



Working with Child Support: Continuing the Conversation

April 15, 2015



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National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse

- DHHS/ACF Office of Family Assistance funded national resource to support fathers and families.
- Resources are available for dads, fatherhood programs, researchers, and policy makers.
- Visit the NRFC: www.fatherhood.gov
 - www.fatherhood.gov/toolkit for *Responsible Fatherhood Toolkit*.
 - www.fatherhood.gov/webinars for archives of all our webinars.
- Contact any of our staff: info@fatherhood.gov
- Encourage fathers or practitioners to contact our national call center toll-free at **1-877-4DAD411 (877-432-3411)**.
- Engage with us via social media:
Facebook: [Fatherhoodgov](https://www.facebook.com/Fatherhoodgov) Twitter: [@Fatherhoodgov](https://twitter.com/Fatherhoodgov)



Our Goals Today

Talk about ways in which fatherhood programs and child support agencies can work together to:

- Provide fathers with accurate information about child support.
- Explain the benefits of paternity establishment.
- Provide employment services to help fathers meet their child support obligations.
- Help with modification of orders and arrearages as appropriate.
- Develop and maintain effective local partnerships that meet mutual program goals.



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Today's presenters

- Barbara Lacina, Office of Child Support Enforcement, Washington, DC.
- Rhody McCoy, Rubicon, Richmond, CA.
- Patty Hunt, Contra Costa County Department of Child Support Services, Martinez, CA.
- Brad Lambert, Connections to Success, Kansas City, KS.
- Nicolette Bennett, Kansas Department for Children and Families, Child Support Services, Topeka, KS.



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Barbara Lacina
Acting Director
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Office of Child Support Enforcement

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Federal Child Support Perspective

- Nearly 70% of parents are making their child support payments.
 - Parents who make up the other 30% face multiple barriers.
- Important distinction between “unwilling” and “unable.”
- Our program is uniquely positioned to help parents find and keep jobs, to pay consistent support, and to have time with their children.
- Now is the time to impact two generations with practices and policies that help parents stabilize their lives and build a future for their children.
- Research supports strategies that can help strengthen the ability of parents to support their children:
 - Promoting parenthood.
 - Helping parents succeed in the workforce.
 - Offering debt compromise programs
 - Providing individualized and flexible case management.



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Child Support is Evolving

Welfare Cost Recovery

- Recovering welfare costs
- Assigning and retaining
- Imputing income
- Automated, standardized enforcement processes
- Debt as motivation to pay
- Incarceration as consequence of nonpayment
- Financial support main focus

Family Centered Practices

- Reliable payments
- Family distribution
- Accurate, actual income
- Caseload segmentation for tailored approaches
- Debt prevention/compromise
- Services to remove barriers contributing to nonpayment
- Involvement-balanced focus



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OCSE Fatherhood Initiatives

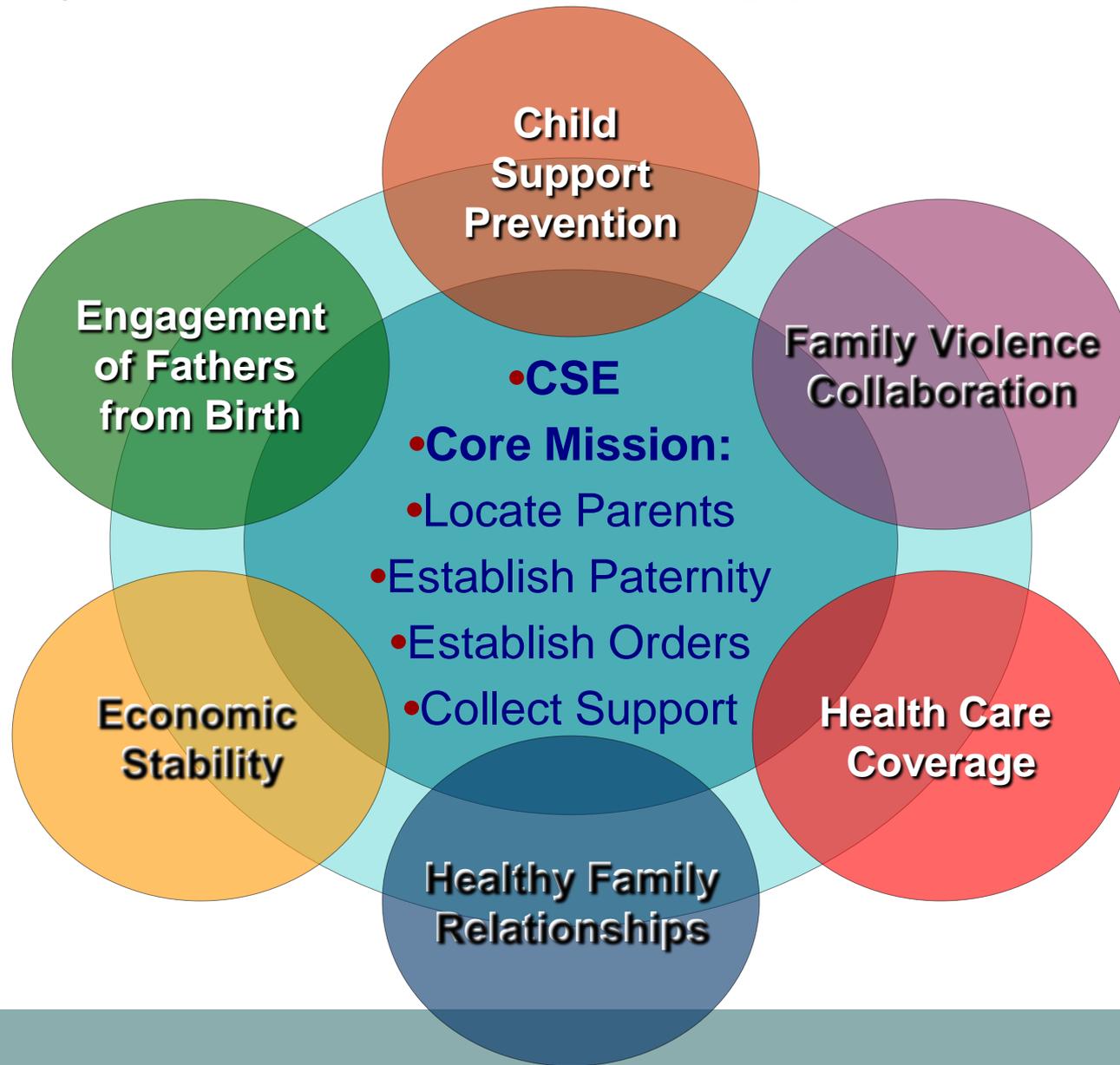
- Access and Visitation: 1997 to present
- Partners for Fragile Families: 2000 - 2003
- Fatherhood / Co-Parenting: 2003 - 2006
- Reentry: 2008 - 2012
- Asset Building: 2010 - 2014
- Employment: 2012 - 2017
- Parenting Time: 2012 - 2017



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Family-Centered Child Support Strategies





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Rubicon Programs

Long Term Relationship with
Department of Child Support Services (DCSS)

- Fathers at Work 2002 - *Public/Private Ventures (P/PV)*.
- PAPAS Program 2012 - *DHHS/ACF/OFA*.
- Who we work with: Fathers in transition.
- Barriers fathers face:
 - Substance abuse.
 - Formerly incarcerated.
 - Unemployed/underemployed.
 - Estranged from family.
 - Fear of DCSS.



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Contra Costa County Department of Child Support Services

- Mission of California's Child Support Program:
 - Enhance the well-being of children and the self-sufficiency of families by providing professional services to
 - Locate parents.
 - Establish paternity.
 - Establish and enforce orders for financial and medical support.
- Partnership between DCSS and Rubicon:
 - Common purpose.
 - Communication and data sharing.



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Communication and Feedback

Monthly Outcome Meetings/Quarterly Meetings

- Case management.
- Program design issues.
- Program participant successes.
- Data and outcome metrics.

Monthly DCSS Workshop Presentation

- Child Support Awareness.
- Individual meetings at Rubicon Sites and DCSS offices.
- Follow up at DCSS offices.



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Value of Partnership

- Second Chance:
 - Arrears- education about accruals process.
 - Drivers License Release.
 - Modifications- current support and arrears payments.
 - Paternity- genetic testing @ no cost if court ordered.
 - Education on support process and benefits.
- Incentives:
 - Opportunity to stabilize.
 - Temporary suspend child support.
 - Negotiate realistic payment schedule.
 - Become a financially involved Dad.





PAPAS Work Outcomes

Program Year 2013/14

- 22 non-custodial parents established new custody arrangements.
- 61 maintained payments.
- 37 established new visitation rights.
 - 50 maintained existing visitation rights.
- 56 achieved release of driver's license by establishing standing with DCSS.
- 27 received modification of their child support order amount.

- 171 participants completed parenting classes and increased parenting skills.





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Project Introduction

- Began in Wyandotte County, KS in 2011.
- Profile of Participants.
- General Services Provided.
- Nature of Partnership with DCF.





Child Support Services

- Statewide data on non-custodial dads.
- Using state-owed arrears as performance incentives.
- Participation in Connections to Success (CtS) program:
 1. Establish trust.
 2. Paternity issues.
 3. Increase knowledge.
 4. Child support orders.



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What Makes it Work

- Data Sharing.
- Consistent Communication.
- Problem Solving.
- Equal Stakeholders.
- Innovation.



- Efforts to Duplicate in Missouri.





Value-Driven Results Kansas "Responsible Fatherhood" Initiative 2012-2014 (12/31/14)

Cost Benefits for 2012/2014 period			
Categories	Raw numbers		Notes (computation & source reference)
Participants	275		
Savings through recidivism reduction over past 12 mo.	105 felons impacted by program	\$ 315,436	4.9% of participants recidivated compared to a broader statewide average of 21.4%, a difference of 16.5%. KS incarceration cost = \$18,207 per year (http://www.prisonpolicy.org/scans/vera/the-price-of-prisons.pdf) $105 \times 16.5\% \times \$18,207 = \$315,436$
Employer incentives	Employers eligible for new tax credit hires	\$ 151,200	The Work Opportunity Tax Credit gives employers financial incentive to hire ex-offenders, offering up to \$2,400 in tax credits for each hire (x 63)
Income earned by participants	223 working participants	\$2,375,759 net earnings	223 participants worked 8,866 weeks total (x) average of 34.04 hours per week (=) 301,798.64 total hours (x) \$9.60 average per hour wage = \$2,897,266.94 gross earnings
New Federal Income Taxes		\$ 434,590	2014 Federal tax rate schedules
New Kansas Income Taxes		\$ 86,918	2014 Kansas and local income tax rates
Child Support arrears discharged thru 11/30/14	197 rec'd adjustment	\$ 211,205	Through an agreement with the State of Kansas, participants have received \$211,205 in state-owed child support arrears adjustment through participation in the Connections to Success program
Child support payments made thru 11/30/14	*197 paying participants	\$ 928,577	Actual number reported by Kansas Dept. of Children & Families
	Returns	\$4,503,685	
	Project Cost	\$1,449,031	
	PROI	\$3,054,654	These conservative estimates represent a 311% projected return on the program to date!

*83% made payment the month immediately following completion of class.





Going Forward

- Scaling & Replication:
 - 4 Locations Statewide.
 - Train-the-Trainer.
 - Beginning Year 2.





Barbara Lacina

Closing Thoughts



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Barbara Lacina

Acting Director
Division of Program Innovation
Office of Child Support Enforcement

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Share the Message

- Child support program and practices are evolving.
- Child support can play a powerful role in helping to strengthen - not erode - family income, work participation, and relationships.
- Implementing parent-focused innovations:
 - Building relationships.
 - Individualized case management.
 - Personalized communication.
 - Emphasis on parenting.
 - Employment and wrap-around services.
- Welcoming opportunities to collaborate and partner.



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Tips for Fatherhood Programs

- Reach out to your local child office.
 - Meet with child support staff to discuss mutual goals.
 - Invite a child support representative to talk to your staff, provide training, answer questions.
 - Invite them to make regular presentations to your father groups.
- Look to develop a deeper partnership relationship:
 - Referrals to fatherhood program.
 - Help with questions from fatherhood staff and participants.
 - Assistance with order modifications, etc.



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Reach out and learn more

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Contact:

- **NRFC:** info@fatherhood.gov
 - Comments, questions, suggestions for future webinar topics, information or resources that you recommend.
- **Today's presenters:**
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