Strategies for Increasing Father Involvement

For Assistance:
Please contact
phanson@amchp.org
Brief Notes about Technology

Audio

• Audio is available through your computer.
• For assistance, contact phanson@amchp.org
• To submit questions throughout the call, type your question in the chat box at the lower left-hand side of your screen.
  – Send questions to the Chairperson (AMCHP)
  – Be sure to include to which presenter/s you are addressing your question.
Technology Notes Cont.

Recording

• Today’s webinar will be recorded

• The recording will be available on the AMCHP website at www.amchp.org
Objectives

- *Identify the benefits of reporting the costs of family fragmentation in their communities/states.*

- *Describe programs at the local and state level which enhance father involvement.*
Featuring:

- **Brian Gullins** of the Richmond (VA) Health District

- **Diana Mason** from the Connecticut Department of Social Services.
Cost & Solutions to Family Fragmentation & Father Absence in Richmond, VA

Richmond City Health District

Working Together for a Healthier Richmond

Brian R. Gullins
What’s the answer?

“Creating a Community Culture Connecting Fathers to their Families”
Percent non-marital births (PNMB) was calculated as number of non-marital births divided by total number of live births.
### Estimated Cost of Family Fragmentation for U.S. Taxpayers in Richmond, Virginia:

#### 205 Million Dollars Annually

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid</td>
<td>$51,148,124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justice System</td>
<td>$35,420,027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Stamps</td>
<td>$17,550,122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Welfare</td>
<td>$16,868,541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Assistance</td>
<td>$13,389,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporary Assistance Needy Families</td>
<td>$9,364,739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Lunch and Breakfast Program</td>
<td>$6,384,564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Children’s Health Insurance Program</td>
<td>$5,222,548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start</td>
<td>$4,948,755</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women, Infants &amp; Children</td>
<td>$2,906,739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Income Heat &amp; Energy Assistance Program</td>
<td>$1,268,826</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional FICA Taxes Paid</td>
<td>$17,228,921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional State &amp; Local Taxes Paid</td>
<td>$12,386,806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional U.S. Income Taxes Paid</td>
<td>$11,260,773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total U.S. Taxpayer Cost of Family Fragmentation</strong></td>
<td><strong>$205,348,695</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cost Model for Family Fragmentation & Father Absence

- Model includes federal, state and local cost
- Table values include a coefficient based on a bundle of actual Richmond program costs and the Consumer Price Index to reflect inflation since 2007
- Model does not include administrative costs associated with these programs
- 205 million cost represents a conservative or minimum estimate
- Cost model designed by Dr. Benjamin Scafidi, Economist, Georgia Family Council
Profile of Richmond Absent Father

- **Likely to be a non-residential father**
  - 28% of non-residential parents had no contact with their children in the past year
  - 20% of all non-residential fathers earn less than $6000 a year
  - 32% of non-residential fathers nationally have contact with their children less that twice a week
  - (Source: Father Facts)

- **Dropped out of school between 9th-10th grade**
  - Reading comprehension level at time of drop out 5th-6th grade
  - Males are at the greatest risk of drop out
  - 1073 high school students missed 10 days or more in 2008-2009
  - (Source: Richmond Public Schools, Peter Paul Development Center, Father Facts)
Profile of Richmond Absent Father

Sexually active not practicing monogamy

- 95% sexually active before marriage
- Male participants stated that family planning is the primary responsibility of females
- 1198 fathers have multiple child support cases
- (Source: Community Foundation, Rubicon Focus Group, Johnson, Inc.)

Contact with criminal justice system resulting in a felony record

- 2009 the average daily population was 1463 inmates (capacity 852)
- 6500 inmates were classified as first time offenders in 2009
- Felony records became a significant employability barrier
- (Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2007, City of Richmond)
Profile of Richmond Absent Father

- **Childhood impacted by poverty**
  - Raised in household at or beneath national poverty level
  - 80% of the students in RPS are eligible for free and reduced lunch
  - 26% poverty rate in Richmond due to economic climate and high unemployment
  - (Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2007, City of Richmond)

- **Lacked father’s emotional and financial connection**
  - 1908 non-marital birth in Richmond City 2010
  - Absence of father’s affirmation impacts school “readiness”
  - 4987 child support cases with no payment made as of February 2010

  (Source: Richmond City Health District, Morehouse Research Institute, Virginia Department of Social Services)
Solutions

- Institutional and Cultural Changes
- 7 Institutions: Family, Religion, Education, Government, Business, Media, Arts
- 30 Strategic Solutions focusing on:
  - Community Mobilization-connect, equip & empower grassroots networks
  - Social Marketing-leverage multiple media strategies promoting fatherhood
  - Resource Development-leverage technical, financial, & human resources
  - Policy Development-identify policies assisting or detracting from family stability
  - Workforce Development-increase employability profiles & employment
  - Alternatives to Incarceration & Reentry-support preventive & post programs
Strategies for Growing & Sustaining Fatherhood Initiatives

September 17, 2012
Working Assumptions

- Men need to be emotionally and economically prepared to be fathers over the lifetime of the child.

- Healthy communities encourage, promote & strengthen responsible fatherhood.

- Employers should recognize & support the needs of fathers and families in the workplace.

- Government can & should exercise leadership to make fathers & families a focus of public discourse.
What Affects Father Involvement?

1. The quality of relationship a man has with his own father

2. A man’s current relationship with the child’s mother

Low income men, in particular, have the same characteristics as low income women, such as:

- inadequate skills/
  sporadic work history
- low literacy levels
- trouble navigating systems
- housing/transportation issues
- language barriers
- substance abuse/depression
- marginalized from society
Initial legislation was our key strategy…

*PA 99-193*

**GOAL:**

to promote the positive involvement and interaction of fathers with their children
PA 99-193: Objectives

- Promote public education concerning the emotional & financial responsibilities of fatherhood
- Assist men in preparation for the legal, financial & emotional responsibilities of fatherhood
- Promote the establishment of paternity at childbirth
PA 99-193: Objectives

- Encourage fathers, regardless of marital status, to foster their emotional connection to & financial support of their children
- Establish support mechanisms for fathers in their relationship w/their children, regardless of marital & financial status
- Integrate state & local services available for families
As the Initiative evolved…

- we became more aware that there were real men with real problems looking for supports

- various agencies had to confront their own service barriers/biases

- agencies did an assessment of their “father friendliness”

Webinar: Strategies for Increasing Father Involvement
Hosted by the Association for Maternal Child Health Programs and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Further, we identified a need to standardize services to fathers

This resulted in the development of the Connecticut Fatherhood Program Certification Project

Webinar: Strategies for Increasing Father Involvement
Hosted by the Association for Maternal Child Health Programs and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Another Key Strategy: Fatherhood Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

- structural movement within State Gov’t during 2006 elections and ever since
- provides a blueprint for Commissioners to keep agencies moving in same positive direction despite changes in top leadership
- provides on-going legitimacy for collaborative intent of the legislation
- demonstrates how Initiative can be supported by various agencies with limited cost

Webinar: Strategies for Increasing Father Involvement
Hosted by the Association for Maternal Child Health Programs and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Lessons Learned...

✓ Gov’t has an important leadership role to play in fatherhood arena

✓ Many agencies can affect their processes w/out much additional $$$$

✓ Focus on the “best interest of the child” avoids wasted arguments about who is more deserving of assistance

Webinar: Strategies for Increasing Father Involvement
Hosted by the Association for Maternal Child Health Programs and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Lessons Learned...

✓ Work with what you’ve got and what you can get initially

✓ Don’t be distracted by what may seem like limited support from Admin and/or Legis

✓ When a clear vision is articulated, folks can and will help each other to achieve respective (often mutual) objectives
Lessons Learned…

- By engaging top level folks, systems change more easily made.
- All levels of staff need to be effectively trained on value of supporting fathers.
- Staff may need to be actively engaged & assisted to buy into change process.

Webinar: Strategies for Increasing Father Involvement
Hosted by the Association for Maternal Child Health Programs and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
Webinar: Strategies for Increasing Father Involvement
Hosted by the Association for Maternal Child Health Programs and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
THANK YOU!

www.ct.gov/fatherhood

diana.mason@ct.gov

860.424.5997