

## C7 What About Dad??

Wednesday. June 13, 2018 3:30-5:00 p.m.
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Granada

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## Welcome!

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Please tell us who you are and what you hope to learn.
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## Learning Objectives

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- Understand common misconceptions.
- Review research supporting father involvement.
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Identify best practices, strength-based father engagement and ways to help re-engage absent dads.
- Discuss "Right Now" actions and resources you can take when you return to work!
 FAMIX FOCUSED Practice
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## Myths about Fathers

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- They don't want to be involved or included
- They are not nurturing.
- They are not capable of caring for infants or children.
- They don't want to spend time with their kids.
- They are resistant to services.
- They are not reliable or trustworthy.
- If parents are not together, the father is likely to blame.
- Services are to one parent is sufficient.


## Bias

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- Presumed to be dad
- Dads are resistant and intimidating
$\square$ He has nothing to offer
- Incapable of being like moms $\qquad$
- They don't want to be found
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## And another. What's wrong with this?

Programs and services include:

- Free teen center with male role models,
- Anger management,
- Single mother support groups,
- Summer male mentoring programs
- legal clinics,
- family communication and,
- DNA testing


## Causes of Gender Bias

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- Some social and religious beliefs.
- Lack of strong protest by women.
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- Physical attributes (women are weaker).
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Ooman
- Historical workplace discrimination.
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## Controlling Unconscious Bias

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- Information
- Motivation
- Individualizing
- Work as a team
- Context

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## Let's Look at Facts

- $80 \%$ of Dads say they wanted to spend time with their children.
- Fathers today report wanting to be more involved with their children than their fathers were with them.
- single fathers in 2013 was 2.0 million with $\mathbf{1 7 \%}$ of custodial parents were men.
- $9 \%$ were raising three or more children under the age of 18yrs.
- The estimated number of stay at home dads in 2013 was 214,000. In 2011,18\% of preschoolers were cared for by $\qquad$ their father during mother's working hours.
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## Let's Look at (More) Facts

According to Pew Research Center in a 2015 study

- $57 \%$ of dads see parenting as central to their identity.
- $-54 \%$ of dads say parenting is rewarding all of the time
- $-46 \%$ of dads say that parenting is enjoyable all the time.
- $-48 \%$ of dads say they spend too little time with their kids. $\qquad$
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## Child welfare

- Children who enter care, 50-80\% are removed from single-mother or unmarried couple homes
- Overall, only $3 \%$ of the fathers of children removed from their homes during the project period we considered program participants (based on attending three sessions)


## Why is Father Involvement Important to Children?

## Increases

-academic performance
-emotional and social competence

## Protects against

-abuse and neglect
-delayed development
-criminality
-truancy
-promiscuity
-depression/anxiety

## Father Involvement important for both Mothers and Fathers!

- Encouragement (motivate, esteem)
- Emotional support
- Self care
- Helps reduce stress
- Better overall health
- Access to more resources


## What (exactly) is Father Involvement for Children in Care or at Risk of Being in Care?

The federal government uses the following areas to determine well-being

- Physical Development
- Educational Success
- Behavioral/Emotional Needs
- Health
- Social Supports
- Permanency


## Critical Areas to Support Father

 Involvement- Outreach
- Welcoming and Engagement
- Assessment of needs
- Resources



## Best practices for Father Engagement

- Recognize and acknowledge possible disparities with father's in our systems.
- Embrace father as a viable placement option
- Help father's focus on their strengths.
- Help dad take advantage of support services
- Provide knowledgeable and approachable initial male contact when possible or based on family need..
- Help to educate all on fatherhood data.


## UCDAVIS



## What about Dad's that have not




## Helping Dad to Reconnect

1. Stability
2. Communicate the intention
3. Learn about the child/ren
4. Meet in a safe environment
5. Learn your child/ren's love language
6. Don't be "fun-time" dad all the time

## Helping Dad to Reconnect

7. Get on your child's level
8. Don't try and change what is working in the child's world.
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9. Be consistent and predictable
10. Keep promises
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Father Involvement Activities $\qquad$
Creative ideas include:

- Spending quality time and supporting
- Reading to your Child/ren
- Being involved in educational activities

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Being involved in recreational activities


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| Organizational | Interpersonal | ironment |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| - Accessibility, quality of services | -Gender bias Mental health, | - Housing |
| - Practice and policies | substance abuse | - Legal issues |
| - Agency culture | - Family relationships | - Incarceration |
| - Search, paternity establishment, notification efforts | (ie.mother, children, social father) <br> - Attitude of staff, | - Child Support <br> -Transportation/Dista |
| - Multiple and conflicting requirements; work | workers <br> - Family of origin issues | - Health <br> -Community Support |

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## RIGHT NOW ACTIONS!

- Identify and assess current father involvement on your teams and explore contact with fathers $\qquad$
- Talk with your youth regarding potential male family members who can serve as role models if no father is present (uncles, grandfathers, $\qquad$ cousins, etc)
- Support mothers in being open to fathers involvement in visits/activities and CFT meetings
- Recognize and put aside any bias you may have in working with non-custodial/inactive fathers


## Resources for Fathers

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- Father's Resource Center www.fatherscenter.org
-Programs and services include: anger management, support groups, legal clinics, family $\qquad$ communication \& DNA testing
-Center for Father's and Familie
www.fathersandfamilies.com
- Programs and services include: Free teen center with male role models, anger management, support groups, single mother support groups and summer male mentoring programs
- State Guardian ad Litem Board. Bringing Back the Dads: Changing Practices in Child S.L.A ., Program Analyst Brian Ansberry, M.S AL Program Manager March 31, 2012. Overview. Background/video clip Evely n Bringing Back the Dads project overview
- Agency Fatherhood Assessment
https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/migrated/2011 build/child law/ffcuc ourts final.authcheckdam.pdf
Alameda County Father Friendly Principals for Agencies
http://www.acphd.org/media/381866/father-friendly-prinipicles-for-agencies.pd
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## Father Facts (National Fatherhood Initiative)



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PCW $\begin{gathered}\text { Protective } \\ \text { Custody } \\ \text { Warrants }\end{gathered}$


Voluntary placement

9\%

Judge (4\%):
§ $241.1<1 \%$
Family Court judge 2\%
Dependency judge, in court 1\%

Weekend Removals ( $\mathrm{N}=18$ CHILDREN)

##  Protective Custody $\mathrm{n}=160$ children



## At time of Protective Custody:


$15 \%$ of fathers in custody
$9 \%$ of mothers in custody

of children had parent(s) involuntarily hospitalized

## 27\%

ICDWA? of families have at least one parent who indicates possible Indian heritage at the time the petition is filed



Substance abuse

The unit of analysis is the child.

## WHICH DRUGS? ( $\mathrm{N}=106$ CHILDREN)



Parent Refuses Custody ( $\mathrm{N}=28$ Children) Refused


DV ( $\mathrm{N}=92$ CHILDREN)


Current Historical

Overlap of Drugs, DV \& Mental Health
( $\mathrm{N}=147$ CHILDREN)


Of the 147 cases that involved drugs, DV, and/or mental health:

21\% -- drugs alone
18\% -- DV alone
$<1 \%$-- MH alone
16\% -- drugs, DV \& MH
20\% -- drugs \& DV
16\% -- drugs \& MH
9\% -- DV \& MH




