Building a Stronger Team: Engaging Fathers in CBCAP Programs
Session Objectives

• Provide an operational definition for fatherhood engagement and an engaged father
• Provide national data related to the costs and benefits for fatherhood involvement
• Have a nonpartisan discussion about how polices might impact Fatherhood engagement and the subsequent impact on families with children 0-3.
• Identify data, possible stigmas, and potential barriers that effect fatherhood engagement of children 0-3.
• Identify potential strategies that could shape policies which foster fatherhood engagement in states across the country that intentionally impact families.
• Provide space for panelist to share their personal stories related to their fatherhood involvement journey
Definitions

- **Fatherhood Engagement** - “aiming to increase fathers’ active and positive engagement in their children's lives” through policies. (CEBC.org)
  - Direct interaction services (i.e. fatherhood groups, therapy, services, etc.)

- An **Engaged Father** - a father who feels (takes ownership) responsible for and behaves responsibly toward his child, is emotionally engaged and physically accessible, provides material support to sustain the child’s needs, is involved in childcare, and exerts influence in child rearing decisions active and positive engagement in their children's lives. (CalSWEC-Berkely.edu).
Why Fatherhood Engagement Matters
(National Fatherhood Initiative, 2014)

• Infant mortality rates are 1.8 times higher for infants of unmarried mothers than for married mothers.

• Compared to pregnant women without father support, pregnant women with father support experience a lower prevalence of pregnancy loss 22.2% compared to 48.1%.

• Allowing new fathers to be involved in caring for their child in the first days of a child's life can have positive long-term benefits.

• Father absence increased the risk of infant mortality, and that the mortality rate for infants within the first 28 days of life is four times higher for those with absent fathers than those with involved fathers.

• Dad’s Involvement during pregnancy positively influences health outcomes for mom, dad, and baby.

• Involved dads lead to less distress in toddlers.
Living Arrangements of Children Under Age 18

50.7M
Living with two parents

17.2M
Living with mother only

2.8M
Living with no parent present

3.0M
Living with father only

What other relatives live in the household?
(In percent)
- Sibling only
- Grandparent only
- Both sibling and grandparent
- No sibling or grandparent

M = millions

www.census.gov/hhes/families/
“Single father households has increased about ninefold since 1960, from less than 300,000 to more than 2.6 million in 2011.” (2016 = 3 million)

“In 1960, about 14% of single parent households were headed by fathers, today almost one-quarter (24%) are.”
## CH-1. Living Arrangements of Children Under 18 Years Old: 1960 to Present (2019)  
(Numbers in thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Children</th>
<th>% living with Two Parents</th>
<th>Total Children living with one parent</th>
<th>% Living with Mother only</th>
<th>% Living with Father only</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>73,525</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>18,998</td>
<td>82.9%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>73,741</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>19,646</td>
<td>83.4%</td>
<td>16.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>73,781</td>
<td>68.8%</td>
<td>19,973</td>
<td>83.9%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>73,745</td>
<td>68.7%</td>
<td>20,229</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>73,623</td>
<td>69.2%</td>
<td>19,757</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dads Facts

• 72.2 million fathers
• 24.6 million in married couple families with kids less than 18 years old
• 17% of all single-parents households are men (2 million)
• 7% of fathers are stay-at-home in 2016 (17% of all stay-at-home parents)
• Low-income, minority and non-residential fathers who have jobs and education are more likely to be involved with their children
• African-American men are more likely to physically care for, feed and prepare meals for their infants than either white or Hispanic fathers.
• Significant amounts of paternal financial support (both cash and in-kind aid) may go unreported in formal systems.

American Psychological Association: The Changing Role of the Modern Day Father
State of the World’s Fathers Unlocking the Power of Men’s Care 2019

• **Improve laws and policies**
  • policies to engage men in prenatal visits, childbirth, and postnatal care,
  • governments and employers offer equal, fully paid, non-transferable parental leave for all parents

• **Transform social and gender norms**
  • change attitudes of service providers
  • media campaigns to inspire men, their families, and their communities

• **Guarantee economic and physical security for vulnerable families**

• **Help couples and co-parents thrive**
  • Father-specific parent training

• **Put individual fathers’ care into action**
  • Early years and baby groups should be more inclusive of dads,
  • Build fathers’ confidence and competence.
1. Explain the purpose of Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Prevention and Early Intervention Division

2. Describe how Organizational Enhancements have improved an organization's capacity to serve fathers effectively.

3. Identify how Community and Systems Support work has impacted Texas Fatherhood Engagement.
Who is PEI?
PEI Mission

PEI helps create opportunities for children, youth, and families to be strong and healthy by funding community-level, evidence-informed programs and systems of support upstream from crisis and intensive interventions.

PEI Vision

PEI envisions a Texas where all children thrive in their families and communities through a supported network of safe, stable, and secure relationships.
PEI PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

EARLY CHILDHOOD
► Help through Intervention and Prevention (HIP)
► Healthy Outcome through Prevention and Early Support (HOPES)
► Texas Home Visiting (THV)

YOUTH
► Service to At Risk Youth (STAR)
► Community Youth Development (CYD)
► Statewide Youth Services Network (SYSN)
FAMILY

- Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP)-Fatherhood
- Military and Veteran Families
- Service to At Risk Youth (STAR)
TEXAS FATHERHOOD EFFORTS

- Fatherhood EFFECT program
- Fatherhood Interagency Meetings
- Fatherhood Research and Evaluation
- Fatherhood Public Awareness

OUTCOMES MEASURED

- Bonding/Attachment
- Parenting knowledge
- Social Support
- Basic needs
- Reduce the incidence of child abuse/neglect

No. of FAMILIES SERVED ANNUALLY

1,271

1/1/2019 - present

PRIMARY AREAS SERVED

9 Counties (5 DFPS Regions)

- Taylor (2)
- Bell (7) McLennan (7) Travis (7)
- Jefferson (5)
- Galveston (6) Harris (6) Montgomery (6)
- Cameron (11)
Organizational Enhancements
Organizational Enhancements

**FATHERHOOD PARENT EDUCATION**
- 24/7 Dads
- Nurturing Fathers
- Man in Me

**WRAPAROUND SUPPORT SERVICES**
- Basic needs support
- Group-based parenting
- Support groups
- Job skills readiness/support

**COMMUNITY-LEVEL CHANGE**
- Collaboration/Coalitions
- Public awareness

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Ambassadors/Peer Leaders/Mentors
Co-Parenting Strengthening/Community Leadership/Community Advocates
Coalition Fatherhood Subcommittee's
Community and Systems Support
Community and Systems Support

- Creation and participation in community coalition of social service and community agencies, and businesses who share a common goal of supporting fathers and their families.
- Coalition work will lead to improved services and resources for fathers and their families.
Focus on father engagement

Children’s Trust of MA
Children’s Trust of MA

The Children’s Trust is Massachusetts’ leading family support organization. We strengthen the Commonwealth by funding and managing parenting support programs designed to help families raise physically and emotionally healthy children. With support from the Children’s Trust, young children across Massachusetts can grow up in nurturing families and communities, healthy and ready to succeed.

Our initiatives include:

- Healthy Families MA
- Massachusetts Family Centers
- Parenting Education and Support Programs
- Fatherhood Initiative
- One Tough Job Parenting Website
- Family Support Training Center
Children’s Trust of MA and fathers

- Fathers have been a focus of the Children’s Trust programs with an emphasis on father involvement in all activities.
- In addition to program activities, the Children’s Trust had a media campaign focused on the importance of fathers in the lives of their children and offers training and materials to community organizations.
- The Fatherhood Initiative is comprised of:
  - Fathers & Families Network: regional gatherings of professionals interested in or working with fathers’ in family support programs
  - Nurturing Fathers programs
  - Technical assistance and training for funded programs
Children’s Trust of MA and fathers

- Healthy Families MA home visiting for young parents has had great success with integrating fathers. Last year:
  - 4% of all primary participants are fathers
  - 17% of all visits had a coparent present
  - 49% of participants who received home visits had a visit with a coparent

- Further, the RCT evaluation of HFM finds that
  - Mothers involved in HFM were more likely to transition to stable, co-parenting relationships with the fathers of their babies
  - Mothers who had co-parents involved in the program were more likely to receive more home visits and stay in the program longer.

Level of involvement, from less to more formal, was correlated to tenure and home visits received.

Children’s Trust of MA and fathers

• What explains Healthy Families MA (HFM)’s success?
  – All HFM staff receive training that incorporates the importance of the role of fathers in the lives of their children
  – All HFM staff are expected to engage co-parents formally and informally in all home visiting activities
  – There is a performance measure on the percentage of participants who have at least one visit with a co-parent annually
  – Program enhancements to encourage co-parenting have been implemented, such as the Choices in Childbirth and Co-Parenting groups.
Children’s Trust of MA and fathers

Choices in Childbirth and Co-Parenting (3CP) groups focus areas:

- Emotional Home / Maintaining Harmony
- Research on Importance of Fathers
- Keys to Dad/Co-parent being involved
- Romantic vs. Co-parenting relationships
- Money worries
- Who Does What?
- Managing Conflict Well
Children’s Trust of MA and fathers

Working with Houses of Correction and Probation

• Since 2016 Nurturing Father’s evidence-based curriculum - 13-week group series – in Hampshire Houses of Correction – in-house and post release

• To date 87 fathers graduated the in-house groups and 10 from the aftercare groups

• Developing relationships with juvenile justice and probate court probation officers to refer young dads to home visiting

• Speaking to probate court judges about services for fathers
NURTURING FATHER’S PROGRAM

Northampton Recovery Center

Every child deserves a NURTURING FATHER - a man who actively provides guidance, love and support to enhance their development and growth.

NO COST FOR PROGRAM PARTICIPATION, DINNER AND CHILD CARE PROVIDED

13 week program and dinner beginning on TUESDAY, April 7th, 2020.
6pm - 8:30pm at the COOLEY DICKINSON HOSPITAL, 50 LOCUST STREET, NORTHAMPTON MA 01060
Rear Dining Room location in the Cafeteria.

***INTAKE MUST BE CONDUCTED WITH EACH DAD PRIOR TO ARRIVAL***
Contact Demetra Balls at 413-582-7799

Facilitators: Demetra Balls, Vuthy Chhum & Rafael Santos

Facilitated by The Children’s Trust Inc. with Treatment Staff of The Hampshire Sheriff’s Office

Recognized by DCF & Probate Court
Children’s Trust of MA and fathers

For more information

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