Working with Child Support: Continuing the Conversation

April 15, 2015
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](http://www.fatherhood.gov)
  - [www.fatherhood.gov/toolkit](http://www.fatherhood.gov/toolkit) for *Responsible Fatherhood Toolkit*.
  - [www.fatherhood.gov/webinars](http://www.fatherhood.gov/webinars) for archives of all our webinars.

- Contact any of our staff: [info@fatherhood.gov](mailto: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.
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.
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.
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
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
Family-Centered Child Support Strategies

- Core Mission:
  - Locate Parents
  - Establish Paternity
  - Establish Orders
  - Collect Support

- CSE
- Engagement of Fathers from Birth
- Economic Stability
- Healthy Family Relationships
- Health Care Coverage
- Family Violence Collaboration

- Child Support Prevention
Working with Child Support: Continuing the Conversation

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April 15, 2015
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.
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.
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.
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.
Working with Child Support: Continuing the Conversation

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April 15, 2015
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.
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)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Raw numbers</th>
<th>Notes (computation &amp; source reference)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participants</td>
<td>275</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savings through recidivism reduction over past 12 mo.</td>
<td>105 felons impacted by program</td>
<td>$315,436</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>4.9% of participants recidivated compared to a broader statewide average of 21.4%, a difference of 16.5%</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>105 x 16.5% x $18,207 = $315,436</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employer incentives</td>
<td>Employers eligible for new tax credit hires</td>
<td>$151,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>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)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income earned by participants</td>
<td>223 working participants</td>
<td>$2,375,759 net earnings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Federal Income Taxes</td>
<td>$434,590</td>
<td>2014 Federal tax rate schedules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Kansas Income Taxes</td>
<td>$86,918</td>
<td>2014 Kansas and local income tax rates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Support arrears</td>
<td>197 rec’d adjustment</td>
<td>$211,205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>discharged thru 11/30/14</td>
<td></td>
<td>Through an agreement with the State of Kansas, participants have received $211,205 in state-owned child support arrears adjustment through participation in the Connections to Success program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child support payments</td>
<td>*197 paying participants</td>
<td>$928,577</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>made thru 11/30/14</td>
<td>Returns</td>
<td>4,503,685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Cost</td>
<td>$1,449,031</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROI</td>
<td>$3,054,654</td>
<td>These conservative estimates represent a 311% projected return on the program to date!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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

Barbara Lacina

Acting Director
Division of Program Innovation
Office of Child Support Enforcement

April 15, 2015
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.
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.
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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