



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Administration for Children and Families  
Office of Family Assistance

National  
Responsible  
Fatherhood Clearinghouse



# National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse

NRFC Webinar – July 31, 2019

*The Importance of Co-Parenting and Relationship Skills:*

*Helping Fathers Help Their Children*

## Presenter Bios

**Carolyn Pape Cowan, PhD, Adjunct Professor of Psychology and Emerita at the University of California, Berkeley, CA.**



Carolyn has co-directed three longitudinal studies of how family relationships affect children's adaptation. With Philip Cowan and Marsha and Kyle Pruett, she developed a group intervention for parents of young children, in which health professionals work to strengthen parents' relationships as partners and parents. Seven U.S., Canadian, and U.K. trials show positive benefits for parents' and children's development in middle-class, working-class, and low-income parents from varied ethnic backgrounds. Carolyn is also co-author with Philip Cowan of *When Partners Become Parents: The Big Life Change for Couples* (1992, Basic Books, 2000, Erlbaum); co-editor of *Fatherhood Today: Men's Changing Role in the Family* (Wiley, 1988) and *The Family Context of Parenting in Children's Adaptation to Elementary School* (2005, Erlbaum); and author of numerous scientific journal articles.

Carolyn consults internationally about the development and evaluation of interventions for partners who are parents.

**Philip A. Cowan, Professor of Psychology, Emeritus, University of California, Berkeley, CA.**



Philip received his PhD from the University of Toronto and came to the University of California, Berkeley in 1963. He served as Director of the Clinical Psychology Program for 12 years and completed a 5-year term as the Director of the Institute of Human Development. Since 1979, he and Carolyn Pape Cowan have been co-directors of two longitudinal studies of how family relationships affect children's adaptation. Both studies began with a group preventive intervention for couples, led by mental health professionals, which had long-term positive effects on the couples and their children. With Carolyn Pape Cowan, Marsha Pruett and Kyle Pruett, he created and evaluated the Supporting Father Involvement project – a group intervention for low-income couples, funded by the California Office of Child Abuse Prevention.

Philip is the author of *Piaget with Feeling: Cognitive, Social, and Emotional Dimensions* (Holt, Rinehart, & Winston, 1978), co-author with Carolyn Pape Cowan of *When Partners Become Parents: The Big Life Change for Couples* (Basic Books, 1992, reprinted in 2000 by Lawrence Erlbaum), co-editor of four additional books and monographs, and author or co-author of numerous research articles in scientific journals.

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**Aaron Ivchenko, Senior Case Manager and Trainer, Child Find of America, Inc.**



Aaron has worked with Child Find of America, a national non-profit organization established to prevent and resolve child abduction and abuse, since 2008. As a trained transformative mediator for Child Find's Parent Help Program, he provides preventative conflict resolution services for parents in challenging parenting apart situations. Additionally, he serves as a case manager for the National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse's National Call Center (877-4-DAD-411), where he frequently connects fathers with support, information and resources at the local level. Aaron's work with co-parents is enriched by an extensive background in child safety, crisis management, mediation, and systems liaising. He brings over 16 years of experience in the field of child safety. He has served as Domestic Violence Liaison to Child Protective Services in the states of New Hampshire and New York; provided consultation and staff training

for the federal "Greenbook Demonstration Initiative," which aimed at improving coordination between domestic violence service providers, child welfare agencies, and family courts; and authored a Domestic Violence Protocol for Child Protective Services, Dutchess County, NY.

**James P. McHale, Ph.D., Director of the Family Study Center, Professor and Chair, Department of Psychology, University of South Florida St. Petersburg (USFSP), FL.**



James' work is focused on expanding, researching and providing innovative new ideas and directions in the study of coparenting in diverse family systems. A family therapist by training, he is a past Director of Clinical Training of Clark University's clinical psychology program and now serves as Executive Director for the USFSP Infant-Family Center at Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital. His research studies of coparenting have been funded since 1996 by the National Institute of Mental Health, the National Institute of Child Health and Development, and the Brady Education Foundation. He currently serves as Principal Investigator for "Randomized Controlled Trial of Prenatal Coparenting Intervention for African American

Fragile Families," a National Institutes of Health-sponsored project examining the efficacy of a prenatal Focused Coparenting Consultation intervention in helping expectant unmarried African-American parents to build and sustain positive coparental alliances. James was recognized in 2004 as the World Association for Infant Mental Health's "Decade of Behavior" lecturer and he received the Irving B. Harris Award for his 2007 book "Charting the Bumpy Road of Coparenthood". His 2011 book "Coparenting: A Conceptual and Clinical Examination of Family Systems" (with Kristen Lindahl) provides the field's first comprehensive look at research on coparenting in diverse family systems.

**Marc Taylor, Project Director, TRUE Dads, It's My Community Initiative, Oklahoma City, OK.**



Marc is a Senior Manager at It's My Community Initiative (IMCI) and the Program Director for TRUE Dads, an innovative responsible fatherhood program based in Oklahoma City. Prior to joining IMCI, Marc worked in the professional sports and entertainment industry for 16 years. A serial entrepreneur, he has created, built, operated and sold a number of businesses. When joining IMCI in late 2015, his main role was to use his love for people and business experience to build TRUE Dads from the ground up. In just over three years the program has successfully served over 1,000 fathers and their co-parents.