Two-Generation Approaches to Working with Fathers

July 20, 2016
How to Ask a Question

Chat with Other Attendees.
Available Web Links
Downloadable Materials
Submit Questions to Presenters
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 us: [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](http://Facebook.com/Fatherhoodgov)
  - Twitter: [@Fatherhoodgov](https://Twitter.com/@Fatherhoodgov)
Our Goals Today

Today’s webinar will share information about:

- The concepts, goals, and structure of two-generation work.
- Recent two-generation work with mothers and their children, and how these programs might better engage fathers.
- Ways in which fatherhood programs could focus services on fathers and children.
- Ideas for linking fatherhood services with community services for children.
- Resources that can inform and guide the development of two-generation programs.
Today’s Presenters

- **Wanda N. Walker**
  Jeremiah Program, Minneapolis, MN.

- **Anthony Judkins**
  Connecticut Department of Social Services, Hartford, CT.

- **Keren Cadet**
  The Center for Working Families, Atlanta, GA.

- **Rodney Lawrence**
  Sheltering Arms, Atlanta, GA.
Two-Generation Approaches to Working with Fathers

Wanda N. Walker
Director of Program Excellence
Jeremiah Program, Minneapolis, MN

wwalker@jeremiahprogram.org
July 20, 2016
Fragmented policies and programs that address the needs of children and parents separately leave either the child or parent behind and dim each family’s chance at success.

Policies and programs that address the needs of children and their parents together can harness the family’s full potential and put the entire family on a path to permanent economic security.
Two-generation approaches provide opportunities for and meet the needs of children and their parents **together**.
Jeremiah Program

Supportive Community

- Affordable, Safe Housing
- Career-Track College Education
- Quality Early Childhood Education
- Empowerment & Life Skills

Equal to

Family Prosperity
Jeremiah Families

- Living below poverty level
- Dependent upon public assistance
- 60-70% women of color
- 70-80% children of color
- Average age of mothers: 25
- Average age of children: 3
Profile of Jeremiah Children

- Ages 6 weeks–5 years old
- 5% diagnosed with a special need
- 60% have seen the abuse of drugs or alcohol in home
- 30% have witnessed or experienced violence
Jeremiah Program
Fatherhood Research

Annie E. Casey: $75,000 grant – 9/2014-7/2015

- Fathers’ involvement
- Literature Review
- Mothers Surveys
- Fathers Surveys
Research Highlights

- Fathers’ involvement varies: 
  Room for more

- Greatest barrier: 
  Mother-father relationship

- Jeremiah Program: 
  Opportunities
How to Include Fathers

Suggestions from Research

• Focus on the child’s well being.
• Expansion of co-parenting skills.
• Improve Father-Friendliness of organization.
• Orientation.
• Child center and father-child events.
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Anthony Judkins, Program Manager
Department of Social Services
Fatherhood Initiative of CT

anthony.judkins@ct.gov
www.ct.gov/fatherhood
July 20, 2016
CT TANF Academy Project: 2-Gen & Noncustodial Parents

July 2015 - Two related actions occurred:

1. CT Legislature passed bill that advanced parent-led, 2-Gen approach to family educational and economic success.

2. CT selected as 1 of 7 national sites to receive TA from ACF Systems to Family Stability National Policy Academy - TANF Academy.
CT’s 2-Gen Initiative

• Delivers academic & job readiness support services across 2 generations.

• Builds learning community of pilot sites to share strategies across urban, rural, suburban and regional targets.

• Takes all learnings to develop a state-wide blueprint for both school & workforce success.

• Creates 6 pilots which focus on:
   Early learning programs.
   Adult education
   Child care
   Housing
   Job training.
   Transportation.
   Financial literacy.
   Other related support services.
CT’s 2-Gen Initiative

- Requires a long-term plan & blueprint for 2-gen model with TANF funds.
- Includes plan for state grant incentives for private entities that develop 2-gen programming.
- Creates workforce liaison to gauge and coordinate needs of employers & households in each pilot community.
- Creates evaluation that looks at outcomes in child, parent, family, & systems.
- Builds strategic partnership with philanthropy, business, scholars, elected officials, & parents.
CT TANF Academy Project

**PARTNERS**

**Department of Social Services**
- TANF & Child Support divisions, Fatherhood Initiative

**Connecticut Department of Labor**
- Welfare to Work Unit

**Judicial Branch**
- Support Enforcement Services

**Legislative Branch**
- Commission on Women, Children & Elders

**Private/Nonprofit Agency**
- United Way of Connecticut
CT TANF Academy Project

Our VISION:

Both parents (regardless of marital status) are employed or receiving education and/or workforce development services/support

AND

Both parents are financially and emotionally supporting their children

AND

Children are receiving quality child care (early childhood ed.), education, and health care,

THEN

Children will Thrive and Be Healthy
Families will be Economically Stable
And Parents will Maximize their Human Potential.
CT 2-gen and fatherhood:
They are a lens, not just specific programming.

They have intuitive appeal: helps children do better by also helping parents.

They have bi-partisan appeal:
Effective: more outcome- and data-driven than many social service approaches.
Efficient: can re-orient existing programs.
Challenges in the Work

- Traditional social services and 2-Gen efforts target Custodial Parents (CPs), primarily moms, and children.

- Noncustodial Parents (NCPs), primarily dads, not always able to access program supports since children not living with them.

- Staff serving CP/child may not be asking questions/obtaining info to help them reach out to NCP/dad.

- Staff serving men in programs other than fatherhood may not be asking if they are dads.

- Fatherhood program staff may not be thinking about engaging moms or children in the work they are doing - transparency.
CT TANF Academy Pilot

New Opportunities, Inc. (NOI)
Waterbury, CT

Community Action Agency, with following programs under their umbrella:

- Early Childhood Program
- Family Development Centers
- Intensive Family Preservation
- Emergency Shelter
- Fatherhood Initiative
- LEAPS
- Rapid Re-Housing
- Secure Jobs

Convening a planning session to:

1. Gain staff input and buy-in.
2. Develop tangible, feasible action steps for management/staff to incorporate into current service delivery model.
Focus on messaging, culture shift, and cross-program coordination to support NCPs and children.

- Children being served by NOI programs:
  - Are their dads identified? Involved?

- Dads in NOI Fatherhood program:
  - Are their children being served by other NOI programs?

- Men being served by other NOI programs:
  - Is anyone asking them if they are dads?
Goal of CT TANF Academy Pilot

• True inclusion of noncustodial parents/fathers in all policies, procedures, service provision.

• This goal is supported through a 2-gen approach.
  ➢ Whether or not they live with their children.
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Keren Cadet, MSW
Two-Generation Coordinator
The Center for Working Families, Inc.

Rodney Lawrence
Family Support Specialist, Sheltering Arms

kcadet@tcwfi.org
rlawrence@shelteringarmsforkids.com

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The Center for Working Families, Inc. (TCWFI)

**MISSION:** Advance economic success for hard-working families and their children through:

- Workforce development.
- Economic supports.
- Asset building.

- We believe that every family and individual is able to improve their lives through economic and career success.
TCWFI Core Initiatives and Programs

- Family Economic Success Continuum.

- Employment Barriers:
  - Literacy 75%
  - Childcare 40%
  - Transportation 75%
  - Criminal Background.

- Employment and Education Services:
  - GED Classes.
  - Job Readiness Bootcamp.
  - Construction Ready Program.
  - Generations Program w/focus on Customer Service.
Sheltering Arms - Educare
Early Learning and Education Center

- Housed on the first floor of the Paul Lawrence Dunbar Elementary School, Educare Atlanta connects children and families to a quality education from birth through fifth grade.

- The school offers year-round, weekly care, Monday through Friday from 6:30 am to 6:30 pm to children from six weeks of age through pre-kindergarten.
Once a family enrolls in the Two-Generation Program, they have access to a comprehensive set of supports and services.
Bundle Services

- Supporting families in setting Specific, Measureable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-specific (SMART) goals.
- Challenging families to stay focused in order to achieve their goals.
- Connecting families with resources, tools, supports, and structures to accomplish their goals.
- Holding families responsible and accountable.
Supportive Services

- Childcare Subsidy.
  - Sheltering Arms Early Learning Center/EDUCARE.

- Family Coaching.

- Advocacy.
  - Transportation Assistance - Marta.
  - Rental Assistance.
  - Criminal Records.

- Parent Capacity Building and Social Capital Programs.
  - All Pro Dads (Sheltering Arms).
  - Leadership Cohort (TCWFI).
Getting men involved in early childhood education
All Pro Dads

- National organization with a group of people passionately committed to bringing intentional focus to fathers around the world.
Keren Cadet, MSW  
Two-Generation Coordinator  
The Center for Working Families, Inc.  
kcadet@tcwfi.org  
Direct: 404-230-7155  
Visit Us Online: www.tcwfi.org

Rodney Lawrence  
Family Support Specialist  
Sheltering Arms Early Education and Family Centers  
Educare  
rlawrence@shelteringarmsforkids.com  
(O) (404) 582-9100  
Visit Us Online: www.shelteringarmsforkids.com
Contact:

NRFC

- info@fatherhood.gov
- Please send your comments/questions, suggestions for future webinar topics, and any information or resources that you recommend we share with others.

Today’s presenters

- Keren Cadet: kcadet@tcwfi.org
- Rodney Lawrence: rlawrence@shelteringarmsforkids.com
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