

BUILDING BRIDGES: EMPOWERING BLACK MOTHERS THROUGH GROUP WORK FOR SUCCESSFUL REENTRY

DR. LESLI DAVIS LCSW, LCAS, CSI

SIMMONS UNIVERSITY,
BOSTON, MA

GROUP WORK FOR SUCCESSFUL REENTRY & COMMUNITY REINTERGRATION

INTRODUCTION

Mass incarceration profoundly affects Black communities, particularly Black mothers facing reentry. They encounter unique challenges like systemic racism, economic instability, family separation, and trauma, often unmet by traditional reentry programs. This poster highlights how culturally responsive group work offers a powerful, collective approach, fostering community and empowerment for successful reintegration.

OBJECTIVE

This presentation aims to:

- Articulate unique reentry challenges for Black mothers.
- Explore effective group work, grounded in theoretical frameworks.
- Outline culturally responsive intervention strategies.
- Discuss implications for social work, policy, and future research.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS

The approach to group work with Black mothers is grounded in the following frameworks:

- Black Feminist Theory
- Critical Race Theory (CRT)
- Trauma-Informed Care (TIC)

METHODOLOGY

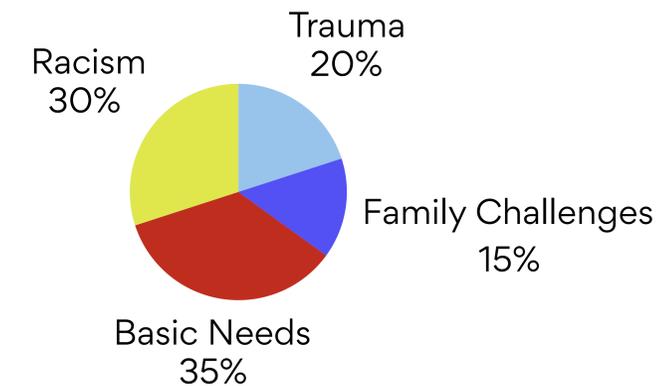
The group work model for Black mothers in reentry is:

- Participatory & Empowerment-Based
- Strengths-Based
- Culturally Responsive
- Peer-Supported
- Holistic

KEY THEMES & GROUP INTERVENTIONS

Effective group interventions incorporate:

- Psychoeducation
- Skill-Building
- Emotional Processing & Healing
- Identity Affirmation
- Advocacy & Community Connection
- Storytelling & Narrative Sharing



Primary Challenges Faced by Black Mothers in Reentry

IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE & POLICY

Some of the implications for continued work on the micro, mezzo & macro levels are:

- Enhanced Group Work Practice
- Improved Reentry Outcomes
- Policy Advocacy
- Community Collaboration

CONCLUSION

Grounded in black feminist, critical race, and trauma-informed theories, group work offers Black mothers a transformative path to reentry. By centering their experiences and providing culturally responsive support, these groups empower mothers to rebuild lives, strengthen families, and contribute to communities. It serves as a vital bridge for successful integration.

