不時彎下身子，貼在母親耳邊說話，沒人想到這名「現代老萊子」，曾是一名被判無期徒刑的「浪蕩子」。

六十二歲的郭蘇明因為販毒被判無期徒刑，入獄成為人生轉捩點。獄中收到父親去世噩耗，決心改變自己，服刑十一年終於假釋；現在每天一早到市場擺攤賣饅頭。

鐵鍋，下午回家照顧老母親。他說：「最重要是顧好母親，別再留下遺憾。」郭蘇明國中畢業後未繼續升學，廿多歲接觸當時流行的毒品還賜康、嗎啡，種下苦果。他回憶當初一個人住，朋友會帶毒品到他家注射，毒癮就像酒癮，「（心情）好也想癮，不好也找理由去癮」。

四十二歲時吸食毒品被警方逮捕，法院認定他是販毒共犯，判決無期徒刑。當時他認為，「進去（監獄）萬不會再出來了！」沒想到這一去卻成為人生轉捩點，在獄中參加宗教活動，感受這些人對社會付出的關愛，逐漸改變他對人生的看法。

入獄第十年，收到弟弟寄到獄中的噩耗，父親過世了。雖然弟弟希望他申請假釋出獄，參加告別式；但他忍痛拒絕，「我如果戴著手銬腳鐐出現在葬禮，父親看了多難過？」

郭蘇明隱下決定決心改變自己，他經常抄寫心經和大悲咒，共寫超過一萬五千次，沉澱心情。二〇〇五年假釋出獄，第一件事就是租房子把母親接過來同住，早上六、七點到台北市各市場賣饅頭，養活母子，付母親的醫藥費。

母親有時候因為見不到出外擺攤的兒子，露出不開心的眼神；郭蘇明回到家就會爬到床上，躺在母親身邊聊天，甚至輕握著手，像小孩子般撒嬌：「阿母你不要我囉，這樣我會很難過。」直到母親滿意為止。

母親因腦積水常發急診；為照顧母親，郭蘇一再照顧到自己已暈倒送醫。醫生要求他住院觀察，但他拒絕，因為擔心母親沒人照顧。

Opening and Closing of A Case during 2009-2011

Criteria for Opening of A Case

- A. The individual is willing to participate in the family support project.
- B. The individual faces weak family support or problematic family functions and hopes to gain family support and acceptance.
- C. Opening of a case deemed necessary upon assessment when individuals face multiple problems in family life, lack social resources, and cannot solve the problems on their own.
- D. The individuals who have the motivation to seek help or are in need of care and support from social workers.
- E. Cases meeting the criteria upon assessment by social workers in addition to the above situations.

Criteria for Closing of A Case

- A. The individual's family function is repaired, and relationships with family members have improved.
- B. The issues faced by the individual may not be resolved, but all main resources have been linked and are in smooth operation; the client and family have the ability to independently face and solve the problems.
- C. After social worker have worked with a client for a period of time, but the client and family express unwillingness to resolve the problems, the case may be closed upon consent from both the individual and the family.
- D. When an individual and family do not cooperate, and a professional relationship cannot be maintained, the case may be closed.
- E. The individual relocates household registration, or changes residential administrative area (i.e. moving of residence).
- F. The individual is missing and cannot be reached for over two months.
- G. When the individual is reconvicted, dead, or unreachable.

Regarding the opening and closing of cases, in addition to making monthly logs and reports, Taiwan After-care Association Taipei Branch will also hold a bi-monthly meeting to review casework implementation and the overall project.



nication and expression; clarification of one's own values; reconstruction of support system; and future outlook.

F. Casework Seminar

Regarding the opening, follow-up guidance, referral, and closing of case, a monthly seminar is held in addition to maintaining close contact and cooperation with the Branch, with an aim to effectively consolidate social resources toward achieving the goal of early re-entry.

II. 2011 until now

The rehabilitated and their families face enormous pressure different from ordinary people and households. As a common saying goes: "One person going to jail is tantamount to an entire family going to jail." When a person is imprisoned, the society often stigmatizes his or her family. Moreover, inmates' children are often picked on or bullied in school, and their family members often face discrimination in the society. What is even more troubling is that their children may also end up taking a wrong turn in life due to lack of oversight or negative self-image, leading to consecutive generations of convicts.

We find that the rehabilitated have difficulty getting support from their families after release from prison. Only a small number of families of the rehabilitated are willing to extend a helping hand after their release, and most the rehabilitated do not get support from their families. Thus, the Branch hopes to assist the rehabilitated and family members to mend relationships through professional social services and a network of resources so that family members can adjust to the situation and receive the necessary aid, thereby restoring family functions and building family support network for the rehabilitated.

Taiwan After-care Association Taipei Branch, Ying-Cheng Social Workers Agency, and R.O.C. Probation Association cooperate to implement the high-risk family support project for the rehabilitated. We target high-risk families where young children or dependents do not receive proper care due to factors such as entangled relationships or conflicts among family members, substance abuse, poverty, parenting by a grandparent, unemployment, or absence of a breadwinner. The purpose

of the project is to facilitate proper functioning of the rehabilitated and their families and to help to resolve issues they face in terms of adjustment, finances, employment, and education. Utilizing professional social services and a network of resources, the project aims to help the rehabilitated and their family members to mend relationships so that family members can adjust to the situation and receive the necessary aid, thereby restoring family functions and building family support network for the rehabilitated.

1. Objective

Utilizing professional social services and a network of resources, the project aims to help the rehabilitated and their family members to mend relationships so that family members can adjust to the situation and receive the necessary aid, thereby restoring family functions and building family support network for the rehabilitated.

2. Target Groups

(1) Juvenile inmates who are being released in three months, and have been assessed by correctional institutions as

having weak family support.

(2) The rehabilitated evaluated as being at high risk and in need of immediate intervention by Taiwan After-care Association Taipei Branch.

(3) Individuals whose family support needs to be enhanced or individuals assessed by Taipei District Court Juvenile Investigation and Probation Office as having weak family support.

3. Program

(1) Drug Addict Family Caring Activities

Drug abuse has become an increasingly serious problem in today's society, and the number of drug abusers has been growing over the years. Family members of drug addicts are helpless, and do not know the right way to help drug abusers to quit. The project aims to assist family members in helping drug abusers to quit their addictions through provision of professional health knowledge and resources on substance abuse prevention and treatment.

(2) Special Family Relationship Groups (Group Guidance)



Family relationship group guidance is held every two months to enhance the understanding of drug offenders and inmates of their own family relationships and improve their ability to resolve family conflicts and issues.

(3) Family Visit

The purpose of the family visit is to collect information on the participant's family, establish a preliminary positive communication channel, and to help eliminate communication barriers in the family, repair family relationship, and reconstruct the family's socialization mechanism.

A. Resources Referral: Based on their needs, clients are given onsite counselling or referred related resources, such as employment services, financial aids, parenting education, and psychological counselling.

(a) Provide Information Onsite: Social workers timely provide related information during their client visits.

(b) Refer Resources: Based on clients' needs and with their consent, social workers may assist them to fill out re-

ferral forms to connect related resources in order to solve financial, educational, and employment issues faced by the clients and family members.

(c) Carry out family therapy when necessary.

B. Follow-up Guidance:

Monthly house visit, interview, or telephone interview, will be conducted for every client, in order to provide assistance and guidance to the rehabilitated and their family members. Each case requires related documents such as monthly service record and statistical analysis.

(4) Individual Counselling and Guidance

A. Individual counselling and guidance are provided for individuals who are willing to change but have difficulties in returning home.

B. Collecting information on clients' families and conducting family visit to establish preliminary positive communication channel, in order to help them eliminate barriers in returning home.

4. Casework Seminar

In addition to maintaining close cooperation and contact, the Branch regularly meets with Ying-Cheng Social Workers Agency and R.O.C. Probation Association to discuss the opening, follow-up guidance, referral, and closing of each client, in aim to effectively consolidate social resources to achieve the purpose of early re-entry.

Opening and Closing of A Case from 2011 until now

Criteria for Opening of A Case

- A. The individual is willing to participate in the family support project.
- B. The individual's family support is weak and is facing difficulties, and hopes to gain family support and acceptance.
- C. Opening of case deemed necessary upon assessment when individuals face multiple problems in family life, lack social resources, and cannot solve the problems on their own.
- D. Individuals who have the motivation to seek for help or are in need of care and support from social workers.
- E. Cases meeting the criteria upon assessment by social workers in addition to the above situations.

Criteria for Closing of A Case

- A. Goals of individual family service project have been achieved.
- B. Critical situations of individual families resolved or improved.
- C. When the service agreement expires, and the client has shown no obvious motivation to change, and has no critical needs in life requiring assistance.
- D. When the client's family members and related personnel cannot be reached after at least one attempt or house visit per week over the period of one month, or the client's family members' whereabouts cannot be found out.
- E. The clients have moved out of the commissioned service region.
- F. Other factors.