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toolsfortreatment

Family-Centered Behavioral Health Support
for Pregnant & Postpartum Women

ATTC | Center of Excellence

Building Programs for Fathers: Men as Partners and Parents

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Why Engage Men?

Father

Mother



Child

Everyone
Loses



Everyone
Wins

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Positive Paternal
Involvement

+

Where to Begin?

Values, Stereotypes, Stigma...

Dispensable

Disinterested

Irresponsible

Incompetent

Dangerous

Throwaway Dads

(Parke & Brott, 1999)

Where to Begin?

Six Facts About Fathers

1. **Fathering is a developmental concern for all men.**
2. **Fathering affects the behavioral health of men and the behavioral health of men affects fathering.**
3. **Men have less social support for fathering than women do for mothering.**

Where to Begin?

Six Facts About Fathers

4. **Fathering is vulnerable to (a) the quality of the co-parenting relationship, (b) employment status of the father, and (c) the biological status of the child.**
5. **Absent fathers are often more present than policymakers and providers believe they are.**
6. **Most human service systems more actively engage women in their role as mothers than they engage men in their role as fathers.**

How to Begin?

Six Considerations

1. Clarify values and attitudes
2. Conduct a needs assessment
 - ❖ Needs of mothers
 - ❖ Needs of program
3. Define program components
 - ❖ Couples intervention
 - ❖ Intimate partner violence
 - ❖ Co-parenting intervention
 - ❖ Parenting intervention

How to Begin?

Six Considerations

4. Clarify legal and ethical issues
5. Procedures for risk management
 - ❖ Internal
 - ❖ External
6. Evaluation

How to Intervene?

Some General Considerations

1. Clarify risk and create safe environments
2. Couples to co-parenting to parenting intervention
3. Group versus individual format
4. Specific, realistic goals
5. Traditional masculine ideology
6. Ghosts from the past
7. Guilt and shame
8. Relational versus behavioral focus

How to Intervene?

Some Cautions/Concerns

1. Political ideology
2. Secular focus
3. Cost
4. Training
5. Efficacy
6. Effectiveness



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General Resources

National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse
(<https://www.fatherhood.gov>)

National Family Preservation Network
(<http://www.nfpn.org/father-involvement>)

National Fatherhood Initiative (<http://www.fatherhood.org>)

DHHS Administration for Children and Families: Office of
Planning, Research, and Evaluation
(<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre/resource-library>)



Programmatic Resources

O'Farrell, T. J., & Fals-Stewart, W. (2006). *Behavioral couples therapy for alcoholism and drug abuse*. New York: Guilford Press.

Parents Under Pressure (<http://www.pupprogram.net.au>)

Supporting Father Involvement

(<http://calswec.berkeley.edu/toolkits/father-engagement-and-father-involvement-toolkit-guide-implementing-monitoring-and-sustaining>)

Caring Dads (<http://www.caringdads.org/index.htm>)



Programmatic Resources

National Family Preservation Network: Basic and Advanced Fatherhood Training Curricula (<http://www.nfpn.org/father-involvement>)

National Fatherhood Initiative: 24/7 Dads (<http://store.fatherhood.org/24-7-dad-am-3rd-ed-with-booster-sessions>)

MDRC Responsible Fatherhood Project (http://www.mdrc.org/sites/default/files/full_573.pdf)