

Fathers & Families Coalition of America
James C. Rodriguez, M.S.W., Ph.D., Candidate
CEO/President



www.fathersandfamiliescoalition.org





agenda:

- 1. Why Invest in Fatherhood?**
- 2. What are elements for successful multi-systems approach (model) to work with fathers and strengthening families?**
- 3. How do collaborations amongst Community Based Organizations; Faith Based Organizations; and Government (all levels) in policy and practice augments positive outcomes for children and families?**

Why Invest in Fatherhood?



Why are Fathers Missing?



- The system
- Multiple Families
- No Money, No child
- Operating below the wire
- Child as a pawn
- The thrill is gone
- Adversarial Relationships
- Family Interference
- No model for marriage / Marriage issues
- Spiritual or religious upheaval

Tragedy of Absent Father



- **Fatherhood Fact:** Forty (40%) percent of children in the United States do not have a father living with them in their primary home residence.
- **Fatherhood Fact:** Forty-one (41%) percent of children are born out of wedlock in the United States.
- **Fatherhood Fact:** 1 out of every 4 children in the United States receives child support.
- **Fatherhood Fact:** 1 out of every 3 children in America lives apart from his or her father
- **Fatherhood Fact:** Over 30,000,000 children in the U.S. do not have a father living with them and over one-third will not see their father at all in the next twelve months.

Tragedy of Absent Father con't



71% of pregnant teenagers lack a father. [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services press release, Friday, March 26, 2006]



Tragedy of Absent Father con't



- **Fatherhood Fact:** If we can educate parents on the differences and benefits we can have improved outcomes for children and reduce fatherlessness.
- **Fatherhood Fact:** In 2008, 41 percent of all births in America were out of wedlock. That's 27% more than in 2002 (CDC data.)
- **Fatherhood Fact:** 1 out of every 4 American children and half of poor children participate in the child support program.
- **Fatherhood Fact:** In 2008, 43 percent of children living with a single mother were poor.

Tragedy of Absent Father con't



70% of juveniles
in state operated
institutions have
no father. [US
Department of
Justice, Special
Report, Sept.
2006]



Tragedy of Absent Father con't



- **Fatherhood Fact:** The number of people in the criminal justice system is at an all-time high. There are almost 2.3 million people in jail and about 800,000 on parole;
- **Fatherhood Fact:** Almost 7.5 million children have a parent in jail or under correctional supervision—a stunning figure.
- **Fatherhood Fact:** Minority children are disproportionately affected by father imprisonment—in state prisons, 42% of fathers are African American, and African American children are seven and a half times more likely to have a parent in prison than white children.

Tragedy of Absent Father con't



71% of high school dropouts come from fatherless homes. [National Principals Association Report on the State of High Schools]



Research has found that children who feel a closeness to their fathers are



- 75% less likely to have a teen birth
- 80% less likely to spend time in jail
- twice as likely to enter college
- have increased cognitive competence, empathy, and more internalized locus of control.

- Source: National Responsible Fatherhood Clearing House(2008)
- Source: Office of Juvenile Justice and delinquency (2005)* youth incarceration
- Source: Lamb, et al (2004)
- Source: NICHD Early Child Care Research Network (2008)

Fathers' Presence Matters



- Predictors suggest that with higher levels of father involvement children benefit with higher levels of child wellbeing and improved quality of the co-parental relationship (Tamis-LeMonda et al., 2004).
- When a father has a healthy relationship with his children, his children are physically, emotionally, and mentally healthier (Amato, 1991; Caldera, 2004).



LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE FIELD



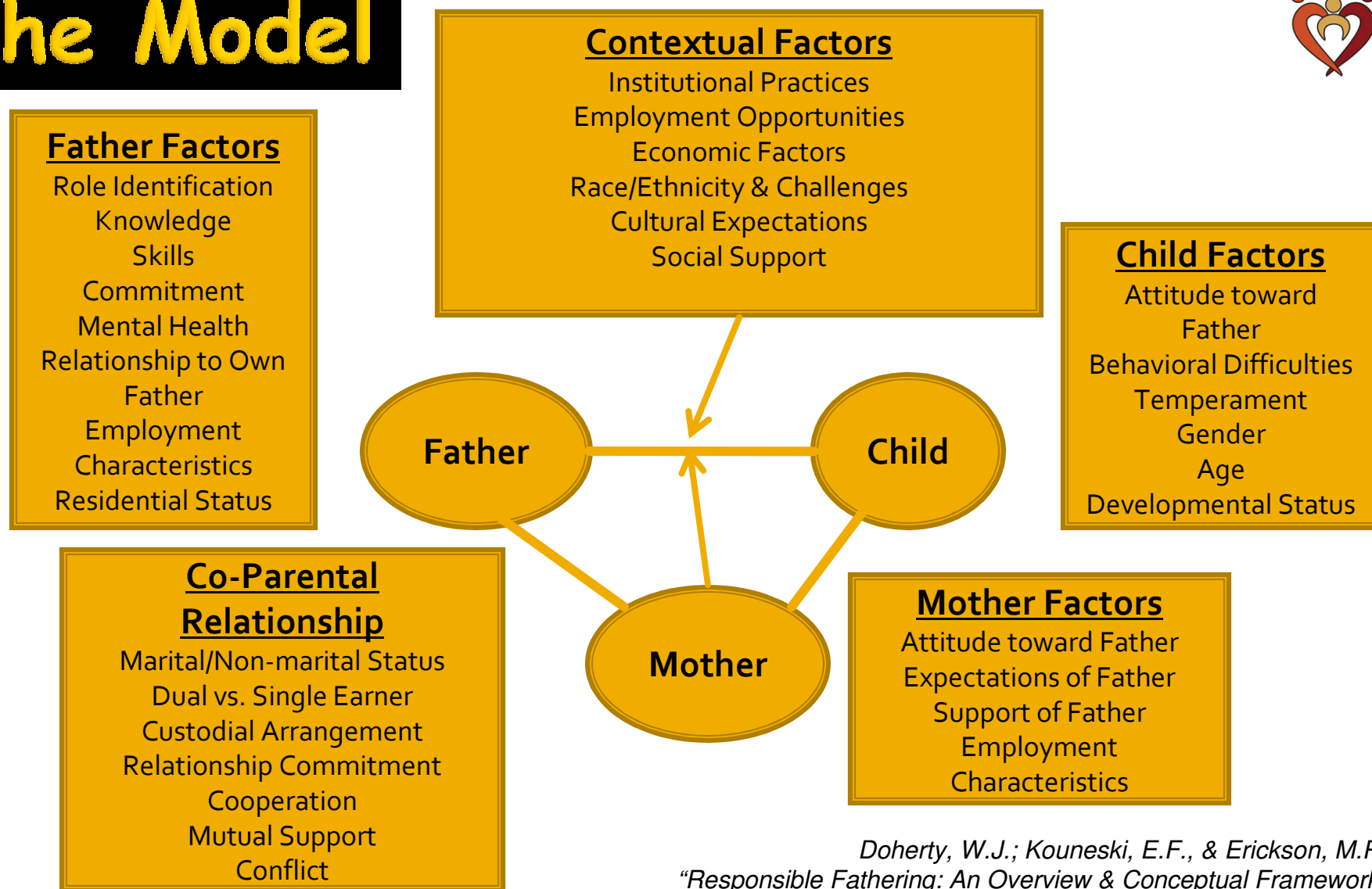
Factors That Negatively Affect Father Involvement Include:



- Existing policies, statutes and laws
- Conflicts with the child's mother
- A lack of financial resources
- A lack of education
- A new spouse or partner
- Geographic mobility
 - Staff reluctance
 - Fathers' ambivalence
 - Program barriers

Williams, J.H., Auslander, W., Krebill, C., Haire-Joshu, H., Source, D. (2000, Oct). African American family structure: Are there differences in social, psychological, and economic well-being? Journal of Family Issues 21(7): p. 838-857.

The Model



Doherty, W.J.; Kouneski, E.F., & Erickson, M.R.
"Responsible Fathering: An Overview & Conceptual Framework"

Practitioner Effective Fatherhood Service Scale



ADAPTED FROM FIF



- Fathering Indicator Categories:
 1. Father Presence
 2. Caregiving
 3. Children's Social Competence and Academic Achievement
 4. Cooperative Parenting
 5. Father's Healthy Living
 6. Material and Financial Contributions

Key Domains - Factors



- Organization fit
- Mission and Vision
- Structure
- Financial Management & Resources
- Customer Relations
- Community Relations

Scale Design



- Measure attitude on how practitioners viewed their organization's responsiveness working with fathers.
- Provide a range of responses to a given question or statement
- Response Categories: Interval variables (Likert Scale)
- -2; -1; 0; 1; & 2
- Descriptive Frequencies (Median, Mean, SD)
- Global Factor Analysis
- Independent T- Test
- *Determine a linear relationship between variables PEARSON*

CLOSING REMARKS

