



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



NRFC Webinar Series

Strengthening Literacy and Father-Child Relationships through Reading

Presenter Bios

July 15, 2015

J. Michael Hall, M.Ed., President and Founder, Strong Fathers-Strong Families

J. Michael Hall has been a special education teacher, a teacher of the gifted and talented, and an intermediate and middle school principal. As an educator, speaker and founder of Strong Fathers-Strong Families, he has presented to more than 160,000 fathers at local schools and Head Start programs. Strong Fathers-Strong Families has trained educators and practitioners in over 36 states and in West Africa. Mr. Hall has written various magazine articles, was a contributing author to the book *Why Fathers Count*, and is considered one of the country's foremost experts on working with fathers in schools and Head Start programs. He was honored as a White House Champion of Change in 2012 and has presented at many conferences, including the International Parent Education Conference, the National Head Start Association Annual Training Conference, the National PTA Convention, the National School Board Association Annual Conference, and the Texas Association of School Boards.

Allison Hyra, Ph.D., Fellow, ICF International

Dr. Hyra has over a decade of experience conducting research and evaluation on child, adolescent, marriage, family and community projects for various federal clients, including the Administration for Children and Families and the Assistant Secretary of Planning and Evaluation for the Department of Health and Human Services. Since July 2013, she has worked with ICF to provide research-to-practice technical assistance and support for healthy marriage and responsible fatherhood programs. Dr. Hyra has written on a variety of topics that support responsible fatherhood including child support, paternity, father-child interactions, noncustodial parenting challenges, toxic stress and father-child literacy. She has also conducted culturally competent evaluations of responsible fatherhood and healthy marriage programs, and was the Project Officer for the development of an online catalogue of commonly used healthy marriage and responsible fatherhood curricula that documents implementation factors and instruction topics. She co-authored *Strengthening Literacy and Father-Child Relationships through Reading* (2013) with Dr. Stacey Bouchet.

Glen Palm, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Child and Family Studies, St. Cloud State University

Dr. Palm worked as a parent educator in Early Childhood Family Education programs for 35+ years. As a researcher/practitioner he has studied fathers and attachment, parent education and incarcerated fathers, the role of fatherhood in influencing men's values and beliefs, fathers and their influence on social emotional development in young children, and fathers' role in early literacy development. He held leadership positions with the Minnesota Council on Family Relations and the National Council on Family Relations; and has been a Board Member of the National Practitioners Network for Fathers & Families and the Minnesota Fathers & Families Leadership Network. He has written extensively about fathers and parent education including co-authoring two books: *Fathers and Early Childhood Programs* (2004) with Jay Fagan and *Group Parent Education: Promoting Parent Learning and Support* (2004) with Deborah Campbell.

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