



INTERSECTION TO CARE (ITC) MENTORSHIP PROJECT

Thank you for your interest in the ITC Project, helping women leaving incarceration. As you read further, you will understand that the role of Mentor is a vital one in helping people make transformational change! The Intersection to Care Project attempts to disrupt the desperate life circumstances that can lead to involvement in trafficking for those discharging from detention. It is not unusual for traffickers to be the primary source of support for those who walk out the doors of Shawnee County Adult Detention Center (SCADC). The ITC Project intends to give program participants another option. By creating safety and connection, the Mentor gives the participant hope for the future, a realistic vision for a different life, and access to support to accomplish this transformation.

Mentors are used primarily to build a connection with the participant, provide ongoing emotional support and face-to-face engagement to enhance the participant's ability to live comfortably and without entrapment into the trafficking world. The mentor will work with the participant and the ITC Liaison to link the participant with needed resources in the community such as housing, medical care, legal advice, financial assistance, employment information, etc.

To be an ITC Mentor, interested persons must first complete an application form and the SDADC background check paperwork. Applicants will receive thorough trauma training through the Family Peace Initiative and on-site training at the jail.

Mentorship Program Process:

1. After completion of the training, the ITC Resource Liaison on-site at the jail will match the mentor with an incarcerated woman participating in the ITC program.
2. Mentor will correspond with participant regularly during incarceration via email, Zoom, or on-site visits. The primary focus of this correspondence is to create a connection and begin to establish trust. That will require consistency, nonjudgmental responses, a genuine interest in them as a person, and a supportive attitude.
3. During the incarceration phase, the mentor will explore with the participant what her hopes and dreams are, discussing different options of how those can become a reality. With that as the guide, the mentor will explore options with the participant, helping them identify 3-5 practical goals and a timeline to accomplish those goals. With the knowledge of these goals, the Resource Liaison and mentor will assist the participant in creation of a plan of action to be implemented upon release. For example, Week 1: get driver's license; Week 2: apply for jobs; Week 3: research education/training.

The mentor will help break each goal into manageable tasks. For example, to get a driver's license, you must have an address and proof of identity (among other things). The mentor will show the participant how to look up the requirements and navigate the system. (How do you get proof of identity? Paying off fines? What if I can't get a driver's license right now?). With the permission of the participant, Resource Liaison and mentor will assist with as many of these tasks as possible while the participant is still incarcerated.

4. Upon release, participant and mentor will work on accomplishing the identified goals. Mentor will provide emotional and practical support to help participant achieve her goals. For example, meeting participant at DCF to sign up for food stamps, helping participant get a library card and showing her how to log on to the computers to apply for jobs, or meeting for coffee to talk about educational opportunities.
5. If ITC participant goes into residential treatment or a safe environment immediately after exit, with the participant's permission, mentor should continue correspondence.
6. The participant can ask the mentor to hold her accountable regarding specific behaviors. For example, a participant can ask a mentor to call/text 1 hour before a SMART meeting at the YWCA to help her stay on track with her addiction goals. The participant may want to text the mentor about the meeting afterwards so they can celebrate her success...or brainstorm ways to get to the next meeting.
7. When identified goals are met, the participant may set 3-5 more goals to address with the coaching of the mentor and Liaison.

Mentorship Guidelines:

- Please consider where you meet in relation to participants access to transportation. Bus passes are available for participants.
- Mentors will not provide money, gifts, or financial assistance to participants. The only exception to this is providing a cup of coffee or meal when meeting with a participant.
- Mentors may go to the home of participant only after visit has been approved by ITC staff.
- Mentors will not go to the residence of a known trafficker.
- When elements of danger exist or may exist, mentors should contact law enforcement.
- Mentors who transport participants must have adequate liability insurance and a valid driver's license. ITC project will have no liability for any damage to your personal vehicle.
- Mentors may not allow participants to access vehicles owned by mentors.
- Mentors may not interpret, assume, or suggest legal remedies. Instead, mentors will inform participants of known legal referral options.
- Mentors who know of or suspect child abuse in a family that the mentor is working with must report that abuse to the ITC Liaison immediately. If the Liaison is unavailable immediately, the volunteer must report the suspected child abuse to the Kansas Protection Report Center at 1-800-922-5330.

It is important to remember that our participants face many barriers. Our goal is to respect their challenges, recognize their resiliency and perseverance, and help them navigate very complex (and often bewildering) systems.

Requirements for Mentors:

1. Mentors will not restrain, restrict, or otherwise prohibit a participant from contacting their trafficker; however, a mentor will not provide transportation for a participant to meet with the alleged abuser.
2. Mentors will not be under the influence of alcohol and/or other drugs while interacting with a participant or performing other mentor duties.
3. Mentors will notify the ITC Resource Liaison of any medical condition or medication that could impair their ability to perform any mentor expectation.
4. Mentors will provide services in a professional and ethical nonjudgmental manner, respecting confidentiality.
5. Mentors will follow SCADC dress code while there, and the dress code below always.
 - Business casual attire.
 - Sweatshirts and t-shirts are permitted, if plain, store name brand, or university apparel.
 - Vulgar language, bands, or religious shirts etc. are not permitted.
 - No visible undergarments, cleavage, or bare midriffs.

Remember you are representing the ITC project. Always be conservative in dress and professional.