

Training Information:

Participants:

Child welfare professionals, judges, attorneys, and community partners

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (both days)

Presenter: Marjorie Ruschel

Date: August 3 and 4, 2015

Location: Meadville Regional Training Room

Presenter: Nathaniel Gadsden

Date: September 1 and 2, 2015

Location: Pittston Training Room

Presenter: Brian Weir

Date: September 15 and 16, 2015

Location: Altoona Regional Training Room

Presenter: Nathaniel Gadsden

Date: September 17 and 18, 2015

Location: The Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center

Presenter: Marjorie Ruschel

Date: September 28 and 29, 2015

Location: Monroeville Regional Training Room

Presenter: Oswald Smalls

Date: October 6 and 7, 2015

Location: Temple University Center City Campus

Presenter: Oswald Smalls

Date: November 9 and 10, 2015

Location: Montgomery County Human Service Center

Research shows that successful father engagement depends on a collaborative approach with the court playing an essential role in leading the efforts to ensure the active engagement of fathers in child welfare cases.

As such, counties are strongly encouraged to attend as a court agency team in order to realize the full benefits of the curriculum.

CE's and CLE's Available



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302: Building and Sustaining Father Engagement



A Training for Child Welfare and Legal Professionals



Since 2009, the Father Engagement Workgroup has been empowered by the Pennsylvania State Roundtable to improve the involvement of fathers in the lives of their children in the child welfare system. To realize and sustain that goal, the Father Engagement Workgroup conceptualized a statewide training for child welfare and related professionals on the topic of father engagement in court and child welfare direct service efforts.

“Building and Sustaining Father Engagement” expands the proposed target audience to include a cross-system training of judges, hearing officers, parent attorneys, GALs, CASAs, JPOs, providers, and community members (teachers, parents, and family center personnel to name a few).

Values, Roles, and Responsibilities

- Personal values and experiences will be explored in an effort to recognize and manage personal perceptions, biases, and stereotypes when working with fathers.
- Individual roles and responsibilities to engage fathers in a strength-based and solution-focused manner will be discussed.
- Participants will explore the positive impact fathers have on child well-being and development.

Protocol for Engagement and the Father Engagement Bench Card

- Bench cards addressing protocols for engaging fathers in court and agency practice are discussed.

Establishing Paternity and Locating Fathers

Protocols for identifying and locating fathers and establishing paternity will demonstrate methods to meaningfully engage fathers in the child welfare system, and establish and maintain connections with fathers and paternal relatives in order to expedite permanency.

The Process of Engaging Men

Participants will learn the differences between male and female communication styles.

Overcoming Barriers and Managing Resistance

Data indicates that fathers experience a host of barriers in the child welfare system. As a result, fathers may demonstrate resistance to working with the system. The group will:

- identify barriers and work with their peers to identify solutions;
- learn about the four major types of resistance; and
- learn how to respond to and overcome resistance.

Identifying a Father’s Strengths and Needs

Participants will learn to identify the strengths and needs of the fathers with an opportunity to practice within a real life scenario.

Identifying Formal and Informal Support Services

Information will be presented about the components necessary for programs to be effective for fathers such as:

- valuing fathers and addressing their needs;
- supporting, not punishing;
- respecting gender differences in parenting;
- providing positive male models;
- providing services at convenient times and accessible locations; and
- providing an environment that is inviting to fathers.

Additionally, methods for connecting fathers with informal supports will be stressed.

A primary goal of the training is to confront our individual values and biases in working with fathers to move towards a demonstrated acknowledgement of the importance of a father’s role in the life of his child(ren) by all participants in the system.

Course Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Recognize the need for and importance of locating and engaging fathers.
- Recognize potential impacts of personal values on interactions with fathers
- Describe established protocols for father engagement and the father engagement bench card.
- Discuss the impact a father can have on a child’s healthy development.
- Identify various methods of father and paternal family engagement.

For more information on this training, please contact the Resource Center at

1-877-297-7488 or

Email: cwtpreg@pitt.edu