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Father Engagement

2005-present

Q Methodology to Assess Child-Father Attachment.

John, Aesha. Halliburton, Amy L.

2010

Early Child Development and Care

180 (1 & 2) p. 71-85

This work aims to highlight the relevance of Stephenson's Q methodology (QM) for improving the assessment of child-father attachment relationships. We argue that reconceptualising the relationship can enhance the validity of assessment techniques and help in identifying the paternal behaviours that predict a secure child-father attachment pattern. To this end, we first review the inconclusive and sometimes contradictory findings about links among paternal behaviours, child-father security of attachment, and socio-emotional well-being. Second, the methodological challenges in assessing child-father interactions and relationships are outlined. Finally, with the help of empirical evidence, theoretical perspectives, and observational data gathered from child-father interactions, we substantiate the use of QM in conceptualising and assessing child-father attachment relationships. (Author abstract)

Advocating for Nonresident Fathers in Child Welfare Court Cases.

Cohen, Andrew L. Cozzola, Richard. Creamer, Kathleen. Edwards, Leonard P. Hatcher, Daniel L. Kiselica, Mark S. Renne, Jennifer L. Sankaran, Vivek S. Soprych, Andrya L.

ABA Center on Children and the Law. National Quality Improvement Center on Non-Resident Fathers and the Child Welfare System.

2009

Sponsoring Organization: United States. Children's Bureau.

Each chapter of this book is written by an expert in the field and gives you the tools to successfully incorporate fathers into child welfare cases. Chapter 1: Vivek Sankaran writes about Supreme Court precedent on this issue and how different states have interpreted it, while providing tips to lawyers on preserving fathers' rights. Chapter 2: Mark Kiselica explores how to establish a good working relationship with father clients and how to make men feel comfortable engaging in the child welfare system. Chapter 3: Richard Cozzola and

Andrya Soprych detail how to advocate for father clients outside of court. The authors provide guidance on how to advocate for and counsel a father through agency case staffings to obtain needed assistance and develop and achieve case goals. Chapter 4: Andrew Cohen looks at how to help a father realize his goals through the court process. He shares strategies to use at adjudication, permanency hearings, and termination of parental rights hearings to help fathers maintain regular contact with their children. Chapter 5: Judge Leonard Edwards discusses how judges can better engage fathers at all stages of a child welfare case. He details effective engagement strategies and offers sample courtroom dialogues and court orders to foster engagement. Chapter 6: Andrew Cohen discusses how to address special issues that may interfere with a father's involvement in his child's case, including domestic violence, substance abuse, immigration issues, and mental health problems. Chapter 7: Daniel Hatcher shares strategies to ensure fathers' child support obligations do not prevent or scare them away from meaningfully engaging with their child and the child's court case. Chapter 8: Kathleen Creamer offers guidance on representing incarcerated fathers and explains how to help them maintain relationships with their children and participate in court proceedings, even if they can't attend in person. Chapter 9: Jennifer Renne describes common ethical dilemmas for lawyers representing nonresident fathers in child welfare proceedings. She also discusses potential conflicts of interest when representing multiple fathers and what it means to diligently and zealously represent a father. Complimenting these chapters are: Chapter checklists highlighting key practice strategies for each chapter; Shaine's story describing a nonresident father's struggle to gain custody of his child through child welfare proceedings; Sample questions and a lawyer's checklist to assess whether a father has established a constitutionally protected relationship with his child; Interstate placement guidance when the father lives out of state; First meeting tips offering guidance to lawyers when meeting a father for the first time; and Ten tips for working with your lawyer, a handout to give father clients to foster the lawyer-client relationship. (Author abstract modified)

<http://www.abanet.org/child/fathers/advocating%20for%20non-resident%20fathers%20book.pdf>

Fatherhood in the Child Welfare System: Evaluation of a Pilot Project to Improve Father Involvement.

English, Diana J. Brummel, Sherry Martens, Priscilla.

2009

Journal of Public Child Welfare

3 (3) p. 213-234

Fathers provide emotional and physical, as well as financial support to their children. However, little is known about public child welfare policies and practices related to involving fathers and fathers' families in case planning and services to children involved in

child welfare services. This article reports on the results of a pilot project designed to improve child welfare principles, policies, and practices related to the involvement of fathers in the lives of children served in one Northwest public child welfare agency. The pilot project provided training on father involvement in child welfare decision processes and evaluated changes in practice over time. The evaluation included an assessment of agency policy and practice, an assessment of social workers' perceptions regarding fathers' involvements in the lives of their children, and examination of actual social work practices related to father involvement over time. Changes in key areas of policy, beliefs regarding father involvement in child welfare case practice, and changes in actual involvement of fathers and fathers' families in practice were suggested. (Author abstract)

Engaging Fathers in the Child Protection Process: The Judicial Role (Part 1).

Engaging Fathers ; #4

Edwards, Leonard.

2009

ABA Child Law Practice

28 (1) p. 1, 6-10

This article provides judges with strategies for engaging noncustodial fathers in child welfare legal proceedings. It discusses reasons for making father engagement a priority, identifying fathers and determining paternity, and monitoring agency actions to notify and support fathers. Questions are suggested for gathering father information from reluctant mothers. 30 references.

<http://www.abanet.org/child/clp/archives/vol28/mar09.pdf>

Engaging Fathers in the Child Protection Process: The Judicial Role (Part 2).

Engaging Fathers ; #4

Edwards, Leonard.

2009

ABA Child Law Practice

28 (2) p. 26-32

The second of two articles, this article focuses on specific strategies judges can use to engage fathers in and out of court, as well as strategies for engaging fathers' extended families, ensuring the safety of the mother and child, using nonadversarial decision-making processes, ensuring quality visits between fathers and their children, ensuring fathers receive parenting services, and working with incarcerated fathers. 39 references. (Author abstract modified)

<http://www.abanet.org/child/clp/archives/vol28/apr09.pdf>

When Both of Their Parents Participate in the Integrated Assessment interviews, Are Illinois Foster Children More Likely to Return Home?

Inside the Research.

Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

2009

This brief presents the findings of a study that investigated the outcomes of involving fathers in the Illinois Integrated Assessment (IA) program, a program that partners child welfare caseworkers with licensed clinicians to provide better information about the functioning of children entering foster care and about child and family strengths, support systems, and service needs. IA screeners and caseworkers are strongly encouraged to include fathers in the IA process. The study found that when both parents were interviewed during the IA process, more children were eventually able to return home to their parents. Results indicate the likelihood of family reunification was 3.2 times greater when both parents were interviewed compared to when neither parent was interviewed, and that when only one parent was interviewed the likelihood of reunification was 2.4 times greater than when neither parent was interviewed. The study also found that the total percentage of cases in which a father had been interviewed increased from 40.5% in 2005 to 55.4% in 2008.

<http://www.chapinhall.org/research/inside/when-both-their-parents-participate-integrated-assessment-interviews-are-illinois-fo>

Fathering With Multiple Partners: Links to Children's Well-Being in Early Childhood.

Bronte-Tinkew, Jacinta. Horowitz, Allison. Scott, Mindy E.

Child Trends.

2009

Journal of Marriage and Family

71 (3) p. 608-631

The claim that multiple partner fertility may pose a risk of adverse outcomes for children has not been tested. We test this argument using a sample of 4,027 resident fathers and children from the Fragile Families and Child Well-being Survey by examining the pathways through which fathers' multipartnered fertility is associated with children's externalizing behaviors and physical health status at 36 months. Path analyses indicate that multiple partner fertility exerted both a significant direct and indirect effect through paternal depression to influence children's externalizing behaviors. Fathers' multiple partner fertility also exerted a significant indirect effect through one mediator -- father involvement -- to influence children's physical health. This evidence suggests that the disruptions brought about by multipartnered fertility are important for understanding child well-being. (Author abstract)

<http://paa2009.princeton.edu/download.aspx?submissionId=90387>

Fathers' Rights and Roles.

Youth Communication.

2009

Rise

(12) Children do better when their fathers are involved in raising them, yet child welfare systems have been slow to include fathers in family support services or case planning. It can be difficult for fathers with children in care to access legal representation and appropriate services. In this issue, parents write about the steps fathers can take to protect and support their children. (Author abstract)

http://www.risemagazine.org/PDF/Rise_issue_12.pdf

A National Study of Male Involvement Among Families in Contact With the Child Welfare System (in Special Issue on Fathers, Physical Child Abuse, and Neglect: Advancing the Knowledge Base.).

Bellamy, Jennifer L.

2009

Child Maltreatment

14 (3) p. 255-262

Few studies inform the frequency and type of adult male involvement in families in contact with child welfare, and even fewer explore how male involvement relates to child welfare outcomes. This study employed data from a sample of 3,978 families in contact with the U.S. child welfare system, drawn from the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being. The nature of male involvement in these families and its relationship to (a) caseworkers' perception of children's risk for maltreatment rereport and (b) entry into out-of-home care were explored. Results indicate that most caregivers report male involvement, distinct types of male involvement are related to the likelihood of out-of-home care, and households that include nonparental adult males are perceived by caseworkers as relatively risky. No male involvement indicator tested, however, was related to maltreatment rereport. Implications include the need to appropriately assess, include, and engage adult male family members across diverse family systems. (Author abstract)

Identifying, Interviewing, and Intervening: Fathers and the Illinois Child Welfare System.

Smithgall, Cheryl. DeCoursey, Jan. Gitlow, Elissa. Yang, Duck-Hye. Jarpe-Ratner, Elizabeth. Lansing, Jiffy. Goerge, Robert.

Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

2009

Sponsoring Organization: United States. Children's Bureau. Illinois. Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

Launched in 2005, the Illinois Integrated Assessment (IA) process is designed to provide better information about child and family strengths, support systems, and service needs. In this study, we examine the extent to which fathers -- stepfathers, putative fathers, legal fathers, adoptive fathers, or biological fathers -- were interviewed as a part of the IA process and the factors associated with fathers being interviewed. An analysis of over 9,000 completed IA cases indicates that when both parents were interviewed as part of the IA, children were significantly more likely to be reunified than when only one or neither parent was interviewed. The information in the IA reports provide a rich description of the ecology of these families, covering such topics as housing, education, employment, finances, informal supports, domestic violence, substance use, and criminal behavior. We draw on a sample of IA reports as well as caseworker interviews to provide rich descriptions of the complex circumstances and family roles of fathers, examine the extent to which case service plans reflect the assessment recommendations and fathers' circumstances, and explore caseworkers' experiences in engaging or working with fathers. Findings from this study are discussed with respect to implications for ongoing efforts by the child welfare system to engage fathers and effectively deliver or arrange services that address fathers' needs and improve child and family well-being. (Author abstract)

[http://www.chapinhall.org/sites/default/files/Fathers%20and%20Illinois%20Welfare%20Report 11 17 09.pdf](http://www.chapinhall.org/sites/default/files/Fathers%20and%20Illinois%20Welfare%20Report%2011%2017%2009.pdf)

Working with African American Fathers: The Forgotten Parent [Trainer Guide and Trainee Guide].

Fitch, Deborah. King, Kahalifa.

Southern Region Academy for Professional Excellence. Public Child Welfare Training Academy. California Social Work Education Center.

2009

Curriculum Goals: 1. To provide an experiential learning event on the historical relevance and current impacts of slavery on African-American fathers. 2. To develop an awareness of biases against African-American fathers by Child Welfare social workers and their agencies. 3. To present solutions to the systemic biases against African-American fathers within Child Welfare. 4. To value the application of principles of Fairness and Equity and associated skills and strategies in working with other culturally diverse families within child welfare systems. (Author abstract)

http://calswec.berkeley.edu/CalsWEC/OtherTraining_AfricanAmFathers.html

Engaging and Involving Fathers in a Child's Life and in the Child Welfare Case. (Article in Bringing Back the Dads: Engaging Non-Resident Fathers in the Child Welfare System.)

Raichel, Jill.

American Humane

2009

Protecting Children

24 (2) p. 23-33

Reasons behind fathers' lack of involvement in their children's lives, especially children involved in the child welfare system, are explored, as well as strategies caseworkers can use to involve fathers in child welfare cases. Strategies are discussed for contacting fathers, using a team effort to engagement, developing creative visits between father and child, and supporting quality time. Additional techniques to use with military, incarcerated, and out-of-area fathers are explained. 8 references.

Representing Incarcerated Nonresident Fathers in Child Welfare Cases.

Engaging Fathers ; #5

Creamer, Kathleen.

2009

ABA Child Law Practice

28 (4) p. 49, 54-57

This article shares key legal issues that arise when representing nonresident incarcerated fathers in child welfare cases and effective legal strategies. Strategies for ensuring meaningful client participation in the case and for assessing case plan supports and visitation conditions are discussed. 28 references. (Author abstract modified)

<http://www.abanet.org/child/clp/archives/vol28/jun09.pdf>

InfoSheet 16: Unmarried Father Involvement.

Minnesota Fathers and Families Network.

2008

Until recently, the situation and capabilities of unmarried parents, and unmarried fathers in particular, were not well known. This infosheet presents findings from the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study, which helps to fill the gap in reliable data available to guide policies and practice relating to unmarried parents.

<http://www.mnfathers.org/documents/InfoSheetFragileFamilies.pdf>

Responsible Fatherhood Spotlight: Couple Relationship Quality and Coparenting.

NRFC Spotlights

National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse.

2008

The quality of the relationship between a mother and father is important for understanding

their coparenting behavior (i.e., shared decision making about the well-being of a child). Research suggests that better mother-father relationships and higher quality coparenting relationships go hand in hand, and the quality of each of these relationships is important for children's well-being. This fact sheet discusses the importance and implications of couple relationship quality for father' coparenting. (Author abstract)

[http://basis.caliber.com/cwig/ws/library/docs/fatherhd/Blob/66166.pdf?w=NATIVE\('BASIC+ph+is+'NRFC+Spotlights'+AND+TI+ph+is+'Couple+Relationship+Quality+and+Coparentin g'+AND+AUTHORS+ph+like+'National+Responsible+Fatherhood+Clearinghouse''\)&upp=0&rpp=-10&order=native\('year/Descend'\)&r=1&m=1](http://basis.caliber.com/cwig/ws/library/docs/fatherhd/Blob/66166.pdf?w=NATIVE('BASIC+ph+is+'NRFC+Spotlights'+AND+TI+ph+is+'Couple+Relationship+Quality+and+Coparentin g'+AND+AUTHORS+ph+like+'National+Responsible+Fatherhood+Clearinghouse'')&upp=0&rpp=-10&order=native('year/Descend')&r=1&m=1)

Responsible Fatherhood Spotlight: Fathers and Child Maltreatment.

NRFC Spotlights

National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse.

2008

In 2005, approximately 1 million children were victims of maltreatment, and an estimated 1,490 children died from their resulting injuries. Approximately 58 percent of the perpetrators were women, most of them mothers, while 42.2 percent were men. Children who were victims of sexual abuse were more likely to be maltreated by a father acting alone than were children who were victims of neglect or physical abuse. This fact sheet discusses implications of child maltreatment for fathers and children. (Author abstract)

[http://basis.caliber.com/cwig/ws/library/docs/fatherhd/Blob/66168.pdf?w=NATIVE\('BASIC+ph+is+'NRFC+Spotlights'+AND+TI+ph+is+'Fathers+and+Child+Maltreatment'+AND+AUT HORS+ph+like+'National+Responsible+Fatherhood+Clearinghouse''\)&upp=0&rpp=-10&order=native\('year/Descend'\)&r=1&m=1](http://basis.caliber.com/cwig/ws/library/docs/fatherhd/Blob/66168.pdf?w=NATIVE('BASIC+ph+is+'NRFC+Spotlights'+AND+TI+ph+is+'Fathers+and+Child+Maltreatment'+AND+AUT HORS+ph+like+'National+Responsible+Fatherhood+Clearinghouse'')&upp=0&rpp=-10&order=native('year/Descend')&r=1&m=1)

Responsible Fatherhood Spotlight: Couple Relationship Quality and Father Involvement.

NRFC Spotlights

National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse.

2008

The quality of parents' romantic relationship has important implications for a father's involvement with his child. Both the quality of the mother-father relationship and the level and type of father involvement are critical for children's positive development. This fact sheet discusses the implications and importance of relationship quality on the well-being of fathers not only in their role as parents but also in other areas of their lives as well as its impact on fathers' involvement with their children. (Author abstract)

[http://basis.caliber.com/cwig/ws/library/docs/fatherhd/Blob/66165.pdf?w=NATIVE\('BASIC+ph+is+'NRFC+Spotlights'+AND+TI+ph+is+'Couple+Relationship+Quality+and+Father+Invo lvement'+AND+AUTHORS+ph+like+'National+Responsible+Fatherhood+Clearinghouse''\)&upp=0&rpp=-10&order=native\('year/Descend'\)&r=1&m=1](http://basis.caliber.com/cwig/ws/library/docs/fatherhd/Blob/66165.pdf?w=NATIVE('BASIC+ph+is+'NRFC+Spotlights'+AND+TI+ph+is+'Couple+Relationship+Quality+and+Father+Invo lvement'+AND+AUTHORS+ph+like+'National+Responsible+Fatherhood+Clearinghouse'')&upp=0&rpp=-10&order=native('year/Descend')&r=1&m=1)

Responsible Fatherhood Spotlight: Fathers and Alcohol Abuse.

NRFC Spotlights

National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse.

2008

Alcohol abuse has negative consequences for men's health, their relationships with their partners, and their children's well-being. Alcohol abuse rates for men declined in the late 1980s, but increased between 1990 and 2000. This fact sheet discusses the implications of alcohol abuse on fathers, their relationships with their children, as well as implications for their spouses or partners. (Author abstract)

http://www.fatherhood.gov/documents/qs_alcoholabuse.pdf

Responsible Fatherhood Spotlight: Nonresident Fathers and Children in Foster Care.

NRFC Spotlights

National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse.

2008

In 2005, approximately 520,000 children were removed from their homes and placed in foster care. More than half of these children were removed from their homes because of an incidence of abuse or neglect. Approximately 80 percent of these children had noncustodial fathers, and roughly 54 percent had no contact with their father in the past year. This fact sheet discusses the importance and implications of foster care for fathers and children.

(Author abstract)

[http://basis.caliber.com/cwig/ws/library/docs/fatherhd/Blob/66171.pdf?w=NATIVE\('BASIC+ph+is'+\"NRFC+Spotlights\"+AND+TI+ph+is'+\"Nonresident+Fathers+and+Children+in+Foster+Care\"+AND+AUTHORS+ph+like+\"National+Responsible+Fatherhood+Clearinghouse'\"\)&up p=0&rpp=-10&order=native\('year/Descend'\)&r=1&m=1](http://basis.caliber.com/cwig/ws/library/docs/fatherhd/Blob/66171.pdf?w=NATIVE('BASIC+ph+is'+\)

Do Fathers Matter Uniquely for Adolescent Well-Being?

Center for Marriage and Families Research Brief; No. 14

Eggebeen, David.

Institute for American Values. Center for Marriage and Families.

2008

In this research brief, the author explores the importance of fathers and mothers for a nationally representative sample of teenagers, specifically examining whether a father's human capital, social capital, and role modeling may uniquely influence his adolescent's self-identity and behavior. (Author abstract)

<http://center.americanvalues.org/?p=78>

Father Friendly Check-Up for Child Welfare Agencies and Organizations.

National Quality Improvement Center on Non-Resident Fathers and the Child Welfare System. National Fatherhood Initiative. American Humane. ABA Center on Children and the Law.

2008

This tool is intended to help assess the degree to which child welfare agencies and organizations encourage father involvement in the activities and programs they offer.
http://www.abanet.org/child/fathers/ffcuchildwelfareagencyorg_msco_100108final.doc

Responsible Fatherhood Spotlight: Fathers and Domestic Violence.

NRFC Spotlights

National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse.

2008

This fact sheet explains different types of domestic violence and the impact domestic violence has on families. Research findings are shared on the impact of domestic violence for fathers, children, father involvement, and fathers' partners, and the overall decrease in domestic violence victimization is noted. Charts are provided that illustrate differences in domestic violence victimization by subgroups, including differences by gender, age, race, socioeconomic status, and marital status. 1 figure, 5 tables, and 44 references.
http://www.fatherhood.org/doclibrary/NRFC_FathersDomesticViolence.pdf

Basic Fatherhood Training Curriculum Package.

National Family Preservation Network.

2008

In 2000 the National Family Preservation Network (NFPN) conducted a nationwide search for resources and curricula on father involvement in the child welfare system. Finding none, NFPN developed the first-of-its-kind Fatherhood Training Curriculum. This specially designed curriculum points out that everyone working in the child welfare system, from administrators and supervisors to frontline workers and clerical staff, plays an important role in making the agency father inclusive. In 2005 NFPN completed a three year project funded by the Stuart Foundation to motivate and train social workers to engage and involve fathers in the child welfare system in their children's lives. The research component of the project found that, with training and encouragement, social workers were more likely to view fathers as a resource, involve fathers in the case plan, and involve the father's extended family in case planning and in the child's life. The Fatherhood Training Curriculum is used nationwide. NFPN has a Fatherhood Training Curriculum Package consisting of the 70-page manual, training script for four hours of training, PowerPoint presentation, a 40-minute video, and a Resource and Reference Guide for workers that includes: an assessment tool for father involvement; activities for dads and their children; a message for moms, including

the benefits of a father's involvement in the child's life; tips for engaging fathers; and protective factors for father involvement. (Author abstract)

Study of Fathers' Involvement in Permanency Placement Planning and Child Welfare Casework (2004-2005), NDACAN Dataset Number 122: User's Guide and Codebook.

Larrabee-Warner, Holly. Triplett, Timothy.

National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect.

2008

Sponsoring Organization: United States. Department of Health and Human Services. Most foster children are not living with their fathers at the time they are removed from their homes. While in foster care these children may experience even less contact with their nonresident fathers. This study examined child welfare practices with respect to identifying, locating, and involving fathers of children in foster care including whether child support resources were used. Local agency caseworkers were interviewed by phone about nearly 2,000 foster children in four study states. The study found that nonresident fathers are not often involved in case planning and nearly half were never contacted by the child welfare agency. (Author abstract)

<http://www.ndacan.cornell.edu/NDACAN/Datasets/UserGuidePDFs/122user.pdf>

InfoSheet 15: Child Protection Workers: Engaging Fathers.

Minnesota Fathers and Families Network.

2008

This InfoSheet presents research findings from the 2006 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services study, *What About the Dads? Child Welfare Agencies' Efforts to Identify, Locate, and Involve Nonresident Fathers*, which was conducted by the Urban Institute with the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago. Based on this research, it offers ways in which caseworkers can locate and work with fathers to get them involved with their children.

<http://www.mnfathers.org/documents/InfoSheetChildProtection.pdf>

Divorce, Dads, and the Well-Being of Children : Answering Common Research Questions.

Center for Marriage and Families Research Brief; No. 12

D'Onofrio, Brian.

Institute for American Values. Center for Marriage and Families.

2008

Divorce is a powerful force in contemporary American family life. Current estimates suggest that between 43 and 50 percent of first-time marriages will end in divorce. Consequently, more than one million U.S. children experience parental divorce each year. The growing number of divorces has profound implications for children, mothers, fathers,

and society. The consequences of these family changes for children and society are hotly debated. To bring clarity to this debate, this brief reviews current research about divorce and its consequences for children. (Author abstract)

<http://center.americanvalues.org/?p=76>

Examining African American Fathers' Involvement in Permanency Planning: An Effort to Reduce Racial Disproportionality in the Child Welfare System.

Coakley, Tanya M.

2008

Children and youth services review

30 (4) p. 407-417

There is virtually no empirical research on African American fathers' involvement in permanency planning, which makes it difficult either to understand the relationships among fathers' involvement, agency practices, and children's permanency outcomes or to identify which types of efforts are most effective to involve African American fathers. This study examines the extent to which African American fathers' involvement in permanency planning influences children's placement outcomes using a secondary data analysis of 88 children's child welfare case records. Findings show that children were reunited with birth families more often and had shorter stays in foster care when their fathers were involved. This study contributes to the emerging research on fathers' involvement and explores agency practices that account for extended lengths of stay in foster care for children of color. Recommendations are provided for child welfare policy, practice, and research. (Author abstract modified)

Logic Model / National Quality Improvement Center on Non-Resident Fathers.

National Quality Improvement Center on Non-Resident Fathers.

2008

We have developed a Program Logic Model for the Improvement of Outcomes for Children in the Child Welfare System as a Result of Father Involvement. This conceptual model is based upon our comprehensive review of the available research, and displays the ideal model service program, with the goal of developing knowledge about how non-resident fathers and paternal kin impact child safety, permanency, and well being. (Author abstract)

http://www.abanet.org/child/fathers/OIC_NRF_Logic_Model.pdf

Adolescent and Young Adult Mothers' Relationship Quality During the Transition to Parenthood: Associations with Father Involvement in Fragile Families.

Gee, Christina. McNerney, Christopher. Reiter, Michael. Leaman, Suzanne.

2007

Journal of Youth and Adolescence

36 (2) 213-224

Data from the Fragile Families and Child-Well-being Study were used to examine predictors of involvement among fathers of young children (N=2,215) born to adolescent and young adult mothers (ages 14-25; N=2,850). Participants were interviewed immediately following their baby's birth and at 3-years postpartum regarding co-parental relationship quality, fathers' caretaking behavior ("father involvement"), and fathers' provision of material support for the child ("in-kind" support). Early postnatal and 3-year postpartum parental relationship quality and father-child cohabitation predicted 3-year father involvement while early father involvement did not. The race of fathers, specifically African American, was associated with lower levels of father involvement. For in-kind support, 3-year father-child cohabitation and 3-year relationship quality were both positively associated with provision of in-kind support. Father's income was not a significant predictor but mother's involvement with a new partner at the 3-year follow-up was marginally significant. Lastly, the race of fathers, specifically African American and Latino, was associated with provision of less in-kind support. (Author abstract)

Involving Nonresident Fathers in Dependency Cases: New Efforts, New Problems, New Solutions.

Harris, Leslie Joan.

University of Oregon.

2007

Journal of Law and Family Studies

9 (2) p. 281-307

In contrast to traditional practice, today juvenile courts and child welfare agencies attempt to identify and involve children's fathers in cases as soon as possible. This changing approach to nonresident fathers, in turn, makes child protection cases more complicated. If poorly implemented, it can also threaten to undermine the goals of modern child protection law -- insuring children's safety, reuniting children with the parents from whom they were removed when possible, and moving them rapidly into alternate permanent homes when not possible. Most obviously, if the policy of involving nonresidential fathers is implemented woodenly, by requiring that children be placed with the fathers at the outset of the case when little is known about them, the children may be endangered. Less dramatically, efforts to work with fathers can result in children remaining in the system longer. And working with fathers can undermine, or even short-circuit, efforts to reunite children with the mothers from whom they were taken, raising problems of defining children's best interests as well as fairness to both parents in what amounts to state-generated custody contests. This article describes the changing practices and the reasons for them, explores the problems that may be created, and proposes solutions. (Author abstract)

http://works.bepress.com/leslie_harris/16/

http://works.bepress.com/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1015&context=leslie_harris

National Quality Improvement Center on Non-Resident Fathers and the Child Welfare System [Website].

American Humane Association. American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law. National Fatherhood Initiative.

2007

Sponsoring Organization: United States. Children's Bureau.

The focus of this project is a result of the federal Child and Family Services Reviews and the "What About the Dads?" report, which indicated that there is very little meaningful engagement occurring between the child welfare system and fathers. The QIC NRF promotes the importance of gaining more knowledge regarding the engagement of non-resident fathers and their children who are involved in the child welfare system. The purpose of this project is to determine, through a research design, the impact of non-resident father involvement on child welfare outcomes. Child welfare outcomes include child safety, permanence, and well-being. Included in this design is the examination of the relationship between children, non-resident fathers, and/or paternal relatives. Throughout this project, information gained from the QIC NRF will be disseminated through this Web site and to the Children's Bureau, sub-grantees, child welfare agencies, private service providers, the courts, legal systems and other stakeholders. (Author abstract)

<http://www.abanet.org/child/fathers/>

Social Fathers and Child Wellbeing: A Research Note.

Working Paper 2007-17-FF

Bzostek, Sharon.

2007

Many young children born to unwed parents currently live with their biological mothers and their mothers' new partners (social fathers). This study uses data from the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study (N = 1,088) to assess whether involvement by resident social fathers is as beneficial for child wellbeing as involvement by resident biological fathers, and whether the presence of the child's nonresident biological father alters the relationship between resident social father engagement and child outcomes. Results indicate that involvement by resident social fathers is as beneficial for child wellbeing as involvement by resident biological fathers, and that frequent contact with the child's nonresident biological father does not diminish the positive association between residential social father involvement and child wellbeing. (Author abstract)

<http://crcw.princeton.edu/workingpapers/WP07-17-FF.pdf>

Why Work with Fathers? [PowerPoint Presentation].

Burgess, Adrienne.

Fathers Direct.

2007

This slide presentation was presented by Adrienne Burgess of Fathers Direct (London, England) at Minnesota Fathers & Families Network's fourth annual conference in 2007. The presentation discusses England's three-pronged approach for promoting fatherhood: child well-being, gender equity and men's development. (Author abstract modified)

<http://www.mnfathers.org/documents/FathersDirectJanuary2007.pdf>

Letting Them Get Away With It: Fathers, Domestic Violence and Child Welfare.

Featherstone, Brid. Peckover, Sue.

University of Bradford.

2007

Critical social policy

27 (2) p. 181-202

Recent developments at policy, legislative and practice levels have led to the mainstreaming of domestic violence as a child welfare issue. However, research evidence would suggest that familiar and well established tensions in service provision to women and children continue to be recycled. Moreover, there remains a central dichotomy in relation to men. Constructed as perpetrators or offenders, their identities as fathers remain invisible with serious consequences for the development of policies and practices which engage with them as "domestically violent fathers." The discursive removal of violent men from the category of father or indeed parent needs addressing in order to support women and children, but also to offer possibilities for men to develop non-violent parenting and partnering relationship patterns. (Author abstract)

The Status of Non-Resident Fathers in Child Welfare.

National Quality Improvement Center on Non-Resident Fathers and the Child Welfare System.

2007

This fact sheet cites statistics on father absenteeism in the United States and the negative affects on child well-being, including the increased risk for neglect, school dropout, and poverty. Additional information is provided on the characteristics of non-resident fathers, the involvement of families with non-resident fathers in the child welfare system, and contact between non-resident fathers and their children. 17 references.

<http://www.abanet.org/child/fathers/status-nrf.pdf>

Engaging Dads in Child Welfare Cases.

Kendall, Jessica R. Kessen, Karen. Reynolds, Joanna.

2007

ABA Child Law Practice

26 (7) p. 108-110

This article shares findings from an Urban Institute report that investigated father involvement in child welfare cases and discusses the creation of the National Quality Improvement Center on Nonresident Fathers and the Child Welfare System. Key issues affecting nonresident fathers are identified and recommendations and promising approaches for child welfare agencies working with fathers are described. 1 reference.

<http://www.abanet.org/child/fathers/fathers.pdf>

Why Fathers Count : The Importance of Fathers and Their Involvement With Children.

Brotherson, Sean E. (Ed.) White, Joseph M. (Ed.)

2007

Chapter 1: Why Fathers Count: Fatherhood and the Future of Our Children; Chapter 2: Transitions to Fatherhood; Chapter 3: How Mothers and Fathers Help Each Other Count; Chapter 4: Better Marriages Make for Better Fathering; Chapter 5: The Daddy-Daughter Dance: Insights for Father-Daughter Relationships; Chapter 6: Grandfathers: Rediscovering America's Forgotten Resource; Chapter 7: Bonds of Connection: How Fathers Connect With Children and Why it Matters; Chapter 8: Fathers, Play, and the World of Children; Chapter 9: Exploring New Worlds Together: Reading, Relationships, and Father Involvement; Chapter 10: A Father's Love: Impacts of Sacrifice and Care on Fathers and Their Children; Chapter 11: The Developmental Journey: Fathers and Children Growing Together; Chapter 12: The Influence of Fathers' and Children's Psychological Well-Being; Chapter 13: Fathering and the Moral Development of Children; Chapter 15: Beating the Odds: How Ethnically Diverse Fathers Matter; Chapter 16: "I Am Still Your Dad!": Father Involvement in Children's Lives After Divorce; Chapter 17: From Behind Prison Walls: Incarcerated Fathers and Their Children; Chapter 18: Working Fathers: Providing and Nurturing in Harmony; Chapter 19: Men Teaching and Working With Children: A History and a Future; Chapter 20: Fathers as Mentors: Bridging the Gap Between Generations; Chapter 21: Strong Fathers as Strong Teachers: Supporting and Strengthening a Child's Education; Chapter 22: Turning the Hearts of Fathers to Their Children: Why Religious Involvement Can Make a Difference; Chapter 23: Serving in Order to Lead: Fathers as Leaders at Home; Chapter 24: Fatherhood in the Community Context: A Grassroots Approach to Engaging Communities to Support Responsible Fathering; Chapter 25: The Big Benefits of Small Groups for Fathers; Chapter 26: Supporting Fathers Through Educational Programs: Promising Strategies and Positive Successes; Chapter 27: Within the Walls of Home: A Man's Most Important Work.

Child Welfare and Noncustodial Fathers : Report to the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services.

Bogges, Jacquelyn.

Center on Family Policy and Practice.

2006

CFFPP conducted focus groups with staff from county child welfare agencies to gain an understanding of the issues they confront as they work with children and their families. These were held in southeastern Wisconsin (Milwaukee, Dane, Racine, and Rock counties), which together represent the some of the state's highest caseload of children involved with the child welfare system. Through the focus groups, CFFPP intended to explore not only specific child welfare policies and practices that enhance or deter father involvement, but also other state policies that can affect father involvement (e.g., child support policies; housing policies), as well as broader issues of race and class that affect families and their engagement with state and other agencies in southeastern Wisconsin. (Author abstract).

http://www.cffpp.org/publications/child_welfare_report.doc

What About the Dads? Child Welfare Agencies' Efforts to Identify, Locate, and Involve Nonresident Fathers

Urban Institute. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.

2006

Sponsoring Organization: United States. Children's Bureau.

This study documents that nonresident fathers of children in foster care are not often involved in case planning efforts and nearly half are never contacted by the child welfare agency during their child's stay in foster care. By not reaching out to fathers, caseworkers may overlook potential social connections and resources that could help to achieve permanency for the child. A total of 1,222 local agency caseworkers were interviewed by phone about 1,958 specific cases between October 2004 and February 2005 to examine front-line practices related to nonresident fathers. Interviewers achieved an 83% response rate to the survey. Cases were selected from among children who had been in foster care at least 3 months but no more than 36 months. Children in the sample were all in foster care for the first time, and the child welfare agency's records indicated that each of the children's biological fathers was alive but not living in the home from which the child was removed. Additionally, only one child per mother was eligible for the study. The results of this study provide empirical evidence on the steps that child welfare agencies currently take to identify, locate and involve nonresident fathers in case planning; the barriers encountered; and the policies and practices that affect involvement.

<http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/06/CW-involve-dads/>

<http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/06/CW-involve-dads/report.pdf>

The Effects of Involved Nonresidential Fathers' Distress, Parenting Behaviors, Interparental Conflict, and the Quality of Father-Child Relationships on Children's Well-Being.

Harper, Scott E. Fine, Mark A.
Oklahoma Christian University.
2006

Fathering
4 (3) p. 286-311

Based on data from the 1997 Child Development Supplement to the Panel Study of Income Dynamics, the present study examined a sample of 129 nonresident fathers who had regular contact with their young children to determine how father involvement and father distress are related to children's well-being. Results revealed a negative relationship between father distress and child well being, with, based on father reports, daughters being more affected than sons. A negative relationship was also found between inter-parent conflict and child well being. Further, there was a positive relationship between paternal warmth and child well-being and higher levels of father-child relationship quality were related to higher levels of child well-being. In terms of racial subgroup analyses, limit setting was a positive predictor of child well-being only among African-American children. (Author abstract)

http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m0PAV/is_3_4/ai_n17218438/print

Seven core learnings on fatherhood.

FRIENDS Learning Tool ; no 6.

FRIENDS National Resource Center For Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention
2006

The National Center on Fathers and Families identified seven lessons that should be considered by policymakers and researchers concerned with the role of fathers in family life. This fact sheet provides a brief explanation of issues related to the diversity of ways in which fathers demonstrate care for their families, the value of father presence, the impact of joblessness on father involvement, and barriers created by the punitive nature of public policies. Other lessons focus on support for co-parenting, the developmental implications of fatherhood, and the influence of family culture on parenting. The document also presents a research agenda for each topic.

http://www.friendsnrc.org/download/seven_core_learnings.pdf

Building bridges between the healthy marriage, responsible fatherhood, and domestic violence movements : issues, concerns, and recommendations

Couples and marriage series ; brief no. 7.

Roberts, Paula.
Center for Law and Social Policy.

2006

This is the seventh publication in the Couples and Marriage research and policy brief series. It explores how the healthy marriage, responsible fatherhood, and domestic violence communities can work together to promote the well-being of families and children. The brief explains some of the barriers to building bridges between the three communities, and it suggests issues around which cooperative work is possible. This policy brief series is informed by a "Marriage- Plus" perspective, which has two main goals, both centered on the well-being of children: 1) to help more children grow up in healthy, married families, and 2) when this isn't possible, to help parents -- whether unmarried, separated, divorced, or remarried -- cooperate better in raising their children. (Author abstract)

http://www.clasp.org/publications/buildingbridges_brief7.pdf

Parent's mental health and child wellbeing : the impact of fathers by residential status.

Center for Research on Child Wellbeing working paper ; #2006-12-FF

Meadows, Sarah O. McLanahan, Sara S. Brooks-Gunn, Jeanne.

Bendheim-Thoman Center for Research on Child Wellbeing.

Princeton University.

2006

The association between parental mental health problems and child wellbeing has rarely been examined in the context of non-traditional families. Using the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study (FFCWS), this analysis exploits the full range of parent relationship types, including married, cohabiting, and non-resident relationships, to examine the effects of having one parent with major depressive disorder (MDE) and/or generalized anxiety disorder (GAD) and two parents with MDE/GAD on child's behavior problems at age three. We find that maternal mental illness is associated with increased odds of child's anxious/depressed, attention deficit, and oppositional defiant disorders, regardless of family structure, whereas the effect of paternal psychopathology depends primarily on fathers' residential status. We find some evidence of a multiplicative effect associated with having two ill parents, but only when fathers are coresident. Overall, the negative impact of dual-parent psychopathology appears to be additive. Among coresident parents, results do not vary by whether parents are married or cohabiting, and among non-coresident parents, they do not differ by the level of father involvement. The findings suggest that mothers' mental health is ultimately more important than fathers' for healthy child development. (Author abstract)

Guiding Principles for Fathering After Violence.

Family Violence Prevention Fund (U.S.)

2006

This fact sheet lists the guiding principles of Fathering After Violence (FAV), a national

initiative developed by the Family Violence Prevention Fund (FVPF) and its partners to enhance the safety and well-being of women and children by motivating men to renounce their violence and become better fathers (or father figures) and more supportive parenting partners. The principles include: the safety of women and children is always the first priority; work with fathers must be continually informed and guided by the experiences of battered women and their children; FAV does not endorse nor encourage automatic contact between the offending fathers and their children or parenting partners; there must be critical awareness of the cultural context in which parenting happens in any domestic violence intervention; abuse is a deliberate choice and a learned behavior and therefore can be unlearned; some men choose to change their abusive behavior and heal their relationships while others continue to choose violence; working with fathers is an essential piece of ending violence against women and children; fathers who have used violence need close observation to mitigate unintended harm; service coordination among providers of domestic violence services is essential; and the reparative process between abusive fathers and their children often is long and complex and is not appropriate for all men.

<http://www.ihs.gov/medicalprograms/MCH/V/documents/FatheringAfterViolence.pdf>

Measuring father involvement within low-income families : who is a reliable and valid reporter?

Hernandez, Daphne C. Coley, Rebekah Levine.
University of Michigan.

2006

Parenting : science and practice.

7 (1) p. 69-97

Objective. This study assesses and compares the internal reliability and predictive validity of fathers' versus mothers' reports of father involvement. Design. Two hundred and twenty-seven fathers and mothers reported separately on 6 identical items regarding father involvement with a designated focal child. Mothers reported on their own parenting and child demographic characteristics. Direct assessments assessed child cognitive skills. Results. Reliable composites of father involvement were similar across father versus mother reports and across resident versus nonresident and African American versus Latin American fathers. Father reports and a combined reporter composite predicted children's reading and math skills; mother reports showed significant relations to only to children's math skills. Conclusions. Simple surveys that include either father or mother reports of father involvement can be used to create reliable father involvement measures. Father reports of father involvement showed more consistent predictive validity than mother reports of father involvement. Further measurement development and assessment are needed for more comprehensive measures of fathers' involvement and contributions to children's well-being. (Author abstract)

Nonresident Fathers' Contributions to Adolescent Well-Being.

King, Valarie. Sobolewski, Juliana M.

The Pennsylvania State University

2006

Journal of marriage and family

68 (3) Using data from 453 adolescents in Wave 2 of the National Survey of Families and Households, we examine how multiple dimensions of nonresident father involvement are associated with different dimensions of child well-being. Father-child relationship quality and responsive fathering are modestly associated with fewer externalizing and internalizing problems among adolescents. The quality of the mother-child relationship, however, has stronger effects on child well-being. Nevertheless, even if adolescents have weak ties to mothers, those who have strong ties to nonresident fathers exhibit fewer internalizing problems and less acting out at school than adolescents who have weak ties to both parents. Adolescents are worst off on a range of outcomes when they have weak ties to both their mothers and nonresident fathers. (Author abstract)

Fatherhood, Cohabitation, and Marriage.

Horn, Wade F.

2006

Gender Issues

23 (4) p. 22-35

In "Fatherhood, Cohabitation, and Marriage," Wade F. Horn, Assistant Secretary for Children and Families at the Department of Health and Human Services, summarizes the importance of fathers to child well-being. He explains that "fatherlessness is a significant risk factor for poor developmental outcomes for children." This connection has led some observers to view cohabitation as a substitute or at least an alternative to marriage. Horn argues, however, that marriage is the best option for children and that cohabitation is a weak family structure compared with marriage. Children in households with married parents do better on almost every measure of child well-being, even after controlling for income. (Author abstract)

Fathers in child welfare : caseworkers' perspectives.

O'Donnell, John M. Johnson, Waldo E., Jr.

2005

Child welfare : journal of policy, practice, and program.

84 p. 387-414

Five focus groups substantially agreed about the lack of paternal participation in child welfare services and the reasons for low paternal involvement. The groups had considerable disagreement about whether child welfare professionals should address this issue. Some

caseworkers believed that all fathers and mothers should be treated identically with respect to services to be offered and time frames for services; other caseworkers thought that the special circumstances of some fathers, such as lack of child care experience, called for service approaches that differ from those for mothers. Another disagreement was whether more fathers would be more involved if services were gender sensitive, that is, if agencies provided male caseworkers for fathers and had father-only services. Much of the debate focused on pragmatic considerations (would gender-sensitive services improve paternal participation and outcomes?), although some participants were concerned about equity (would such services give fathers an advantage in disputed custody cases?). (Author abstract)

Advanced Fatherhood Training Curriculum Package.

National Family Preservation Network.

2005

The National Family Preservation Network (NFPN) Advanced Fatherhood Training Curriculum was developed in response to feedback from practitioners asking how to engage fathers, especially when they are resistant or reluctant to get involved with their children. This curriculum focuses on the skills needed to engage fathers and best practice in working with fathers.

Healthy Homes Father Involvement Enhancement Project Anchorage, Alaska : Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC).

Site Visit Report

Blake, Fern.

2005

Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC) proposes 'Healthy Homes Father Involvement Enhancement' a project to improve child and family well-being by increasing fathers' positive involvement in their child(ren)'s lives. CITC has been operating a Healthy Homes program through the Tribal CBFERS Program for the past four years. Clients are referred through CITC's Welfare-to-Work case management program for Native TANF recipients in the Municipality of Anchorage. The proposed project will enhance services by providing state-of-the-art fatherhood involvement training to staff to build our capacity to effectively engage fathers, transforming formerly single-mother-focused services into truly family-centered services. Alaska has long held the distinction of the state with the highest rates of child abuse and neglect, substance abuse, and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, with severe over-representation among Alaska Natives and American Indians for over a decade. The proposed Healthy Homes Enhancement will intervene early in the lives of Native children and their families in Anchorage who are at-risk ('fragile' families) to help prevent child abuse. Anticipated project outcomes include: increased contact between father and

child(ren); improved parenting skills; improved quality of father/child interactions; involvement of father in child's basic care; and improvement of the mother/father co-parenting relationship. Project services include staff training; mental health assessments; intensive case management; home visits; transportation; fathers' parenting classes; fathers' support groups; and supervised visitation. The effectiveness and innovation of the proposed project derives from its delivery from within a System of Care context, wherein all a family's complex needs are met through case management and referral. Further, the proposed program design elements are modeled after a highly successful Healthy Families Program in San Angelo, Texas. CITC's project will further refine the program model culturally for use with Native populations and produce a replication manual to pass along lessons learned and programs successes within Indian country in Alaska and nationwide.

Increasing father involvement in child welfare.

University of Denver. Institute for Families.

2005

Perspectives on practice.

1 p. 2-4

The majority of children in the child welfare system do not live with their fathers, increasing their risk for poverty, criminal activity, school withdrawal, substance abuse, and teen pregnancy. Despite the benefits of father involvement, many child welfare workers do not address father-child relationships in their assessments and services to families. This article identifies several strategies to engage fathers in child welfare work, including assessing the reasons for limited contact, using materials designed specifically for fathers, and helping mothers and children to appreciate the role of fathers. Employment support and peer networks also can equip fathers to be more involved in the lives of their children.

<http://web.archive.org/web/20060816075006/http://www.perspectivesonpractice.org/article2.htm>