The Father Factor: Community Resources to Support Fathers
Presented by
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Mission Statement

Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Broward County mission is to reduce infant deaths by strengthening families through a comprehensive approach to prenatal care, parenting, education and support services.
Who We Are?

Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Broward is:

• a 501 (c) 3 private not for profit dedicated to improving maternal, infant and child health in Broward County
• served more than 5,000 individuals in 2013-2014
• serves clients of all ages from newborn to child-bearing age
• the only organization in Broward County that has a Fetal/Infant Mortality Review team, researching new ways to help save babies lives.
The Broward County Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) is dedicated to reducing infant mortality rates in our county by providing awareness, education, and resources to women and families.

Florida’s Fetal and Infant Mortality Review projects are organized under Florida Statute Section 766.101, utilizing the National Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (NFIMR) guidelines.

The Broward County FIMR Program is supported by dedicated health care providers, community agencies, and many other public and private institutions.

Broward County Medical Association (BCMA) incorporates the Case Review Team (CRT) as a BCMA Public Health subcommittee

FIMR is funded by Children’s Services Council and the Broward Healthy Start Coalition.
Background

- Healthy Mothers, Health Babies through its Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) program funded by Children’s Services Council and Broward Healthy Start identified the following:
  - Social stressors, especially the lack of father involvement in their infant’s/child’s life as a preventable contributing factor to infant death.
  - Increased father involvement in the African American community is critical to reducing unacceptable disparity in black infant deaths, which is more than twice the rate of white babies.
- There was fragmentation in existing fatherhood programs in Broward County.
Fatherhood Crisis in America

24 million children without their father at home

Poverty

4x greater risk of poverty

Teen Pregnancy

7x more likely to become pregnant as a teen

Behavioral problems

More likely to have behavioral problems

Child Abuse

More likely to face abuse and neglect

Source: National Fatherhood Initiative: www.fatherhood.org
CRIME

MORE LIKELY TO COMMIT CRIME

MOM-CHILD HEALTH

2X GREATER RISK OF INFANT MORTALITY

INCARCERATION

MORE LIKELY TO GO TO PRISON

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

MORE LIKELY TO ABUSE DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

EDUCATION

2X MORE LIKELY TO DROP OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL

CHILD OBESITY

2X MORE LIKELY TO SUFFER OBESITY
Identified Need

• Lack of paternal involvement increase the risk factors for infant mortality.
• Infants with absent fathers are more likely to be born with lower birth weights, to be preterm and small for gestational age.
• The risk of poor birth outcome was highest among Black women whose babies fathers were absent during the pregnancy.
• Pregnancy complications such as anemia, chronic high blood pressure, eclampsia, and placental abruption that contribute to premature births were more common among women whose babies fathers were absent during pregnancy.

Source: University of South Florida, June 2010.
Launch

- Initiated to fill service gaps and reduce infant mortality in predominantly black neighborhoods in 2010.
- Fathers were recruited through creative outreach.
- Mentors were identified and trained by 100 Black Men, Inc. using “100 Ways to Train” curriculum.
- Male Program Coordinator recruited.
- Provides individual and group education to help men develop the skills needed to become and remain active in their children’s life. The program includes case management, group sessions, community activities, and resource referrals.
Launch

Two phases:

• Phase I- fathers are peered with mentors attending 12 week group sessions. Graduation held at completion.

• Phase II- individual case management for 24 weeks using the National Fatherhood Initiative’s 24/7 DAD curriculum.

24/7 Dad Curriculum Topics include:

• What it means to be a man
• Communication
• Working with mom and co-parenting
• Dealing with anger
Fatherhood Program Successes

Since inception in October 2010
• 105 have graduated from 12 weekly educational group sessions.
• 100% of fathers completing the program improve their knowledge, attitudes and skills about parenting as evidenced by the 24/7 Dad curriculum.
• 100% of fathers show an improvement in knowledge when the pre and posttest were reviewed.
• 100% of fathers achieve one goal in their case plan

Success Stories:
• Derrick a father of two girls re-united with his 9 year old daughter he hasn’t seen in 7 years
• Mike honored Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Father of the Year in 2014
Fatherhood Program Successes

• Fathers who completed the program were asked what they learned. Some responses include:
  ✓ “Learned a lot about child support, rights of a father, and how to get a driver’s license”
  ✓ “The program was very well rounded, and I hope it is made available in all neighboring communities”

• When asked if the program helped to strengthen their bond with their children, the fathers responded
  ✓ “I have started making more efforts to spend time with my children”
  ✓ I like spending more time with my children, but my relationship with my ex-girlfriend is not good”
Community Service at LifeNet4Families
Upcoming Event

3rd Annual Me & My Dad Challenge

Challenging fathers to step up for their children

Saturday, March 14, 2015
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Joseph C. Carter Park
1450 W. Sunrise Boulevard, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33311

Guest Speakers
- Bobby E. DuBose
- 123 the Real Papa Keith

Register to compete in the Challenge at www.memydad3.eventbrite.com or call 954-765-0550

Free entry, prizes, and refreshments. Bring your swim gear and learn "Water Smart" techniques to keep your child from drowning.

Register online at www.memydad3.eventbrite.com
Community Resources

Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) of South Florida, Reintegration of Ex-Offenders Program

- Aims to reduce recidivism by helping former inmates find work
- 4 weeks program
- Provides employment skills training
- Assigns a mentor and employment specialist

www.oicofbrowardcounty.org
Community Resources cont’d

Mount Olivet Development Corporation (MODCO), Project Rescue Faith Based Mentoring Program

• Prepares returning citizens for release into society through pre-release mentoring.
• Provides job training and job placement
• Provides support through post release gender specific mentoring

www.mountolivemodco.org
Community Resources cont’d

City of Ft. Lauderdale Housing Authority, Step-Up Apprenticeship program

- provide opportunity to create a portfolio of education, training, and employment skills to increase potential for permanent employment and economic self-sufficiency
- two-year state certified program
- training in construction skills and building maintenance
- GED

www.hacfl.org
Thank You!

Oh I just love it when father’s succeed!
Contact Us

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