

Men & Fathers: Getting Them In The Action

Teleconference

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QUICK FUN SURVEY



- Who requires more sleep at night? Women or men
- Do you know who or how Father's Day was founded?
- What Year was Father's Day founded?
- What number represents the stay-at-home dads in 2006?
 1. 950,000
 2. 25,000
 3. 159,00

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QUICK FACTS

- 19% of all single parents are men
- Fathers receive an average of \$2,797 in child support in 2003 compared to \$3,579 for mothers
- 30% of children younger than 6 living with married parents in 2003 ate with their father every day



QUICK FACTS

- Infant mortality is 1.8 time higher for unmarried mothers
- Infants w/out father's name on birth certificate in GA were 2.3 times more likely to die in the 1st year of life than those with father name
- Mothers are more likely to obtain prenatal care and less likely to have low birth-weight babies



Aikens, G. (2006), Daddy-O The Father Factor

QUICK FACTS

- Toddlers living in step & single families were more likely to suffer a burn, have a bad fall or be scared from an accident compared to those in married families
- Children who live apart from their father are more likely to be diagnosed with asthma and asthma related emergencies
- Obese children are more likely to live in father-absent homes



Klinger, R. Dr. (2006) The Impact of Absent Fathers

QUESTIONS

- How Many Of You Have Programs Designed For Men? What Is The Level Of Participation Of Men?
- What Are Some Of The Biggest Challenges / Frustrations?
- Could You Contribute Any Of Your Challenges / Frustration To Your Program Model Or Personal Experience(s)?



THE CHALLENGE

Personally & Professionally

- Our own perspective of fathers/men
- The influence by the female dominated environment / profession
- Lack of support for male involvement at supervisory / management levels
- Lack of funding
- Client/consumers attitude about fathers/men

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THE CHALLENGE – Systemwide

- Services Focused On Mothers & Women Mainly
- Punitive Posture From The System For Men
- Lack Of Positive Legislation
- Lack Of Capacity & Limited Service To Support Fathers / Men
- Limited Focus On Evidence-based Research To Support Fathers/Male Involvement

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FRUSTRATIONS – Dealing With Fathers / Men



- Attitude
- Maturity / Irresponsibility
- Understanding Their Value / Worth
- Little To No Positive Models

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GOING FORWARD

What Is Needed?

- Purpose
- Plan
- Promise



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PURPOSE

WHY?

WHAT

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A PLAN

Assessment Of Attitude

- Personal Level
- Board Level
- Director Level
- Supervisory Level
- Staff Level
- Partnership Level
- Consumer Level
- Community Level

Resources To Consider

- Local Health Providers
- Employment & Training
- Housing Authorities
- Health Departments
- Mental Health / Drug & Alcohol Treatment Centers
- Family Planning
- Child Protection Services

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A PLAN – Simplified

	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

A PROMISE

1. A Mix of Indigenous Staff (all levels where possible) - MENTORS
2. Genuine Male Approach To Programming
3. Community-Based & Culturally Sensitive
4. Multi-Disciplinary
5. Speak to Father/Male-Specific Topics
6. Collaborative Across Systems
7. Outcomes-Oriented

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