

Selected State Agency Accomplishments in Support of Fatherhood Initiative Goals January 2001 – Present

Catalyzing Agency Cultural Change

- Re-examined agency mission (BCSE, SES, DCF)
- Created internal Fatherhood Teams (DCF, DMHAS, DSS Regional Offices, DOL, SES)
- Developed agency FI action plan (BCSE, DCF, DMHAS, DOL, SES)
- Assigned Fatherhood liaison for each field office (DCF, DSS/BCSE, SES)
- Sought new position of Coordinator of Men's Issues (DMHAS)

Promoting Staff Awareness

- In-service and/or new employee training (Board of Parole, DCF, SES)
- Mandatory FI training for all staff (CSSD, one DSS regional office)
- Fatherhood Practitioner Institutes on working with families (DSS)
- Five staff seminars of fatherhood and family topics, including domestic violence (DSS)
- Training Academy developing and delivering curricula (DCF)
- Upgrading facilities with positive fatherhood images (SES, DSS)
- Site visits to regional offices for father-friendliness (DSS)
- Sponsored domestic violence training by CCADV for fatherhood program providers and BCSE staff (DSS)
- Sponsored safe engagement/batterer intervention training by David Mandel & Associates for fatherhood program providers and community action agencies (DSS)

Using a Common Assessment Tool

- DSS contracted with NPNFF to develop an assessment tool; five regional offices used the tool
- DMHAS has used the assessment tool
- DCF has committed to using the assessment tool
- SDE will use the assessment tool during workshops on family/school teambuilding

Engaging Private Contractors

- CSSD has incorporated FI language into agency contracts since SFY 2003
- DSS and BCSE have incorporated FI language into agency contracts
- On Site assessments of contracted providers (DCF)
- Contract language under consideration (Board of Parole)
- Technical assistance and targeted grant proposal language stressing father inclusiveness and parental involvement (SDE)
- DSS/BCSE contract with CWEALF for Court Liaison to assist noncustodial parents in court system

Using Gender Neutral Language

- The Governor's Commission on Custody and Divorce recommended terminology changes for visitation and custody in statute and Judicial policies and forms
- All new forms/notices reviewed for father-inclusive language (SES, DOL)

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Interagency Collaborations

- **Joint sponsorship of fatherhood public hearings (DSS-Judicial)**
- **Job Fair for employers and inmates (DOL-DOC April 2001)**
- **One Stop Centers set up at three prison sites providing on site employment services (DOC-DOL with federal grant)**
- **Funded the development of Fatherhood Initiative Strategic Plan (DMHAS, DSS, DCF, SDE)**
- **Pre and post-release employment services for inmates who are veterans (DOL-DOC)**
- **Curriculum and evaluations development for inmate training program (DOL-DSS)**
- **Joint Funding of 4 Alternative Incarcerations Center pilots (CSSD-DSS)**
- **Drug Court Collaboration produces protocol to avoid conflicting court orders for noncustodial parents (CSSD-SES)**
- **“Daddy Strategies” workshop (SDE-DSS April 2002)**
- **Collaborative pursuit of grant funding for case management and other services (SES, DSS, DOC)**
- **Child support modification and case management services for pre-release inmates (SES-DOC)**
- **Development of regulations on arrearage management, based on recommendations from interagency workgroup (DSS/BCSE, SES, fatherhood program providers)**
- **Development of alternative default order establishment policies (DSS/BCSE)**
- **Exploration of supervised visitation options for inmates (DOL-DCF)**
- **Memorandum of Agreement addressing father-inclusive audit of contract providers, hosting a Recovery Conference for men, workshop at FI conference, distribution of newsletters, mailing lists etc. (DSS-DMHAS)**
- **Joint sponsorship of the annual New England Fathering Conference (NEFC) (DSS, SDE, DMHAS, DPH, DOC, SES, CSSD, DCF, DOL, CTF)**
- **Fatherhood Memorandum of Understanding to actively participate in efforts that further the objectives of the John S. John S. Martinez Fatherhood Initiative of Connecticut (CGS Section 17b-27a), both within their respective agencies and as interagency partners. (DSS, SDE, DMHAS, DPH, DOC, SES, CSSD, DCF, DOL, CTF)**
- **Conducted Employment Pilot Program, assisting child support obligors through a holistic approach by connecting them to community-based, DSS-certified fatherhood programs in high-need areas of the state (Bridgeport, Hartford and New Haven) with a focus on employment/vocational support services (CSSD, DSS, SES)**
- **Participation at the Annual Department of Correction Resource Fairs (DSS, DOC)**
- **Joint sponsorship of the annual Dads Matter Too 5k Road Race and Resource Fair (DSS, DCF)**
- **Participation on the Fatherhood Program Certification Review Committee (DCF, SES, CSSD, BCSE, DSS, legal aid)**
- **Joint sponsorship of the Shaken Baby Prevention Initiative Dr. Harvey Karp’s “The Happiest Baby on the Block” Training (DSS, DCF, OCA)**
- **Joint sponsorship of the Safe Sleep Symposium (DSS, DCF, OCA)**
- **Co-sponsored Babies Cry Have A Plan Trainings for fatherhood program providers (DSS, DCF)**
- **Co-sponsored Parents With Cognitive Limitations (PWCL) Training (DSS, DCF)**

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- Co-sponsored legislative forums on fatherhood (COC, DSS)
- Connecticut Panel Presentation at the 8th Annual National Fatherhood & Families Conference (DSS, SDE, DCF, DOL, DOC)
- Delivered Fatherhood Training sessions to Help Me Grow regional provider networks (CTF, DSS)
- Collaborative development of Fatherhood Initiative Strategic Plan (DSS, SDE, DCF, CSSD, SES, DOL, DOC, DMHAS, DPH, CTF, COC,)

Providing Information to Customers

- New eight session “Embracing Fatherhood” curriculum (DOC)
- New brochure for noncustodial parents (SES)
- Website information for noncustodial parents (DSS)
- Customizing curricula for parolees under consideration (Board of Parole)
- Expansion of audit education, literacy, and family support services for fathers (SDE)
- New brochure about agency services with father inclusive language (DOL)
- Domestic violence curricula that comprehensively addresses fatherhood and positive parent involvement (CSSD-Family Services)
- Contract for media products (DSS)
- Contract with CT Clearinghouse to disseminate fatherhood materials to the public (DSS)
- Development of informational tape on father’s role in breastfeeding (DPH)
- Intensive case management services available to teen fathers as well as mothers via Right from the Start program (DPH)
- School Based Health Center programs provide support or counseling around fatherhood issues in Bridgeport and Norwalk (DPH)
- Fatherhood Initiative information shared with staff at hospitals implementing the CT Voluntary Paternity Establishment Program (DSS)
- Produced Fatherhood Initiative Public Service Announcements (DSS)
- Published Annual Fatherhood Initiative Family Services Directory (DSS)
- Produced Fatherhood Initiative Promoting Responsible Fatherhood Video, “It’s About The Kids” (DSS)
- Coordinated with media team to include fatherhood-related information on the DSS Network, which available stream information and services in DSS office waiting areas (DSS)
- Funded the development of a report entitled “How father- and family-friendly is Connecticut?” (DSS)
- Established Fatherhood Initiative Information & Referral line, 1.866.6.CTDADS (1.866.628.3237) (DSS)

Viewing Customers Holistically

- Payment of child support is a condition of parole (Board of Parole)
- Considering including a positive father-child relationship as a treatment goal (DMHAS)

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Providing Information/Support to Serve Providers

- **Funded for three pilot fatherhood providers (DSS)**
- **Developed Fatherhood Initiative website (DSS)**
- **Funding and dissemination of Fatherhood Inventory of Services Directory (DSS)**
- **Support for Service Providers' Network (DSS)**
- **Hosted annual fatherhood conference and two annual awards luncheons (DSS)**
- **Funded six certified fatherhood sites under the Promoting Responsible Fatherhood Grant (PRF) (DSS)**
- **Purchased the "Babies Cry Have A Plan" Curriculum for certified fatherhood program sites (DSS)**
- **Contracted with Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) to provide training for certified fatherhood and other community providers (DSS)**
- **Funded the development of a batterer intervention report entitled "Safe Engagement of Fathers When Domestic Violence is Present: Building a model response to domestic violence within Responsible Fatherhood Programming (DSS)**
- **Funded a Safe Engagement of Fathers When Domestic Violence is Present: A Forum for Stakeholders (DSS)**
- **Funded and Developed the CT Fatherhood Program Certification Project (DSS)**
- **Sponsored the CT Child Support Policy Conference: Shaping the Future for Families in Connecticut: The Child Support/Fatherhood Connection (DSS)**
- **Contracted to provide professional development on fatherhood to five targeted school districts through Support for Pregnant & Parenting Teens Grant (SDE,)**
- **Sponsored the Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens (SPPT) Leadership Forum and Conference "Building Strong Futures" (SDE)**
- **Purchased Dr. Harvey Karp's "The Happiest Baby on the Block" Video for certified fatherhood programs funded under PRF Grant (DSS)**
- **Funded Promoting Responsible Fatherhood Retreat for certified fatherhood programs funded under PRF Grant (DSS)**
- **Purchased the 24/7 DAD (AM) curriculum for certified fatherhood programs funded under PRF Grant (DSS)**
- **Funded the evaluation and research of fatherhood programs (DSS)**
- **Hosted the New England Fathering Conference (DSS)**

Providing Technical Assistance

- **State of Wisconsin, Milwaukee Family Service Integration Office (DSS)**
- **Wisconsin, Department of Children and Families (DSS)**
- **Virginia Department of Social Services (DSS)**
- **State of New Hampshire, Division of Family Assistance (DSS)**
- **Minneapolis Health Department, Research and Program Development Division (DSS)**
- **Westchester County, NY Department of Social Services (DSS)**
- **Maine Fatherhood Leadership Council (DSS)**
- **South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families (DSS)**