W12
Connecting Fathers and Families through Child Support

PANEL HOST:
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PRESENTERS:
John Hurst, Deputy Director, Georgia Department of Human Services Division of Child Support Services
Kiska Dennis-Gear, Fatherhood Program Manager, Georgia Department of Human Services Division of Child Support Services
Fanning the Fatherhood FIRE:
A National Fatherhood Summit
June 4-6, 2019 | Nashville, Tennessee

PRESENTERS:

Charlie Davis, Employment & Education Coordinator, Tennessee Department of Human Services

Karen Walker, Director of Family Assistance Contracts, Tennessee Department of Human Services

Patti Wood, Director of Operations, Child Support Field Services and Contracts, Tennessee Department of Human Services
Georgia
Background

- Chronic Non-Payors
- Barriers to Paying
- Resource Connection
- Support for Participants
- Statewide Programs
Georgia Division of Child Support Services (DCSS) Outreach Programs

Fatherhood Program
• Pre-contempt option
• Employment-based program
• Training, coaching and mentoring
• Strong Community Resource Collaborative approach
• Utilizes community resources leading to career employment
• Increase self-sufficiency
• Increase emotional, parental and financial involvement

Parental Accountability Court
• Collaboration between the Department and Superior Court judges
• Alternative to incarceration
• Utilizes community resources
• Judicial oversight to address barriers
• Increase parental accountability and self-sufficiency
Outcomes

Fatherhood Program (SFY18)
- Provided services to 6,511 participants
- Enrolled 1,340 participants in GED training
- Enrolled 1,174 participants in short-term training
- Over 15,000 children have received support

Parental Accountability Court (since 2012)
- Over 6,212 participants have avoided incarceration
- Received over $6.6 million in child support payments from participants
- Over 9,400 children have received support
Challenges

• Trust
• Customer Engagement
• Community Resources
Engagement

• Fatherhood Conversation Events
• Fatherhood Celebration Event
• Faith and Non-Profit Meetings
• PAC Kickoff and Graduation Events
Partnerships

• Technical College System of Georgia
• Fathers Incorporated
• Community Employment Resources
• Community Employers
• Council of Superior Court Judges
• Administrative Office of the Courts
Summary of Key Points

• Program Highlights
• Challenges
• Community Engagement
• Community Partnership
Tennessee

Family-focused • Interconnected • Resilient • Essential
Background

“Family Centered Services” is the approach used by the TN Department of Human Services to provide information and specialized services to our customers.

“Two Generation (2Gen)” Framework is an approach we use to deliver services that intentionally focuses on the children and their parent/caregiver together, to harness the family’s full potential, to put the entire family on a path to permanent economic security, and to break cycles of poverty.
National Incarceration Data

- The US has 5% of the world’s population, yet 25% of the world’s prison population.
- Nearly two-thirds of the people who are incarcerated are parents.
- More than 1.7M children have a parent in prison....and millions more children have a parent currently in jail.
- 92% of incarcerated parents are fathers.
Tennessee Incarceration Data

• Tennessee is currently 12th in the nation for non-custodial parents who are incarcerated.

• Tennessee’s number of incarcerated men and women has increased by nearly 12% in the last decade.

• African Americans are 16.8% of Tennessee’s population, but 45% of Tennessee’s prison population.

• Tennessee is in the top third of states that have the most incarcerated parents, with nearly 15,000 incarcerated parents in 2011 – 90% of whom were fathers.
Fatherhood Services in Tennessee

Improving the parenting and communication skills of fathers allow them to become a greater part of their child’s life.

Research shows that a higher level of engagement in their child’s life leads to:

• Health
• Early development
• Education levels of their children
• Reduction in behavioral issues

Active participation of parents in the child’s life has shown to increase the frequency of Child Support.
Child Support and TANF Partnership

• When parents, custodial and noncustodial alike, are employed, they are able to fulfill a key parental responsibility by providing for their children.

• Helping families with education & employment opportunities and reliable child support payments is a central tenet of TANF.

• TANF funds can be used to promote employment programs for noncustodial parents. TANF-ACF-IM-2018-01
Assist noncustodial individuals re-entering our community and needing a new beginning with wraparound services – holistically providing support for critical and ongoing needs – as well as a launch-pad to meaningful, sustained employment.
Project Return Successes

• Child support owed by participants (most recent fiscal year):
  • Average monthly obligation at enrollment = $338.82
  • Average arrearage balance at enrollment = $14,726.79
  • Never previously paid child support = 21%

• Of child support payers connected with Project Return:
  • Made their first payment within 60 days = 50%
  • Made their first payment within 90 days = 79%

• Employment is key! For PRs child support payers this year:
  • 76% have successfully gained long-term employment
  • 77% have retained their employment for at least two months
Tennessee Department of Human Services Programs (TDHS)

The Child Support programs below have been expanded to increase the footprint for employment and fatherhood services provided by the Department.

- The Tennessee Partnership for Ongoing Parental Support (TPOPS)
- The Child Support Noncustodial Parent Employment Demonstration (CSPED)
- The Tennessee Child Support Employment and Parenting Program (TCSEPP)
The Child Support Noncustodial Parent Employment Demonstration (CSPED)

• Helps parents who cannot pay their child support find employment. Parenting education is provided for all participants.
• The program serves customers in Nashville (Davidson County), Memphis (Shelby County) and Chattanooga (Hamilton County).
• Employment services are provided via the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, and Goodwill of Middle TN
The Tennessee Partnership for Ongoing Parental Support (TPOPS)

- Works with noncustodial parents currently incarcerated in the Morgan County Correctional Facility, and nearby Rehab Center.
- The program also provides support to those who need additional assistance after release.
- Provides child support information and parenting education to individuals.
- The program is a partnership between TDHS and the University of TN, Social Work Division.
The Tennessee Child Support Employment and Parenting Program (TCSEPP)

• Helps noncustodial parents gain employment in East Tennessee. The program serves a large rural area where employment is not the only challenge.

• The Program serves customers in a number Knox, Cock, Grainger, Jefferson, Sevier, and Blount counties.

• TCSEPP is a partnership between TDHS and the University of TN, Social Work Division.
What are the focuses of the community partnerships and what outcomes are expected?

Mission
• To build strong families by connecting Tennesseans to employment, education and support services.

Vision
• To revolutionize the customer experience through innovation and a seamless network of services.

Core Values
• High Performance
• Collaboration
• Continuous Improvement
• A shared Vision
• Customer-Centered Solutions

Outcomes Bank
One DHS Video
We have become a leader in partnering with human services customers

https://youtu.be/AzhWYSYutV4
Questions and Answers
Stay in touch with us!

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