



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



National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse

NRFC Webinar – March 21, 2018

The Role of Women in Fatherhood Programs

Presenter Bios



Kenneth Braswell, Project Director, National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse and Executive Director, Fathers Incorporated, Atlanta, GA

Kenneth has spent over 27 years in the service of family and community. A husband and father of five, he continues to see the world through the eyes of his own children. In 2004, he created Fathers Incorporated (FI) and has served as Executive Director since its inception. Through national and international missions, FI has provided capacity building services for thousands of organizations to help encourage and enable the positive involvement of fathers in the lives of their children. FI is currently the prime contractor for the National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse (NRFC), an Office of Family Assistance funded national resource for fathers, practitioners, federal grantees, states, and all who are interested in supporting strong fathers and families. Kenneth serves as Project Director for the NRFC and is also the author of several books for children and adults, a sought-after speaker, a social entrepreneur, a blogger, and a documentarian filmmaker. He and his work have been featured by CNN, PBS, Good Morning America, Ebony, and Black Enterprise. Fatherhood is not only his work, but his mission.



Linda Mellgren, Senior Social Science Analyst, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE), US Department of Health and Human Services (retired).

During her 38 years at ASPE, Linda's principle areas of policy and research expertise included child support, fatherhood, marriage and healthy relationships and the intersection of human services and criminal justice populations. For 10 years she managed the Multi-site Family Study of Incarceration, Parenting and Partnering, a longitudinal implementation and impact study of family strengthening programs for incarcerated fathers and their partners. Prior to her retirement she led HHS activities for the Federal Interagency Reentry Council, a collaborative effort across 22 federal offices to improve reentry outcomes for the formerly incarcerated. In the 1990s, she chaired the HHS Fatherhood Working Group, a department-wide effort to help fathers be more involved in their children's lives. She also has extensive child support policy and research experience, including the effects of child support policies on non-resident fathers. Linda has a MPA from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University and a BA from the University of Minnesota. She is married, has two grown children and a cardigan welsh corgi named Lily.

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Cheri D. Tillis, Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer, Fathers' Support Center (FSC), St. Louis, MO

Cheri has been with FSC since 2003. She is responsible for oversight of agency programs, daily operations, and 55 staff positions at 4 program locations, with a focus on building community partnerships, federal grant writing, and ongoing program development. Prior to joining FSC, Cheri worked as a Youth Specialist for the St. Louis Division of Youth Services and also served with AmeriCorps, working in schools and community centers throughout St. Louis. Cheri has represented FSC at many national conferences, where she is often called upon to speak about FSC's program, which is increasingly pointed to as a national model for fatherhood programs. She holds a Master of Science in Human Resource Management from Lindenwood University, a Bachelor's in Criminal Justice from Jackson State University, and a Business Management for Non-Profit Leaders Certificate from Washington University Olin School of Business. She was also a 2016 Missouri Foundation for Health Fellow and has served as the Principal Investigator (PI) on several Fatherhood research studies in partnership with Washington University in St. Louis, MO. Most importantly, she is the wife of Bradford Tillis and mother of 2 sons, Caleb and Nicholas.