

Special Populations Discussion Series
Session 1: Father Engagement

July 25th, 2023



How to Participate in Today's Discussion Session



Participant audio will be muted. Participants will be encouraged to unmute their lines to participate in discussion throughout the session.

We will also be monitoring questions through the Chat box and answering them at designated times during the discussion.

This session is being recorded and will be available for viewing once it has been archived. We will notify everyone by e-mail when it is available.



DCS Office of Prevention

Tene' Marion – Statewide Prevention Administrator

Edward Casillas – Dad Together Program Manager

Patrick Hutchins – Dou-Broz

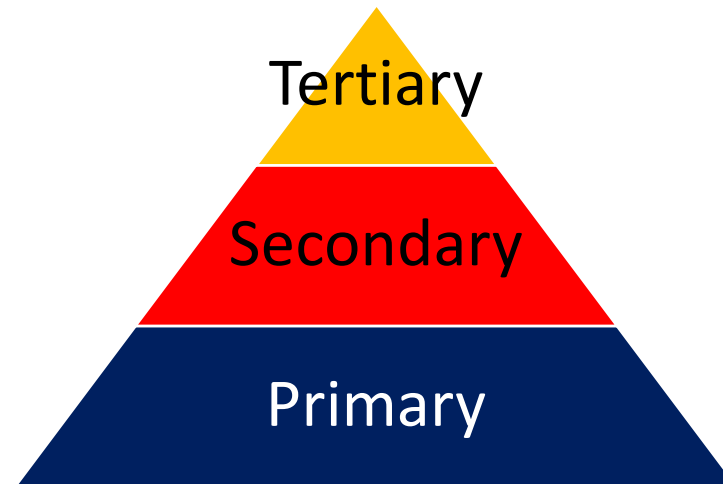


Prevention Defined

Primary: Public Service Announcements (PSAs) and parent education programs for EVERYONE; Parent education programs for EVERYONE.

Secondary: Parent Education programs for targeted audience/s; Home Visiting Programs; Family Resource Centers for low-income neighborhoods

Tertiary: Focus on families where maltreatment has already occurred. Parent mentor programs; positive parenting ; support for families in crisis; mental health services for families affected by maltreatment





- Purpose: The purpose of this contract is to partner with an organization to utilize funds made available through Children's Bureau Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP), American Recovery Act (ARP) to provide prevention services and supports to fathers to increase their involvement in the care and support of their children in order to prevent contact with the Department of Child Safety.
- A referral based resource for Fathers and Father figures. Fathers are assigned to a Father Support Specialist who provides mentorship and develops an individualized support plan to assist them with services intended to achieve behavioral health goals, their child's behavioral health goals and other goals intended to strengthen the parent's ability to provide and nurture their child(ren). Fathers participate in a 13 week Nurturing Fathers curriculum.
 - Dad Together website and brochure created
 - Program has provided supportive services to 197 fathers, 143 have completed the Nurturing Fathers program, 14 are provided 1:1 sessions





- Marketing – Phased Out Plan
 - Data Driven Outreach
 - Statewide Out of Home Billboard Signs
 - Published Articles authored by Fathers
 - Media coverage
 - Social Media – Meta, Instagram, Twitter
 - Use Dads as the face of other programs



I am a proud father to two awesome kids. Like all parents, I want my children to be happy, healthy and safe. That means a lot of things, from trying to feed them a healthy diet and building in plenty of time for play to reading them bedtime stories and ensuring they get enough sleep. I am certainly not perfect, but I am trying my best.

There is one area I have always been extra cautious about – and that’s safe sleep practices. I always made sure that everyone who cared for my babies – from babysitters and grandparents to day care providers and neighbors – knew how to put them to bed. It was not enough that I knew the best way, because there were plenty of times when others put them down for a nap or at bedtime. For every sleep, they went to bed on their back, in their crib and by themselves, with no bedding, stuffed animals or anything else in bed with them.

Teaching others about safe sleep is increasingly urgent. In my position at the Family Involvement Center, I have seen and heard horrible stories about babies who suffocate in their sleep. I cannot imagine any greater nightmare, and yet it is a heartbreaking reality for many Arizona families. The most recent Child Fatality Review indicates the incidence of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) – formerly referred to as Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) – has increased a staggering 23% from 2022.

To help protect all of our babies, the Arizona Department of Child Safety offers these guidelines for safe sleep – for you and everyone else who cares for your baby:

»Create the perfect sleep space

It is recommended that parents share a room with their babies for the first six months, but your baby should always have a separate sleep space with a firm, flat and level mattress covered only by a fitted sheet. This space should also

»A crib is best

Babies often fall asleep in a stroller or car seat, but you should put them in a crib – and on their back – as soon as you get home. Also choose a crib instead of a couch or chair, as these are not safe sleeping spaces for babies.

»Dress your baby accordingly

Make sure your baby’s head and face are uncovered during sleep. One way to do this is to dress your little one warmly enough not to need a blanket, but not so warmly they get hot. In addition, stop swaddling once your baby starts to roll over, and keep in mind that swaddling does not reduce the risk of SUID.

»Provide a healthy home environment

Other ways to protect against SUID include keeping baby’s environment smoke- and vape-free and giving your baby plenty of tummy time when they are awake and someone is keeping an eye on them. Last, breastfeed your baby, if possible. The National Institute of Child Health and Development reports breastfeeding has been shown to protect against SUID.

While not all SUIDs are related to unsafe sleep, the majority are a result of suffocation and sleep environments that are not safe for baby. Following this guidance – and making sure everyone else does, too – is the best way to keep your little one safe.

Learn more about safe sleep at azdcs.gov/safesleep. ■

R. Craig Polson is a father of two and a Father Support Specialist with Family Involvement Center in Arizona.

Safe Sleep for Baby-Every Time

By R. Craig Polson



Virtual **FATHER ENGAGEMENT** Workshop



Speaker:
**PATRICK
HUTCHINS**
Dou-bro'z Founder

Workshop Title:

What about ME?! How service providers can acknowledge and honor the father's role.

**WEDNESDAY
JUNE 14, 2023**
12 - 1:30pm

Join us to learn more about engaging fathers in family support services!

[**REGISTER HERE**](#)



**ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT
of CHILD SAFETY**
Office of Prevention

Questions?

Email Michelli Castañeda at michelli@pcaaz.org for more information.



“Year of the Dad”

- Systems Language Change to include Dads
- Dads want to be included
- Eliminate silos - Dads didn't want to be separated by race or culture
- Respect Dads as the primary caregiver



The Importance of Father Involvement

Importance of Fathers

- 63% of youth suicides involve a child who is living in a fatherless home when they made their final decision. (U.S. Department of Justice)
- 85% of all children which exhibit some type of behavioral disorder come from a fatherless home. (U.S. Department of Justice)
- 45% of all sex trade workers grew up without a father. (study: Potter, Martin, and Romans.)
- 71% of pregnant teenagers lack a father in their lives. (U.S. D.H.H.S., Bureau of the Census)
- 90% of youth who run away from home or become homeless for any reason come from fatherless homes. (U.S. Department of Justice)


Importance of Fathers

- Children who live in fatherless homes are more likely to deal drugs or carry a firearm for offensive purposes compared to children who live with their fathers. (Texas Department of corrections)
- 7 out of 10 youths that are housed in state-operated correctional facilities, including detention centers and residential treatment centers come from fatherless homes. (U.S. Department of Justice)
- 75% of rapists are motivated by displaced feelings of abandonment that involves their father. (U.S. Department of Justice)

Children Who Grow Up with INVOLVED Fathers are:

- 45% less likely to repeat a grade
- 39% more likely to earn mostly A's in school
- 60% less likely to be suspended or expelled from school
- 2 times more likely to go to college and find stable employment after high school
- 80% less likely to spend time in jail

The Nurturing Father

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue, ranging from light sky blue to deep navy blue. The shapes are primarily triangles and polygons, creating a dynamic, layered effect. The text is positioned on the left side of the frame, set against a white background.

A man who actively provides guidance, love,
and support to enhance the development and
growth of children for whom he cares

Mark Perlman

The Nurturing Father

- The Father he chooses to be
- Self-nurturing
- Expressing feelings
- Stress management
- Role modeling
- Nurturing play
- Discipline
- Fathering time
- Co-parenting

Expressing feelings

- Accepts feelings as a normal aspect of human experience
- Reflects on the ability to experience and express a wide range of feelings
- Recognize and relate to others' feelings
- Accepting of others' feelings
- Able to be with another person and their feelings
- Help others express their feelings in a non harmful way

Stress Management

- Eat consciously
- Exercise regularly
- Listen to body
- Take time to meet own needs
- Practice relaxation exercises
- Play and laugh

Discipline

- Behavior management
- Desired and Undesired behavior
- Establish family rules
- Praise
- Consequences
- Lead without fear/violence

Role Modeling

- Respect
- Empathy
- Patience
- Listening
- Expressing emotions
- Forgiveness

Co-parenting/Effective Teamwork

- Acknowledgement of Strengths and Weaknesses
- Mutual respect
- Good communication
- Trust
- Reliability
- Forgiveness

Thank You!

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue, ranging from light sky blue to deep navy blue. These shapes are primarily located on the right side of the frame, creating a modern, layered effect against the white background.

FISHBOWL DISCUSSION





QUESTIONS

PRESENTER CONTACT INFORMATION

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Thank you!

