Fatherhood!
A Powerful Resource In CWS
Why Do We Need Fathers?

Through research and practice, we know that fathers’ play a critical role in the development of their children that differs from a mothers’ role.
Some Statistics
2000 Census Data

70% of all urban families have absent fathers, compared to 25% of households nationwide.
Research compiled in the Responsible Fatherhood Act of 1999 (reported to the U.S. Senate) finds that:
Nearly 36% of children live apart from their biological fathers.
40% of children who live in households without fathers have not seen their father in at least one year; 50% have never visited their father’s home.
Compared to children who live with their biological fathers, those who do not are:

1. 5 times more likely to live in poverty.

2. More likely to bring weapons & drugs into the classroom.
3. Twice as likely to commit crime.
4. Twice as likely to drop out of school.
5. Twice as likely to be abused.
6. More likely to commit suicide.
7. More than twice as likely to abuse drugs and alcohol.

8. More likely to become pregnant as teenagers.
Our Culture and the System
Society’s Perceptions & Attitudes about:

Absent fathers
Deadbeat dads
Incarcerated fathers
Gangs
Substance abuse
Domestic violence
Social Evolution

• Agrarian to Industrial Society.
• The ‘tender years’ doctrine (British).
• African-American families impacted by slavery.
• Native Indian families impacted by loss of homeland.
AFDC & It’s Precursors

- Mother’s pension of 1911.
- Except by most states by 1932.
- 1935 AFDC created.

AFDC effectively worked to eliminate fathers from poor families.

Out of Wedlock Marriages Skyrocketed
Social Events

• War
• ’50’s – Ozzie and Harriett
• ’60’s & ’70’s
• ’80’s - Father’s rights movement.
• ’90’s - The Promise Keepers & Million Man March
• Lately? – The federal ‘Fatherhood Initiative
• Bill Cosby – states opinion
What Does This Mean For Our Organizations & Practice?
Father-Friendly Organizations

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Does your organization include father-friendly practices?
Assessment Guide on Father Inclusive Practices

National Practitioners Network for Fathers & Families
“The Fathering Indicators Framework”

The National Center on Fathers & Families

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Factors to Consider in Assessing Fathers Skills
Seven Core Learnings

• Fathers Care
• Father presence matters
• Joblessness and unemployment
• Systemic barriers
• Co-parenting
• Role transitions
• Intergenerational learning
Father Presence

• Includes
  – father engagement
  – availability
  – responsibility
Caregiving

Providing nurturance and performing routine tasks necessary to maintain children’s emotional well-being, physical health, and appearance.
Children’s Social competence & Academic Achievement

Actively engaging with children and others in developing and enhancing their social competence academic achievement.
Cooperative Parenting

Fathers, mothers, and other caregivers establishing a supportive, cooperative interdependent relationship aimed at optimal child development.
Fathers’ Healthy Living

Providing a role model through healthy lifestyle, education and appropriate social behaviors that teach work and personal ethics, as well as social norms, to help children grow and become productive members of society.
Material & Financial Contributions

Engaging in consistent activities that provide material and financial support to children.
Achieving Better Outcomes

Safety
Permanency
Well Being
Service Provision to Meet Fathers’ Unique Needs

Community partners can assist in providing a variety of services to increase a father’s capacity for responsibility.
Question:
Will Father Focused Services and Father Friendly Organizations help decrease the disproportional representation of African American children in our system?