

Collaboration Network Calls Document

January 11, 2005: Reading Makes a Difference for Fathers and Children

I. Welcome and Introductions:

Mike Vicars and Kathleen Penak, Region V, welcomed all on the call, after which participants introduced themselves.

Region V:

Terry Davis, Head Start
Hich Yamagata, Child Care
Kathleen Penak, Head Start
Mike Vicars, Child Support
Jenny Gardner, Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY)
Constance Miller, Child Welfare
Ron Stevens, Child Welfare
Linda Lawrence, Child Support
Geneva Bishop, Child Support
Heather Erb, Head Start
Harlan Smith, Child Care

Booz Allen Hamilton:

Dean Baker
Lois Rakov
William Welch

Head Start:

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Illinois:

Jeffrey Wieneke, Two Rivers Head Start, Batavia
Bill Woods, Wabash Agency Development, Inc.
Kirk Harris, Family Support America
Ernest McConnell, Rockford Meld

Michigan:

Marian Nickleberry, Wayne County Dept. of Health and Community Services
Richard Bailey, Battle Creek Head Start
Duane Wilson, Michigan Fatherhood Coalition
Kimberly Kraske, Wayne County, Head Start
Ruth Goorhouse, Saute St. Marie, Early Head Start

Minnesota:

John Titcomb, OTWCAC

Missouri:

Dr. Ken Canfield, Executive Director, National Center for Fathering

Ohio:

Peggie Price, Children and Families (CEOGC) Cleveland
Tommy Rae Jackson, Wayne Medina Head Start, Wooster
Mary Bishop, Akron Summit Community Action, Inc., Akron
Terry Smith, Child Development Council of Franklin County, Columbus
Pat Pack, Child Focus, Inc., Cincinnati

Wisconsin:

Terry Gay, CESA 7 Head Start, Green Bay
Nancy Kapp, Day Care Services for Children, Inc., Milwaukee

II. Topic: Reading Makes a Difference for Fathers and Children

Presenters

- **Ken Canfield**, Executive Director, National Center for Fathering.
- **Pat Pack**, Manager, Family and Community Partnership, Child Focus, Inc, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dr. Ken Canfield with The National Center for Fathering discussed his organization, which provides educational materials and initiatives to aid fathers in connecting with their children. The National Center for Fathering is headquartered in Kansas City with work all throughout the United States. Dr. Canfield emphasized how fathers reading to their children can greatly impact their lives.

The National Center for Fathering offers service programs such as:

Reconnecting Education and Dad (READ)

- Emphasizes the importance of reading to children at a young age.
- Stresses that reading is the bridge between relationships and learning.

COACH Dad

- This program is built around play sessions with fathers and children.
- The program teaches fathers how to play with children.

Dr. Canfield provided an example of a case in northern Texas, where prison inmates were allowed to have their children come in every two weeks for play sessions and how this impacted both fathers and children's lives. Dr. Canfield recommended that Call participants view that National Center for Fathering website: www.fathers.com.

Ms. Pat Pack of the Family and Community Partnership, Child Focus in Cincinnati, Ohio, discussed a very successful Child Focus Program, which began from the ideas of fathers. The program was started in 2001, when Ms. Pack overheard several Early Head Start fathers discussing how they never got the chance to cook for their families. In response, the *Cook off for Fathers* was created to give fathers a chance to show off their culinary skills.

Cook Off for Fathers

- This program has had three successful years in which the fathers' vision became a reality.
- Ms. Pack described the dedication, hard work, and planning that this yearly event requires.
- The fathers try out new recipes and the mothers are the judges in a "Cook Off" contest.
- The whole family is included, but it is centered on the fathers.
- The recipes that are made are now included in a cook book, that is sold and proceeds help fund other programs the partnership offers.

For more information about the program and to purchase copies of the book, please contact Pat Pack [at patp@child-focus.org](mailto:patp@child-focus.org).

III. Questions on Child Support

Participants on the call did not have questions about Child Support. The Region V, Child Support representatives were present on the call to address any questions or concerns.

IV. Recent Review and Analysis

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Lois Rakov gave a brief presentation on the Region V Review and Analysis of Fatherhood Programs. The Review and Analysis PDF document is available by contacting Lois Rakov [at Rakov Lois@bah.com](mailto:RakovLois@bah.com).

V. Topics for future Collaboration Network Calls

Teen Fathers or the Evaluation and Outcomes of Fatherhood Programs were discussed as possible Collaboration Call topics. It was agreed by call participants that Teen Fathers would be the topic for the next call.

VI. Discussions

The following topics were discussed by call participants:

- The question of fathers who aren't comfortable with reading.
- The importance of having a celebratory event for fathers.
- What tools are available to help build relationships between fathers and their children?
- Programs that work with incarcerated fathers.
- How to get staff to embrace fatherhood programs.
- Importance of sharing success stories.

Kathleen Penak concluded the meeting by asking the participants to determine the topic, date, and time for the next Collaboration Call. The participants decided on April 26, 2005, at 1:30 PM CT, 2:30 PM ET. The chosen topic was Teen Fathers.

The following text referenced by Dr. Canfield in his presentation is from the National Center for Fathering website: www.fathers.com.

A Critical Problem... Fatherlessness

Currently, more than 27 million children, 39 percent of all US children now live apart from their father. In a typical year, well over one-third of these children won't even see their father. More than half of all European-American children and three-quarters of all African-American children born since 1975 will live some portion of their formative years with only one parent and in the vast majority of these cases; it's the father who is absent.

Research shows that the costs of fatherlessness are high. Children with little or no contact with their fathers are more likely to drop out of school and become involved in drug and alcohol abuse; girls are more likely to become pregnant as teens and boys are more likely to become involved in crime and violence. Unfortunately, even when a father is physically present in the home, he may be emotionally absent. Often, men don't know how to effectively involve themselves in the lives of their children.

A Powerful Solution... Fatherfulness

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Any review of the current public discussion on fathering or any review of recent fathering literature reveals that significant energy is focused on the negative aspects of fathering. This leaves a void for a positive, proactive voice for fatherfulness.

The National Center for Fathering was founded to be that voice and to be a resource for men seeking to strengthen their fathering skills. With a staff of highly skilled researchers, writers, speakers, and seminar instructors, the National Center is positioned to become America's leading resource for fathers. The National Center has developed a variety of useful, "how to" resources, all based on sound research data. With these resources and the help of other men, we believe men can discover, develop, and enhance their fathering and become the fathers their children desperately need.

How the NCF helps men become better fathers:

Building on one of the nation's largest databases on fathers and fathering, the National Center focuses on providing practical, "how-to" oriented resources for fathers.

The National Center for Fathering reaches fathers with encouragement and practical tips on a daily basis through this web site at www.fathers.com and a nationwide radio program.

- The National Center for Fathering offers a wide variety of live seminars and small group materials designed to help men take a giant leap forward in their fathering. These are all tailored to specific audiences, including businesses, civic groups, social service organizations, hospitals, schools, and faith communities.
- The National Center works with and through other organizations that have existing relationships with fathers or their families. The National Center provides testimony to legislative bodies and serves as a resource for social agencies, the government, the media, and the private sector.

What Leaders Say...

"Businesses succeed when they have a vision for the future and a plan to achieve it. The National Center for Fathering helps fathers develop a vision and plan for their role as a dad."

- Joe R. Lee, CEO, Darden Restaurants, Inc., Red Lobster and The Olive Garden
"I am deeply impressed with the National Center for Fathering, both for its vision and its practical application. It is a terrific resource for both dads and organizations that work with dads."
- Jack Kemp, former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
"The National Center for Fathering is winning wide recognition for its pioneering efforts on behalf of fathers and fathering. Because of the importance of this issue, I urge your support of the Center and its programs."
- Donald Fraser, eight term US Congressman, former mayor of the City of Minneapolis, former president of the National League of Cities

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"No one is speaking with as much knowledge and authority on fathering issues as Dr. Ken Canfield and the National Center for Fathering."

▫ Gary Smalley and John Trent, Ph.D., authors and conference speakers