Facilitating Fatherhood

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Overview

- Minority father perspective on fatherhood
- Promising strategies for engaging young fathers
- Promising fatherhood programs
Facilitating Fatherhood

• Why is Dad important?

Just as important as mom!

• Pre-conception
  • Dad’s health influences genes passed to progeny

• Pregnancy:
  • Risk for pre-term labor, complications

• Post-partum:
  • Increase risk for developmental and behavioral issues
  • Major role in teaching child
Minority Male Perspective on Fatherhood

- Minority young father’s-to-be studies
  - Motivated early to be “good” fathers
  - Feel inadequate and unprepared
  - Identify needs: employment, education, roles model
  - Identified barriers
    - Medical, public and government services
    - Mother’s family
Minority Male Perspective on Fatherhood

- **Non-resident minority father study**
  - Father felt they contributed to welfare of child
  - Constrained by:
    - feelings of inadequacy
    - generations of father-absent households
    - poor social networks
    - few parenting resources
    - low income job
  - Public views as “deadbeat dads” and “child support scofflaws”
  - Benefit from an approach that is inclusive, respectful and values fathers’ presence in children’s lives.
Promising Strategies for Engaging

- There is little knowledge regarding best practices for involving expectant fathers (NHSA, 2010).

- In 2010 the Commission on Paternal Involvement in Pregnancy (CPIPO) three recommendations:
  - Address policy barriers to paternal involvement
  - Promote best and promising practice in paternal involvement
  - Examine research on paternal involvement and pregnancy outcomes
Promising Strategies for Engaging

- NHSA recommends:
  - Include men, especially young men, in reproductive health initiatives
  - Create "father-friendly environments"
  - Ensure practitioners are equipped to reach fathers at their points of need with fatherhood skill-building materials designed just for them.
Promising Strategies for Engaging

- Home visiting programs provide an opportunity to promote the health and well-being of fathers, including adolescent fathers, through screening, support and consistent reinforcement (SCAA, 2012)

- Home visit overview
  - Establish trusting relationship with dad
  - Education for dad
  - Tasks for dad
  - Mom and dad relationship
Promising Strategies for Engaging

- Home visit
  - Schedule home visit when dad available
  - Establish trust and rapport
    - Ask how dad is doing, what is he interested in (sports, cars, etc)
    - Dad may stay back at beginning, continue to encourage to take part.
  - Assess dad: depression, health, employment, & education
  - Transition interest into education, tasks and hopefully engagement
Promising Strategies for Engaging

- **What education can we supply for dad?**
  - Fetal, infant and child development so they can understand and become more confident
  - What mom is going through and relationship changes that may occur
  - What is effective support for mom during pregnancy
  - Direct to resources: educational, employment, support groups
  - Importance of dad health and resources available
  - Important roles dad fills
  - Hand out for dads to review, if not there for visit
What are tasks Dad can help with in perinatal process?

- Help getting car seat, crib
- Help getting to the doctor
- Social and psychological support for mom
- Help make sure mom is healthy and gaining weight
- Help monitor for pre-term labor signs
Promising Strategies for Engaging

- Convince Mom that Dad is important
  - “The Important Role of Fathers in the Lives of Young Children” (Parent as Teachers, 2011)
  - Available evidence suggests that targeting parents’ relationship with each other can enhance benefits for children (UW School Medicine and Public Health, 2011).
Promising Strategies for Engaging

- Organizational view
  - Father Friendly Assessment
    - [http://www.fatherhood.org/ffcu](http://www.fatherhood.org/ffcu)
  - Décor, pamphlets father friendly
  - Strive to look at the organization through lens of parental balance
  - Form effective partnerships with other health and human service agencies within the community (SCAA, 2012)
Resources for brochures and information

- National Fatherhood Initiative
  - For organization
  - [http://www.fatherhood.org/](http://www.fatherhood.org/)

- National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse
  - For dad
  - [http://www.fatherhood.gov/for-dads](http://www.fatherhood.gov/for-dads)
Effective fatherhood programs nationally

- Effective programs offer a comprehensive array of services to young fathers (NRFC, 2008).
  - Providing young fathers with parenting information alone insufficient
  - Offered variety of services (e.g., employment, education, counseling)

- Model program: *Young Dads*
- Promising program: *Teacher as Parents*
- Emerging program: *Early Head Start*
- *Effective Black Parenting*
Urban League of Greater Madison

- Fatherhood Responsibility Program
  - Career Counseling
  - Fatherhood Development Workshops
  - Individualized Case Management

- Membership class informational session 2nd and 4th Mondays from 10:00am to noon
Phase #1: Member Assessment

Phase #2: Foundations Training
- Transferrable Soft Skills
- Computer Skills
- Job Search Skills
- Financial Literacy

Employment that Transforms!
- Individual Job Search
- Urban League Employer Partner Referrals
- Special Urban League Employer Partner Job Seminars
- Job Retention Services

Phase #3

Industry Training
- Healthcare Admin
- Customer Service & Sales
- Information Tech
- Construction Trades
- Food Service

Work Experience
- Urban League Work Site (work experience interview)
- Other Work Site
Other programs in Madison

- Has anyone come across others in Madison?

- Madison-area Urban Ministry: incarcerated fathers being released

- Parenting Programs with father-focus available in Madison
  - Nurse Family Partnership
  - Early Head Start
  - Parenting classes through area hospitals
  - Centers for Families: parenting support groups
  - Parenting Resources of the United Way: 211
Community Organization Contacted

- 100 Black Men- Dr. Floyd Rose
- Urban League of Greater Madison- Vernon Blackwell
- Early Head Start
- Boy and Girls Club of Madison
- UW- Madison Department of Human Development & Family Studies
  - Dr. Dave Riley
  - Graduate student Dave Metzler
Male minority perspective on fatherhood
- Want to be “good” fathers
- Often feel inadequate about being a father
- Identify needs: employment, education, roles model

No best practices for engaging expectant fathers, just promising programs and strategies.

Urban League of Greater Madison has promising Fatherhood Responsibility Program
Facilitating Fatherhood

- Questions?

- Please fill out the survey and return
- Enjoy the jolly rancher!
References