Fatherhood Matters

Presenters: Trecia Matthews Hosein, Director of Program Services & Samuel Brown, Program Manager, Fatherhood Mentorship Program
Objectives

• The participants will understand the impact of fatherlessness.
• The participants will gain insight on the father’s role in their children lives.
• The participants will take personal responsibility in efforts to engage fathers to be active in the lives of their children.
Fatherhood Crisis in America

24 MILLION CHILDREN WITHOUT THEIR FATHER AT HOME

POVERTY

4X GREATER RISK OF POVERTY

TEEN PREGNANCY

7X MORE LIKELY TO BECOME PREGNANT AS TEEN

BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS

MORE LIKELY TO HAVE BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS

CHILD ABUSE

MORE LIKELY TO FACE ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Source: National Fatherhood Initiative: www.fatherhood.org
CRIME

MORE LIKELY TO COMMIT CRIME

INCARCERATION

MORE LIKELY TO GO TO PRISON

MOM-CHILD HEALTH

2X GREATER RISK OF INFANT MORTALITY

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

MORE LIKELY TO ABUSE DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

EDUCATION

2X MORE LIKELY TO DROP OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL

CHILD OBESITY

2X MORE LIKELY TO SUFFER OBESITY
Impact of Fatherlessness

• “If it were classified as a disease, fatherlessness would be an epidemic worthy of attention as a national emergency.” - National Center for Fathering

• Fatherlessness leaves deep long lasting scars and is very costly

• 71% of high school dropouts are fatherless; fatherless children have more trouble academically, scoring poorly on tests in reading, mathematics, and thinking skills.

• Children from fatherless homes are more likely to be truant from school, more likely to be excluded from school, more likely to leave school at age 16, and less likely to attain academic and professional qualifications in adulthood.
Impact of Fatherlessness cont’d

• Being raised by a single mother raises the following risks: teen pregnancy, marrying with less than a high school degree, and forming a marriage where both partners have less than a high school degree.

• Children age 10 to 17 living with two biological or adoptive parents were significantly less likely to experience sexual assault, child maltreatment, other types of major violence, and non-victimization type of adversity, and were less likely to witness violence in their families compared to peers living in single-parent families and stepfamilies.
Roles of a Father

• Spend active time with their children
• Provide values and moral to their children.
• Fathers who are actively involved with children's upbringing can make a significant positive impact on their children's early development, academic achievement and well being.
Roles of a Father, cont’d

• Help with discipline and emotional support.
• Provide financial support.
• Pew Research Center found that seven-in-ten (69%) adults say that children need a father in the home to grow up happily.
• 77% of men say it is essential to have a father in the home compared with 61% of women.
There is No Hood, Like Fatherhood!

Fatherhood Mentorship Program
Background

- Healthy Mothers, Health Babies Coalition of Broward County through its Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) program funded by the Children’s Services Council and Broward Healthy Start identified the following:
  - Social stressors, especially the lack of father involvement in their infant’s/child’s life is a preventable contributing factor to infant death.
  - Increased father involvement in the African American community is critical to reducing unacceptable disparity in black infant deaths. Black babies die more than twice the rate of white babies in Broward County.
Fatherhood and MCH

• Lack of paternal involvement increase the risk factors for infant mortality.
• Infants with absent fathers are more likely to be born with lower birth weights, to be preterm and small for gestational age.
• The risk of poor birth outcome was highest among Black women whose babies’ fathers were absent during the pregnancy.
• Pregnancy complications such as anemia, chronic high blood pressure, eclampsia, and placental abruption that contribute to premature births were more common among women whose babies’ fathers were absent during pregnancy.

Source: University of South Florida, June 2010.
Goals of Fatherhood Mentorship Program

• To increase fathers’ involvement in their children’s lives and educate the community on responsible fatherhood.
• To promote healthy relationships.
• To improve knowledge skills and attitudes about parenting.
• Improve economic stability by improving employability skills and job connections.
Launch

- Initiated in 2010 to fill service gaps and reduce infant mortality in predominantly black neighborhoods in Broward County.
- Fathers were recruited through creative outreach.
- Mentors were identified and trained by 100 Black Men, Inc. using “100 Ways to Train” curriculum.
- Male Program Coordinator recruited.
- Individual and group education to help men develop the skills needed to become and remain active in their children’s lives.
- Program includes case management, group sessions, community/family building activities, resources and referrals.
Launch cont’d

Three phases:

• **Phase I** - fathers are recruited to attend 12 week group sessions.

• Mentorship - Mentors are positive fatherhood role models. Participants are paired with a mentor that provides support to the father on his journey to become a better dad.

• Graduation ceremony held at completion of the group sessions.
Launch cont’d

• **Phase II** - individual case management for 12 weeks using the National Fatherhood Initiative’s 24/7 Dad AM curriculum. Topics include:
  - ✓ What it means to be a man
  - ✓ Communication
  - ✓ Working with mom and co-parenting
  - ✓ Dealing with anger

• **Phase III** – continued case management using 24/7 Dad PM Curriculum. Topics include:
  - ✓ Boyhood to manhood
  - ✓ Sex, love and relationships
  - ✓ Family Ties
  - ✓ Fun with the kids
Outcomes

• **195** have completed the requirements for graduation.
• **97%** have successfully completed the 24/7 Dad™ AM curriculum.
• **100%** of the fathers who completed the 24/7 Dad actively spend time with their children.
• **100%** of fathers show an improvement in knowledge, attitudes and skills about parenting when the pre and posttest were reviewed.
• **100%** of the fathers have achieved one or more goals set on their case plan.
24/7 Dad Curriculum Completion

- 97% Complete AM Curriculum
- 3% Did not complete
Employment of Participants

- Employed on Entry
- Temp Jobs
- Not employed
- Employed at Completion
Fatherhood Program Successes

Success Stories:
• Derrick a father of two girls re-united with his 9 year old daughter he hasn’t seen in 7 years
• Michael L. honored Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Father of the Year in 2014 and Michael S. honored in 2016.
Community Service at LifeNet4Families
Participants’ Feedback

• Fathers who completed the program were asked what they learned. Some responses include:
  ✓ “Learned a lot about child support, rights of a father, and how to get a driver’s license”
  ✓ “The program was very well rounded, and I hope it is made available in all neighboring communities”

• When asked if the program helped to strengthen their bond with their children, the fathers responded
  ✓ “I have started making more efforts to spend time with my children”
  ✓ I like spending more time with my children, but my relationship with my ex-girlfriend is not good”
Lessons Learned

• Continue to provide current Program services and seek opportunities for expansion.
• Identify additional dollars for marketing to aid in community awareness and recruitment.
• Develop partnerships with courts and public schools
• Collaborate with child support agency.
• Create new partnerships with companies for more job opportunities.
• Apprenticeship to get fathers certified in different skills.
The Fatherhood Mentorship Program is supported by:

Children’s Services Council of Broward County
Our Focus is Our Children.

The A.D. Henderson Foundation, Inc.

Hallandale Beach

Parks & Recreation
City of Fort Lauderdale
Community Resources

Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) of South Florida, Reintegration of Ex-Offenders Program

• Aims to reduce recidivism by helping former inmates find work
• 4 weeks program
• Provides employment skills training
• Assigns a mentor and employment specialist

www.oicofbrowardcounty.org
Community Resources cont’d

Mount Olive Development Corporation (MODCO), Reentry Connection Project

• prepares returning citizens for release into society through pre-release mentoring.

• Provides soft skill training

• provides job training and job placement

• provides support through post release gender specific mentoring

www.mountolivemodco.org
Community Resources cont’d

Men of Action of South Florida, Inc.

• Holistic mentoring program that concentrates on the physical, spiritual, emotional, and cultural needs of our youth and young adults.

• College preparation

• Community activities
Community Resources cont’d

City of Ft. Lauderdale Housing Authority, Step-Up Apprenticeship program

• provides opportunity to create a portfolio of education, training, and employment skills to increase potential for permanent employment and economic self-sufficiency

• two-year State certified program

• training in construction skills and building maintenance

• GED

www.hacfl.org
Fatherhood Taskforce of South Florida

• assists agencies to start and market programs for fathers-to-be and fathers and to keep statistics about father and child involvement

• develops and promote programs for fathers, grandfathers, uncles and male mentor/role models related to the stages of parenthood

• develops and conduct training workshops educating men and women about the diverse role of fathers in a culturally diverse community

• offers continuing education on the issues impacting fatherhood

http://ftfsf.org
What can we do?

• Understand the issues and become an advocate for Fatherhood
• Bring awareness to the importance of fatherhood
• Provide continuous support to fathers before and after the child is born
• Hospital environment can be father friendly as it is mother friendly
• Recognize fathers when they do good
What can we do?

• Identify and provide resources that are helpful to fathers
• Provide community activities that promote fatherhood
• Engage fathers in community service activities
• Refrain from pre-judgment of fathers
• Don’t assume fathers do not want to participate in programs
References

• National Fatherhood Initiative: www.fatherhood.org
• University of South Florida (USF Health). "Father involvement in pregnancy could reduce infant mortality." ScienceDaily June 17, 2010.
Thank You!

Oh I just love it when father’s succeed!
Contact Us

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