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**IDEAS TO ENGAGE FATHERS**

**from All Staff Meeting**

**2.2.11**

**DIRECT PRACTICE**

1. Having friendly staff
2. Be open for discussion
3. Encourage dads to attend family meeting-explain how important their roles is to their child/children
4. Dad to tape record bed time stories and tape goes to placement
5. Greet fathers, clients, and families
6. Educate fathers as to how important their role as father is
7. Translating
8. Seek the father’s input from the beginning and ensure that he knows how important his involvement is.
9. Asking who the father is---where? Contact info
10. Talk to them like a human being, not a parent that has issues
11. Be open to non –custodial parents in case planning
12. Ask dad’s what they need/want
13. Have in-person contact with dads
14. Encourage them to advocate for themselves-let them know they are more than just a provider
15. Making attempts to contact father
16. Regular communication and including dads in services
17. Outreach to fathers and inform them about changes to case (even if you think mother will tell them)
18. Simply say “Hi” to fathers
19. Identify likes and promote strengths
20. UA testing after 5 pm for working dads

**RESOURCES**

1. Provide resources where fathers (specifically) can get help, i.e. fathers legal rights
2. Engagement: Coordinate w/Cope and other agencies
3. Target services to fathers
4. Literature on how to maintain the relationship between a father and the child
5. Learn the resources available to dads in our community

**ORIENTATION BINDER**

1. Binder-visual, where the parent is in the process/flow chart
2. Orientation DVD
3. DVD for father’s (fatherhood DVD)
4. Encourage incarcerated fathers to stay connected to their children through letters, drawings, pictures, etc.
5. Try to hand fathers a written outline of how a CPS case goes-(roughly) and show where he is in process and show where he has to go-end goal.

**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

1. Pictures of children and their father
2. Job bulletin in lobby
3. Lobby is already okay for dads-needs plants
4. Have more literature available-geared for dad’s
5. Publication’s geared toward males/dads
6. Include images and posters, photos, children’s books, brochures that depict fathers and kids
7. Have resources specific to fathers
8. Photos and materials/brochures that include fathers w/their children
9. Any magazines: hot bikes, cars, hunting, music; Rollingstone
10. Spanish literature for dads
11. Written info that welcomes and engages fathers throughout building
12. Father/child poster
13. “Father friendly” magazines
14. More posters of fathers with their children
15. Bring resources to the table
16. Put brochures in the lobby for programs that are male friendly
17. Put up posters and resources in lobby that encourage father involvement and that shows the importance of father involvement in a child’s life
18. Having more pictures of children and their father’s in lobby
19. A workout center with donated equipment

**ADMIN/INTERNAL PRACTICE**

1. Hire more men-more male involvement for facilitators
2. Men’s support group for CPS dads
3. Father mentors
4. More fathers involved as parent advocates
5. In meetings/ case conferences I can listen for be aware of opportunities to involve fathers and places where we’ve missed an opening to include/involve a father and culture changes
6. Respecting other cultures
7. Work on policies and procedures to help include fathers in practice
8. Invigorate the importance of the father role w/in the family. Give the same respect to fathers as mothers
9. Support staff training on fatherhood issues-develop P & P’s on engaging fathers and recruit male SW’s

**INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES**

1. Activity book for fathers to do with kids.
2. Visits that include physical activities or different ways of having fathers engage with their children.
3. Have more games/activities dads can play w/their kids at visits (sport, model cars, etc.