

Male Involvement Roundtable

Moving Forward: Methods For Making It Work
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Moving Forward: Methods For Making It Work

Panelists

Sheldon Applewhite, Ph.D. - Healthy Start Brooklyn (Benefits)
Felecia Allen, Mobile County Healthy Start (Battles)
Michael Caliguiri, Healthy Start, Inc. - Pittsburgh (Basics)
Facilitator, Kenneth Scarborough, CHHS - National Cohort

MAKING IT WORK

- **Benefits** – Research shows that there is great value in fathers being involved in pre and post-natal care and services
- **Battles** – There are a number of challenges related to getting fathers involved and keeping them connected
- **Basics** – There are some things that are essential in getting and keeping fathers involved individually or programmatically

BENEFITS

INFANTS w/out FATHERS Involved

- ...infants without a father's name on the birth certificate were 2.3 times more likely to die in the first year of life compared with those with a father's name
- Infant mortality rates are 1.8 times higher for infants of unmarried mothers than married mothers
- ...fatherless children are "at a dramatically greater risk" of drug and alcohol abuse

MOTHERS OF BABIES w/out FATHERS Involved

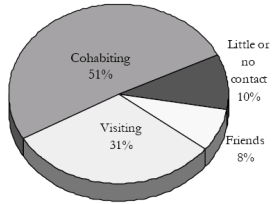
- Unmarried mothers are less likely to obtain prenatal care
- Unmarried mothers are more likely to have low birth weight babies
- ...single mothers were twice as likely as married mothers to experience depression in the prior year and higher level of stress

Consequences Of Absent Fathers

- Children are more likely to perform poorly in school
- Children are twice as likely to drop out of school
- Children are more likely to repeat a grade
- Children tend to score lower on reading and math tests
- 85% of children in prison come from fatherless homes
- Children of absent fathers are at greater risk of drug and alcohol abuse
- Obese children are more likely to live in father-absent homes than non-obese

90% of unmarried fathers are still connected to mothers at the time of child's birth

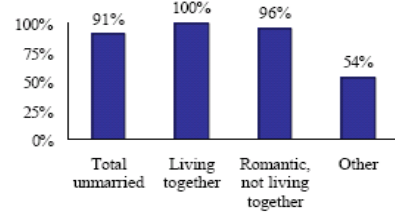
Figure 2. Relationship Status of Unmarried Parents



Source: The Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study Baseline National Report Revised - March 2005

Fathers plan to stay connected to their children

Unwed Fathers Planning to Stay Involved In Child's Life



Source: Father Involvement, Maternal Health Behavior And Infant Health, Fragile Families Research Brief Number 5, January 2001.

Children Benefit From Involved Fathers

"When non-resident fathers find ways to maintain high-quality relationships with their children and engage in responsive parenting practices, their children appear to benefit."

- Fewer externalizing and internalizing problems among adolescents

Source: "Nonresident Fathers' Contributions to Adolescent Well-Being," Valerie King and Juliana M. Sobolewski, *Journal of Marriage and Family* 68 (2), 537-557, August 2006.

Economic Benefits

- Research shows that paternal economic contributions promote positive development:
 - Social competence
 - Academic achievement
 - Psychological adjustment

Source: "Measuring Father Involvement in Young Children's Lives: Recommendations for a Fatherhood Module for the ECLS-B", Jerry West, National Center for Education Statistics Working Paper Series, vol. 2001-02, February 2001

Nurturance

- Fathers can provide for the basic daily needs of children (e.g., homework preparation, bath time)
- Fathers also can provide the nurturance children need (e.g., kissing, hugging, communication).

Source: "Measuring Father Involvement in Young Children's Lives: Recommendations for a Fatherhood Module for the ECLS-B", Jerry West, National Center for Education Statistics Working paper Series, vol. 2001-02, February 2001

Nurturance (continued)

- Research suggests that children benefit developmentally:
 - Reduces anti-social behavior
 - Reduces depressive and aggressive behaviors
 - Reduces emotional instability

Source: "Measuring Father Involvement in Young Children's Lives: Recommendations for a Fatherhood Module for the ECLS-B", Jerry West, National Center for Education Statistics Working paper Series, vol. 2001-02, February 2001

Other Key Factors

- Teachers and role models
- Friends
- Disciplinarian
- Protector
- Providers of emotional and practical support to mothers
- Linkages to extended family and community
- Influences children's education

Source: "Measuring Father Involvement in Young Children's Lives: Recommendations for a Fatherhood Module for the ECLS-B", Jerry West, National Center for Education Statistics Working paper Series, vol. 2001-02, February 2001

Questions on BENEFITS

- What 2 benefits you have seen by having fathers involved with expectant moms?
- What 2 benefits have you seen for newborns / infants by having fathers involved?
- What 2 benefits have you seen in children when their father/male is involved in their lives?

BATTLES

Three Types Being Covered

- Individualistic/Interpersonal
- Programmatic
- Systematic

Individualistic

- Mothers Who Want Fathers Involved
- Finding Time / Wanting To Make Time
- Poverty
- Unemployment, Low Educational Attainment
- Incarceration

Individualistic (continued)

- Other Fathers/Men Involved
- Attitudes Of Fathers
 - I Don't Need Help
 - Fathers who don't support/not involved child
- Irresponsible / Not Serious
- Grabbing Their Interest/ Servicing their Needs

Programmatic

- Grabbing Their Interest
- Mothers' Wanting Fathers Involved
- Funding
- Real support from directors and funders
- Providing Services Fathers Need
- Meeting program needs vs. community needs

Systematic

- Research and Evaluation that Supports Fatherhood Programming
- Evidence-based Curriculums
- Policies/Legislation
 - Child custody/arrears
 - Incarceration
 - Healthy Marriage/Family Promotion
 - Welfare reauthorization and policies

Systematic (continued)

- Conflict between the need for programming, prioritizing, and resources.
- Lack capacity to serve fathers
- Lack of funding, trained staff on evidence-based fatherhood curriculum
- Perception of fathers and men by social welfare field
- Lack of evidence-based curriculums

Questions On BATTLES

- What are the top 2 challenges in getting fathers involved in the lives of expectant mothers?
- What are the top 2 challenges in getting fathers involved in the birthing process?
- What are the top 2 challenges in getting fathers involved in a Male Involvement Program?
- What are the top 2 challenges of keeping fathers involved?

BASICS - First Things First: Are We Father Friendly?

This has to be determined at all program levels including:

- Board of Directors
- Consortium(s)
- Key Personnel
- Home Visiting/ Outreach Staff
- Program Participants
- Partnering Organizations
- Community-at-large

Successful Program Strategies

Successful Programs Must be:

1. Indigenous Employees
2. Holistic in Approach
3. Community-Based & Culturally Sensitive
4. Multi-Disciplinary
5. Speak to Father/Male-Specific Topics
6. Collaborative Across Systems
7. Outcomes-Oriented

Holistic Programming Basics

- Confidentiality
- Straight Talk
- Visual Learning Tools
- Less Programming
- Include Games and Challenges

Core Services for Men:

- Father/Male Friendly Language, Literature & Materials
- Father/Male Role Models & Examples
- Father/Male Staff
- Activities & Events
- Flexible Schedule
- Skill Enhancement & Support

Build a Referral Network for Men!

- Local Health Providers
- Employment & Training
- Housing Authorities – City/County
- Local/ State Health Department
- Mental Health/ D&A Treatment Centers and Systems
- Family Planning
- Child Protection Services

Collect Valuable Data

Utilize What You Have Available – Keep It Simple To Start:

- Access / Excel Programs
- Local Evaluator
- Surveys and Focus Groups
- Health Department Title V Assessments
- National Father / Male Groups
- Internet

Building Blocks for Programs

- Provide economic, social, and emotional support for parents
- Use screenings, assessments, and evaluations to monitor well-being and plan next steps
- Build on strengths of participants
- Educate staff and advocate for further research

Create a Sustainable Model

- Local – Barber Shops, Sports Clinics, Faith-Based, Legislators, City/ County Officials
- State – PA Perinatal Partnerships, Child/ Infant Mortality Reviews, Managed Care Organizations, Legislators
- Federal – NHSA Membership, Conference Presentations , Legislators

*Sustainability refers to outreach for community support as much as financial supports.

Show Your Successes

- Evaluate if your efforts have positively impacted Mothers, Infants and Children
- Provide those successes to your community, staff and program participants.
- Don't be afraid to try new things after you've looked at your results.

Questions On The BASICS

- What 2 essential things are needed in getting fathers involved with Mother of Baby?
- What 2 essential things needed for getting fathers involved in the life of their child?
- What are 2 ways to get fathers involved in a Male Involvement Program?
- What 2 things have worked effectively in getting and keeping fathers involved in Male Involvement?

BASICS – Sample Model For Every Project

	No – M.I.	Some – M.I.	Full – M.I.
Literature	Flyers	Brochures	Publications
Partnerships	Referrals	Co-program	Negotiated
Staff	Single Task	P/T	F//T
Events	Open House	Small	Large
Services	Referrals	Limited	Multiple
Consultants	Comp.	Some Hrs	Multiple
Programs	Referrals	Co-sponsor	In-house
Evaluation	Limited	Medium	Extensive