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Agenda:
8:00-9:00 A.M. Registration
9:00-9:45 A.M. Welcome/Acknowledgements: Commissioner Speakers
9:45-10:45 A.M. Keynote (Dr. Mincy)
10:50-12:15 First Breakout Sessions
12:15-1:30 P.M. Lunch/ Award Ceremony
1:30 - 2:15 P.M. Keynote Speaker (Kara Sundlin)
2:15-2:30-Fatherhood Presentation (Billy & Final Remarks)
2:35 -4:00 P.M. Second Breakout (with panel as a breakout session)

Special Acknowledgements:

Joette Katz, Department of Children and Families Commissioner
Vannessa Dorantes, Department of Children and Families Regional Administrator, Region5
Patricia Zuccarelli, Department of Children and Families, Waterbury Area Director
Louise Montemurro, Department of Children and Families Program Manager
Anthony Gay, Department of Children and Families Region 5 FELT Lead
Kelly McGinley-Hurley, Department of Children and Families Waterbury Co-Lead
Jennifer Rondini, Department of Children and Families Region 5 FELT Fatherhood Engagement Leadership Team, Region 5: Waterbury
William Fothergil, Central Connecticut State University

2nd Annual Dads Matter Too!
Conference
8/12/16

Hosted by
Central Connecticut State University,
Department of Children and Families,
Department of Social Services
&
Region 5’s Fatherhood Engagement Leadership Team

Dads Matter Too!
Fatherhood Presenter, Dr. Ronald B. Mincy: Dr. Ronald B. Mincy is the Maurice V. Russell Professor of Social Policy and Social Work Practice at the Columbia University School of Social Work and a co-principal investigator of the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study. Dr. Mincy has published widely on the effects of income security policy on child and family poverty, family formation, child well-being, responsible fatherhood, the urban underclass, and urban poverty. His 2006 edited volume Black Males Left Behind (Urban Institute Press) was featured in column A1 of The New York Times and brought national attention to the plight of young, less-educated Black males. His most recent book Failing Our Fathers, with Monique Jethwani and Serena Klempin, examines the growth and diversification of vulnerable nonresident fathers. He came to the University from the Ford Foundation where he served as a senior program officer and he developed the Strengthening Fragile Families Initiative (SFFI). SFFI was a Ford Foundation grant making initiative working with federal, state, and local human service agencies to reform income security policies to enable low-income mothers and fathers to provide emotional, financial, and development support to their children receiving welfare. Under Dr. Mincy’s leadership, Ford Foundation grantees developed collaborative relationships with national and community foundations and local human service programs throughout the US. A result of SFFI, Mincy is widely regarded as a critical catalyst for changes currently underway in the treatment of low-income fathers by U.S. welfare, child support, and family support systems.

Keynote Speaker, Kara Sudlin: is a two-time Emmy-award winning journalist. You can catch her live every weekday as the co-host of Better Connecticut with Scot Haney at 3 p.m. on Channel 3. She also anchors Eyewitness News at Noon. Every afternoon Kara brings viewers information that informs, entertains and inspires to make life Better! Kara is the author of Finding Dad: From Love Child to Daughter where she shares the story of meeting her biological father Bruce Sundlun when she was a teenager and he was the Governor of Rhode Island. Today she uses her own story to talk about the transformational effect of a father and the power of forgiveness at a time when Fatherlessness is an epidemic in America. Kara is also a contributor for the Huffington Post.

Overview of Breakout Sessions

Facilitators: William Fothergill MA, MSW, CPC, LPC & the CCSU HEALTHY fellows/Man Enough Support Initiative
Title: WHAT FATHERS NEED TO KNOW
Target Audience: All
Overview: Many times the needs of children are discounted when parenting issues are addressed, especially conversations about fatherhood. This breakout session will focus on fathering through the eyes of children. Youth participants will explore the meaning of fatherhood and the impact fathering experiences have on the lives of sons and daughters. Youth participants will participate in an interactive discussion about the parenting needs of children.

Facilitator: Marcus Stallworth
Title: Strategies to Effective Co-Parenting
Target Audience: All
Overview: This workshop intends to demonstrate the importance of co-parenting children even when relationships between the biological parents are strained. We will discuss how chronic exposure to conflict between parents can impact their growth, development, and overall self-esteem. We will acknowledge the gatekeeper role many Mothers occupy, and we will identify barriers that can make parental relationships challenging. This workshop will also provide an opportunity for workers to learn additional ways how to dialogue with parents on how to successfully work together with the well-being of the child at the forefront. We will explore strength-based, solution-focused alternatives that can be transferrable to parents who are no longer romantically involved but have children.

Facilitator: Christine Keys, LMSW
Title: Understanding Parents with Cognitive Limitations and Impact on Engagement in Service Delivery
Target Audience: Social Workers, Community Service Providers, Administrators
Overview: This workshop will allow participants to define cognitive limitations from a functional perspective. Identifying such limitations improves the engagement and success of integration of service planning to improve overall parent functioning; therefore, resulting in improved outcomes for children. Participants will be provided with an overview of executive functioning and how deficits in these areas impact effective engagement with services and/or family relationships. Participants will then be provided with effective strategies to improve engagement within the service system and their family functioning.

Facilitators: John Lomax, Court Planner II and Norma Sanchez-Figueroa, Family Support Magistrate
Title: Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Child Support (but were afraid to ask)
Target Audience: All
Overview: Parents who don’t live together have special challenges in making sure their child is provided for, well-cared for, and feels that both parents love them. The CT child support program can partner with both parents to help ensure that children are supported. Learn what services are available (including help with access/parenting and custody agreements). Learn how to work with your caseworker and court personnel for your children’s benefit.

Facilitators: Linda Hawkins LPC, and Keith Gaston LCSW
Title: Supporting Fathers Involvement: Fathers Curriculum
Target Audience: All
Overview: FatherWorks is a study at The Village for Families & Children, designed to assist males, under 25. The goal of this workshop is to reduce repetitive fatherhood by providing opportunities and skills needed to change risky behavior. The secondary goal of this work shop is to help fathers understand the responsibilities of Fatherhood and Parenting.
**Facilitator:** Diana DiTunno, MSW  
**Title:** Paternity Establishment & Other Child Support Services: Connecticut’s Program Serving Parents & Children  
**Target Audience:** Professionals working with parents  
**Overview:** This workshop will provide an overview of Connecticut’s Child Support program, with particular emphasis on paternity establishment and the benefits it brings to both parents and children. Participants will be able to describe the responsibilities of the partner agencies involved and provide parents with accurate information to answer their questions and locate resources in their community.

**Facilitator:** George Hayes, LMSW  
**Title:** Working With Teen Father’s —What Have We Learned  
**Target Audience:** Professionals working with teen fathers  
**Overview:** This workshop is designed to provide interventions for professionals to engage their teen parents, particularly, young fathers.

**Facilitator:** Brook Morris, LMSW  
**Title:** Intimate Partner Violence- Engaging Fathers  
**Target Audience:** Professionals  
**Overview:** This workshop will allow participants to identify and understand the significance of engaging Fathers when there is a concern of intimate partner violence and the impact of their involvement with the family as well as the impact of the violence to their children. Participants will learn effective strategies to maximize engagement with Fathers when there is a concern of IPV as well as understanding how the fathers’ own traumas may be impacting their relationships and behaviors and the importance of active participation is services to establish or sustain healthy relationships with their children.

**Facilitator:** Jona Jeffcoat, MT-BC, Board Certified Music Therapist  
**Title:** Using Music To Support the Developing Relationship  
**Target Audience:** All  
**Overview:** We live in a fast paced world where parents frequently are having to chose between working and spending time with their children. Children are naturally musical beings and they learn and explore their world through song and rhythm. The use of music can support developmental milestones as well as assist in developing trust and positive interactions between child and parent. This workshops will include live experiential and participants will leave with ideas on how to use music in the home to support developing relationships.

**Facilitator:** Jona Jeffcoat, MT-BC, Board Certified Music Therapist  
**Title:** That Song Said What??  
**Target Audience:** All  
**Overview:** Do our children really hear the lyrics that they are listening to? What do we do when the messages in the songs they like are negative? Many songs depict negative relationships between men and women and put men in roles of being abusive towards women, skirting the law, and other images. Our children are listening to these songs, confusing fact and fiction, and applying these stereotypes to the lives they are living. This workshop will explore how to find out what your children are listening to and how to open up dialogue with them regarding the lyrics. Listening examples will be explored and sample questions and activities will be discussed.

**Facilitator:** Doug Edwards  
**Title:** Making Connections with Your Child’s Heart and Mind  
**Target Audience:** All  
**Overview:** This workshop will assist fathers in making connections with their children to provide them with a foundation for success. Focusing on the preschool years through high school we will find ways to make it happen. Together, we will look simply at the research on brain development and the impact of behaviors and environment on his child’s life. We will highlight the importance of predictability and trust, learning and creativity, and love and relationships. Weaving those elements, dads will learn how to build a great brain.

**Facilitator:** F.E.L.T. Team Leader  
**Title:** Engagement Through the Eyes of the Caretaker  
**Target Audience:** All  
**Overview:** This will be a panel of parents and caretakers explaining their experiences with service providers who assisted them gain permanency. The panel will focus on how service providers effectively provided engagement strategies that assisted them to gain a level of permanency within their family. The audience will learn what was and what was not beneficial to their road to permanency.

**Facilitator:** Dr. Ronald Mincy  
**Title:** Confronting the Crisis of Economically Vulnerable Nonresident Fathers  
**Target Audience:** All  
**Overview:** Participants will be informed of the Multi-method, interdisciplinary study of the most recent quantitative and qualitative studies about vulnerable nonresident fathers, while focusing on the commonalities among nonresident fathers who are unable to support their children, given the mass incarceration and unemployment of the past two decades.

4.5 CEU’s can be received for attending the conference all day