Fedele F. and Iris M. Fauri Memorial Conference
Innovative Service Delivery Models for Child Welfare: Promoting Positive Father Engagement
Roundtable Discussion Notes

Lessons Learned

- Concrete activities to engage fathers
- Focus on “desire” to be involved
- Understand demographics
- Role of mother in supporting father engagement
- Gender role socialization/culture
- Modeling; giving things “to do”

What about:

- “buy in” incentives
- Developing relationships – mandated fathers
- Sustaining “lessons learned”
- “parenting under duress”
- CPS involvement
- Old ways and new ways

Opportunities:

- Resource website
- Use of social media
- Training modules (CWTI)
- Referral system
- Advisory committee

Engaging Father’s learning:

- Fathers recruiting fathers
- Importance of job search
- Strengths-based questions to fathers
- Intersecting roles for women through open-ended questions
- Straight-talk two way dialogue between fathers and agencies
- Men are capable of good communication with women
- Objective views of communication and gender
- Changing roles for men in child-rearing
- More skill training for dads
- Avoid gender definitions
Challenges

- Fear of agencies (punitive measures)
- Lack of education
- Limited scope of FOC expand beyond financial only
- Too much legislation, not enough funding
- Being a father = financial support
- Reforms in child support
- Lack of financial literacy
- Multigenerational out-of-home fathers
- Consolidating programs with similar missions
- Being preventative
- More prenatal involvement with men
- More conversations

How do we communicate?

- Profession networking/interconnectedness
- Ongoing education
- Know resources
- Intentional conversations with dads
- Agencies need to utilize research and adapt best practices

1) *Culture matters!*
   - Authentic voice
   - Providing incentive
2) *Lack of evidence based research (programs)*
   - Encourage coparenting
   - Funding
   - Gender discourse
3) *backbone organization → collective impact*
   - helping mothers realize the importance of father’s involvement