Fathers & Families Coalition of America
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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
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 wed-lock 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.
71% of pregnant teenagers lack a father. [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services press release, Friday, March 26, 2006]
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.
70% of juveniles in state operated institutions have no father. [US Department of Justice, Special Report, Sept. 2006]
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.
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: 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

Practitioner Effective Fatherhood Service Scale
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