

We are pleased that CCA Board Member Joyce Brown has suggested a support group concerning our children. Joyce is working very hard to make this a reality. Joyce has already met with Chief Raymond, D/W Monroe and Captain Santiago from the C.A.R.E. Unit. We are extremely hopeful that this will happen. Below is the letter Joyce wrote to get things started. The CCA Board is grateful for her attention to this very important issue and we support her entirely.

February 19, 2003

Robert. N. Davoren  
Chief of Department

Dear Chief:

As a member of the CCA Executive Board, I would like to schedule an appointment with the Commissioner for the purpose of starting a support group for parents in the department.

It has come to my attention and from my own personal experience that there is an urgent need for the members of this department to be able to come together on a regular basis and talk about the various issues we may have concerning our children. Working a job such as ours, we as parents often find ourselves facing dilemmas that require more immediate intervention than **“other parents”**. I believe that the opportunity for concerned parents to get together to vent, share and make references would be of paramount importance. As Correction personnel, balancing the job of parent and professional is not as easy as many think. There are so many proven instances that what affects us in our homes, affects us in the performance of our job duties.

This support group would in no way be an alternative to the C.A.R.E. Unit, but hopefully an extension of C.A.R.E. We would also hope to be an early intervention for anticipated problems involving our children. You would be surprised that in this day and age even though employed by this type of agency, **how many parents just do not know that our children are at risk**. In addition, we are also fortunate to have many parents with a wealth of experience in referrals and resources that can share.

My ultimate prayer is that the support group will alleviate many parents sense of isolation and feeling that, **“no one cares what I go through”**. I believe that there was a time when it took a village to raise a child, and sometimes it still does. **We can and should be that village.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joyce Brown  
Captain #215