Baltimore Responsible Fatherhood Project:

A Snapshot of common fatherhood practice

Bright Sarfo LMSW, PhD
MEF Associates
Overview

- Background
- Center for Urban Families
- Baltimore Responsible Fatherhood Program Model Description
- Remaining Questions
INCARCERATION

CHILD

SUPPORT

UNEMPLOYMENT

Percent of the Population Aged 16-64 that is Unemployed By Community Statistical Area, 2008-2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent Unemployed:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.1% - 5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2% - 8.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.1% - 10.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.8% - 13.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.7% - 17.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Baltimore City
Percent Unemployed: 9.8%

 natuuralsketches was used to display data.
Source: American Community Survey
Map created by BNA JRF, 2014
Since 1999 has served over 27,000 vulnerable residents of Baltimore. Currently serves 1,500 adults a year. Comprehensive programs focusing on:

- Employment
- Family Stability
Service Delivery Model

**BRFP GOALS**

- **↑ Fathers’ knowledge base of the Child Support system.**
- **↑ Demonstration of parenting skills and parent involvement.**
- **↑ Co-parenting Cooperation and communication skills**
- **↑ Client job readiness and employability.**
Baltimore Responsible Fatherhood Project

1. The Curriculum Sessions (D.A.D M.A.P.)
2. The Skills Workshops
3. The Case Management

- Open group format
- Ease of adaptation
- Culturally tailored to unique realities of low income fathers.
RCT of the DAD MAP
Impact on:

- Fatherhood Involvement
- Child Well being
- Co-Parenting Relationships
- Employment Readiness
# Competing Practitioner/Researcher interests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESEARCHERS</th>
<th>PRACTITIONERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aim for high internal validity</td>
<td>Prioritize effective strategies to counter client challenges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To discover new implications for populations</td>
<td>To act in the best interests of the client</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Inform the Field</td>
<td>Improve efforts to engage and educate the community</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Collaborative Strengths

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>RESEARCHERS</strong></th>
<th><strong>PRACTITIONERS</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trained in research implementation</td>
<td>Trained/experienced in the challenges/realities of their client population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can access and interpret empirical/conceptual literature</td>
<td>Have direct knowledge on how policy impacts their client population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can explain complex concepts to various populations</td>
<td>Understands the political institutional environment and how it impacts practice</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Work Remains

- Co-Parenting among non-intact couples
- Fatherhood Programs that Engage Children & Families
- Expansion in Child Support Debt Forgiveness Programs
Recipe for Collaborative Success in Fatherhood Research

- Discuss until mutually satisfactory solutions are met.
- Identify the shared vision
- Clarify goals
- Involve staff in planning
- Provide tools/material to make collaboration simple and meaningful
Questions?