



Improving Child Well-Being by Engaging Both Parents in Family Services and Parent Education Programs

Date: March 21-22, 2018

Location: Des Moines, Iowa

**National
Fatherhood
Initiative®**

Designed by: Erik Vecere &
Iowa Department of Human Services

Facilitated By:

Erik Vecere, Vice President, Program Support &
Christopher Brown, President

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Participants:

LAST	FIRST	TITLE	ORGANIZATION	LOCATION
Bell	Benjamin	Fatherhood Outreach Coordinator	YMCA of Greater Des Moines	Des Moines
Claycomb	Kylie	Public Service Manager	Child Support Program	Des Moines
Coleman	Harold	Family Services Program Planner II	Child Support Program	Des Moines
Cox	Liz	Executive Director	Prevent Child Abuse	Des Moines
Davis	Earnest	Parent Partner Coordinator	Children and Families of Iowa	Des Moines
Eaton	Carol	Bureau Chief	Child Support Program	Des Moines
Garcia	Pat	Community Engagement Developer	Boys Town Iowa	Council Bluffs
Havemann	Steve	Executive Director	St. Vincent De Paul	Des Moines
Meeks	Keith	CEO/Founder	Dad's With a Purpose	Des Moines
Orduna	Debbie	Executive Director	Boys Town Iowa	Council Bluffs
Persons	Sara	Statewide Parent Partner Coordinator	Children and Families of Iowa	Ottumwa
Pothoven	Bradley	Fatherhood Coordinator	Children and Families of Iowa	Ottumwa
Regula	Kara Lynn	Social Worker VI	DHS-Child Welfare	Des Moines
Ross	Nikolle	Parent Partner Coordinator	Children and Families of Iowa	Des Moines
Taylor	Kate	Regional Administrator	Child Support Program	Des Moines
Vanderwilt	Daryl	Project Director	Healthy Relationships Iowa	West Des Moines

Facilitators:

Erik Vecere, Vice President, Program Support
& Christopher Brown, President

Improving child well-being by engaging both parents in family services and parent education programs

Background

Improvement in fatherhood/relationship education efforts will improve effectiveness of child support efforts

There is a need for motherhood/co-parent support

Families need coordinated and marketed services to help them improve their relationships

Child support probably impacts more fathers than any other govt. service, but other service providers are needed to impact fathers to improve children's lives

No funding is currently targeted for the statewide network

There is a fatherhood initiative run by Greater Des Moines YMCA

There are 24/7 Dad classes in prisons and reentry efforts

PCA Iowa has established a number of 24/7 Dad programs across the state and a Community Mobilization Approach in Wapello County

There is a Parenting It's A Life (PIAL) program in schools

There are DCAT (recategorization) programs that provide services for families and funding

There is a child support REACH project

There is a paternity affidavit outreach in place in partnership with Iowa State University

There is a Caring Dads program for dads convicted of DV or potential DV with a parent education focus in Central IA

NFI can provide up to 18 hours of follow up TA

21st Century Grant from Dept of Education that has education focus

Iowa DOC/DHS effort to educate incarcerated parents about child support modification process and paternity

Overall Purpose

To create a statewide network/group in the next 6 months that will initiate, facilitate, and support a variety of programs and/or resources for both dads & moms, both custodial & non-custodial

Purpose of this Session

To determine why a statewide network is needed

To establish the goals of a statewide network

To identify at least 3 viable organizations or agencies that can successfully oversee the statewide network

Non-Purpose of this Session

To focus too narrowly on one program, service, area, or community

To discuss specific curriculums or individual providers

To discuss social norms around marriage

To try and solve specific issues (e.g. child support, access & visitation, custody, court processes, employment, DV, father's rights)

To discuss things which we are unable to change or impact

Reasons why a statewide network is needed

Partnership Outcomes

Engage dads/parents—helps each partner to more effectively accomplish individual goals

Gain a better understanding of operation across sectors/services

Ties best practices

Sharing Successes

Mobilize things at county/state/local levels—bigger leadership support

Identification of Resource Availability & Resource Gaps

Identify services available—where things overlap compliment services

Identify overlap/duplication of services

Identify the gaps resources/geographic locations

Sustainability/unlock new funding (e.g. state/federal/other resources)

Creates Platforms

Sustainability/unlock new funding (e.g. state/federal/other resources)

Train the trainer/standardized support

Facilitates ability to do statewide assessment of programs/services for dads

Facilitates Coordination, Connection, & Collaboration

Highlights collaboration with federal level programs/funding (fatherhood taskforce, child welfare)

Create collaboration with different agencies programs—small and large components—funding streams

Connecting public/private communities

Coordinating services

Leverage resources

Outcomes for Iowa Families

Promoting parents/families/program more effectively

Creates movement—has impact

Amplification of the voice—stories engaging/teaching empowering voice like #metoo movement

Facilitates healthier childhood outcomes

Magnifies effectiveness

Enhances economic development

Goals and objectives that a successful statewide network would have

Goals

Create societal movement awareness with social media—broader than just service providers—include community **(4 votes)**

Change language (not deadbeat). Call it a program, not recovery for child support **(9 votes)**

Create platform to promote responsible fatherhood/motherhood. Use research/data to raise awareness **(5 votes)**

Promotion of motherhood generally **(0 votes)**

Empowering fathers through barriers/hurdles—purpose of being a father **(8 votes)**

Conduct resource mapping **(11 votes)**

Funding (9 votes)

Secure Funding

Bring in additional resources (federal, state, philanthropic) **Increasing Parental Engagement (12 votes)**

Engaging champion fathers/parents and taking them to the next level as leaders

Link fathers/parents with resources (e.g. shelter/housing, employment)

Increase parental engagement in services

State Agency Integration (7 votes)

Integrate state agencies around issue (e.g. corrections, human services, education, health, MIECHV)

Create integrated contacts across agencies

Provide collective learning opportunities database—information sharing

Standardize outcomes across agencies around parental engagement

Connect with other agencies, partners, events, to create collaboration among child serving organizations

Bring people together to collaborate and provide education, technical assistance.

Attributes that an organization or agency would have to oversee a successful statewide network

Well connected across state and sectors **(10 votes)**

Approach to working with families on a strengths-based capacity **(1 vote)**

Sense of humor/flexibility **(3 votes)**

Doesn't matter if a direct service provider or not

Shared Vision with the FEE Group (11 votes)

Get on board with shared vision of this group who were part of FEE

Shared interest conduit—all pieces working together in goals/objectives of network mission

Capacity in Specific Areas (11 votes)

Capacity to raise public/private funding (advocacy, collaboration, pie is big enough)

Capacity to identify and link to other efforts to leverage (networks, collaboratives)

Capacity to have proper framework, build engagement, do social marketing, and use effective language

Experience in being a start-up, in a collaborative or network, connections, responding to partners ability to build out

Need infrastructure to provide resources to sustain and coordinate the network

Connecting public/private communities

Coordinating services

Leverage resources

Outcomes for Iowa Families

Promoting parents/families/progr am more effectively

Creates movement—has impact

Amplification of the voice—stories engaging/teaching empowering voice like #metoo movement

Facilitates healthier childhood outcomes

Magnifies effectiveness

Enhances economic development

Organizations or agencies that would make a great lead agency for this statewide network

Sole Lead or Collaborative Lead

CFI

Dads With a Purpose

Boys Town

Only

Boys Town

PCA Iowa

St. Vincent De Paul

Other Collaborating Organizations

Department of Human Services

Department of Corrections

Key Stakeholders

United Way of Iowa & other regional/local UW's

Boy Scouts

Four Oaks

Catholic Charities

YMCA of Greater Des Moines

YMCA State Alliance

Iowa State Extension

Goodwill

LSI

Iowa Head Start Association

State Interfaith Organization (?)

Dept. of Health MIECHV Home Visiting

Early Childhood Iowa

School Administrators of Iowa

Statewide Law Enforcement Organization (?)

Statewide First Responders Organization (?)

Iowa Hospital Association

CASA

Senate Offices/Representative Forbes

Iowa Chamber of Commerce

Words and phrases to include in a mission statement

Who You Serve

Father and Families
(14 votes)

Responsible
Fatherhood (9 votes)

Nurturing (7 votes)

Inter-generational
(12 votes)

Wholistic (9 votes)

Need to empower all
dads—those who can
give so don't simply
serve needy/
disenfranchised dads
(Not part of the vote)

What You Do

Identifying influence
of father beyond
financial (4 votes)

Restore
relationships—
connect (8 votes)

Building futures
(3 votes)

Promoting and
enhancing
involvement of fathers
(7 votes)

Empowering Fathers
(12 votes)

Building capacity for
fathers to function as
leaders (12 votes)

Enrich and empower
(4 votes)

Inspire (2 votes)

Education (1 vote)

Training (0 votes)

Skill-based education
(5 votes)

Promote healthy
relationships
(10 votes)

Create a platform
for... (1 vote)

Enhance
development of
services and
resources to, in turn,
reduce need thru
greater self-
sufficiency

Who You Are

Public Servant (0
votes)

Collaborative Network
(14 votes)

Statewide (8 votes)

Network of Resources
and expertise
(11 votes)

Committed (5 votes)

Representatives
(1 vote)

Advocates (8 votes)

Outcomes

Prevention (10 vote)

Transformation
transforming (0 votes)

Improving Child
Well-being (13 votes)

Community Impact
(11 votes)

Engagement (8 votes)

Awareness (6 votes)

Social Connectivity
(0 votes)

Bring Fathers back to
families (6 votes)

Reduces the # of child
support cases to less
than 165,000 (Not
part of the vote)

Key Session Deliverables

“Top Ideas”

The FEE team determined these following ideas would best serve our stated purpose.

Top Ideas:

1. Goals that a successful statewide network would have:
 - Conduct resource mapping (11 votes)
 - Change language (not deadbeat). Call it a program, not recovery for child support (9 votes)
 - Empower fathers through barriers/hurdles—purpose of being a father (8 votes)
2. Objectives that a successful statewide network would have:
 - Increasing parental engagement (12 votes)
 - Funding (9 votes)
 - State agency integration (7 votes)
3. Attributes that an organization or agency would have to oversee a successful statewide network
 - Shared vision with the FEE group (11 votes)
 - Capacity in specific areas (11 votes)
 - Well connected across state and sectors (10 votes)
4. Organizations or agencies that would make a great lead agency for this statewide network
 - It was decided that the structure would be 5 co-leading agencies (Boys Town, PCA Iowa, CFI, St. Vincent De Paul, and Dads With A Purpose)
5. Words and phrases to include in a mission statement
 - Who you serve
 - Fathers and families (14 votes)
 - Inter-generational (12 votes)
 - Responsible Fatherhood (9 votes)
 - Wholistic (9 votes)
 - What you do
 - Empowering fathers (12 votes)
 - Building capacity for fathers to function as leaders (12 votes)
 - Promote healthy relationships (10 votes)
 - Who you are
 - Collaborative network (14 votes)
 - Network of resources and expertise (11 votes)
 - Statewide (8 votes)
 - Outcomes
 - Improving child well-being (13 votes)
 - Community impact (11 votes)
 - Prevention (10 votes)

Action Plan

Tasks	Who Will Do It	Deadline	Update/ Status
Receive summary notes from this meeting	Erik	March 29, 2018	Completed
Schedule next meeting – core leads	Core Leads (Liz to send Doodle)	April 5, 2018	Completed
Mail contact list of people here today and who was invited	DHS (Kate)	March 30, 2018	Completed
Identify any list of fatherhood resources	CFI (Sara)	March 30, 2018	Completed
Include Leah’s list of fatherhood programs ISU Child Welfare project			Completed
Assess PCA Iowa’s resource list	PCA Iowa (Liz)	April 6, 2018	Completed
Create a shared Google account or drive	Core Leads	At next meeting	Completed
Define roles and responsibilities	Core Leads	At next meeting	Completed
Create name for this effort	Core Leads	At next meeting	Completed
Finalize mission statement	Core Leads	At next meeting	Completed
Identify lead people/staff from core groups	Keith – Dads With A Purpose Liz – PCA Iowa Steve – SVdP Debbie – Boys Town Sara – CFI	Before next meeting	Completed
Coordinate contact with NFI through Kate – DHS for technical assistance	Core Leads	At next meeting	Completed
Create agenda	Boys Town (Debbie)	Before next meeting	Completed
Finalize goals and objectives	Core Leads	At next meeting	Completed