W5
Beyond Isolation: Developing Social Capital

Presenters:

Dr. Armon Perry, Project Director/ Associate Professor, 4 Your Child/ University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky

Lyman Legters, Senior Director, Casey Family Programs, Greenbelt, Maryland
Background

“Social capital” refers to the resources available in and through personal and business networks. These resources include information, ideas, leads, business opportunities, financial capital, power and influence, emotional support, even goodwill, trust, and cooperation. The “social” in social capital emphasizes that these resources are not personal assets; no single person owns them. The resources reside in networks of relationships.
Social Capital

- Sense of Belonging
- Networks
  - Bonding/Bridging
- Feelings of Trust and Safety
- Reciprocity
- Participation
- Diversity
- Values, Norms
  - Outlook in Life
- Citizen Power/
  - Proactivity
Bonding capital is generated by primary relationships—such as kinship and friendship, and secondary relationships that develop informally through acquaintanceship and neighboring. Bonding capital connects neighborhood individuals and organizations to support information and resource sharing, and leads to the ability of community residents to come together around a common agenda.

Bridging capital describes the connections between neighborhood members and individuals and organizations outside the neighborhood to share resources and information for problem solving. Community builders work to strengthen both types of capital, and the latter is critically important in the community revitalization context.
Social Capital

• Why is it important?

• How can we develop, manufacture, and leverage it?
Why is Social Capital Important?

What are the benefits of social capital?
- Parenting skills/knowledge
- Child care
- Crisis management/coping
- Job opportunities
- Educational opportunities
- Resource identification/acquisition
Why is Social Capital Important?

Where would you be if not for the relationships and connections that you’ve established?
Utilizing Social Capital-4 Your Child
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Systems and Isolation

• Building a 21st century child welfare system means we are all in the same boat, paddling together in the same direction, and we finally reach the far shore – with wise intention and kindness to all families, including the full engagement and respect of fathers in the process.

• Jeremiah Donier, constituent consultant, Casey Family Programs’ Birth Parent Advisory Committee member, Birth Father Winner, 2019 Casey Excellence for Children Awards, www.casey.org/ceca-2019/
EXAMPLES OF PROGRAMS THAT FOSTER SOCIAL CAPITAL
"A candle that lights another candle doesn't lose its light but the light shines brighter throughout the world.“ – Author unknown
Summary of Key Points

• Reciprocal Relationships
• Trust is paramount
• Programs must be intentional about increasing social connections; creating opportunities for fathers to actively engage in advocacy for self, others, and community
Stay in touch with us!

Contact Information:

Armon R. Perry, Ph.D., MSW
arperr01@louisville.edu

Lyman Legters
Senior Director Strategic Consulting
llegters@casey.org