Fatherhood Facts:

Why include non-custodial fathers in Child and Family Team meetings?

- 70% of juveniles in state-operated institutions come from fatherless homes (U.S. Department of Justice, 1988).
- Black and Hispanic foster youth more often are placed in detention than white (Ryan et. al, 2007).
- “Fatherless children are at a dramatically greater risk of drug and alcohol abuse, mental illness, suicide, poor educational performance, teen pregnancy, and criminality” (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1993).
- Children of color more often are placed in foster care (Magruder & Shaw, 2008).
- When fathers were adequately involved with their children during foster care, children were placed with fathers in 17.5% of cases, rather than when the father was not involved (Science Direct Children and Youth Services Review 30 2008).
- “80% of rapists motivated with displaced anger come from fatherless homes” (Criminal Justice & Behavior, 1978).
- Studies show that children with involved fathers display better cognitive outcomes, even as infants, and higher levels of empathy and other prosocial behavior (Father Facts, 5th ed., 2007).

Most Americans have 100 to 300 living relatives — Let’s take time to search for them.
HOW TO ENGAGE FATHERS

- **Exhaust** all identifying and locating resources.
- **Recognize** the culture of child welfare and validate fathers’ experience in it.
- **Acknowledge** the multiple hurdles that the father went through just to participate in the meeting.
- **Identify** assets and strengths. Fathers must be recognized as equal to mothers in their parental roles and rights.
- **Adhere** to the Social Work Code of Ethics which identifies the dignity and worth of a person as both a core value and the foundation of social work practice.
- **Seek** out every family member, regardless of availability to parent the child, even when case loads are heavy.
- **Collaborate** with other involved systems to insure that clients receive the most beneficial support.

**Fatherhood Support Resources**

- **NC Fatherhood Initiative**, 336/476-0888, smeloy@ncfatherhood.org
- **Bridging the Gap of Eastern North Carolina**, 252/446-2134, btgfatherlw@aol.com
- **DADS (Dads and Daughters and Sons)**, 828/586-8958, www.mountainyouthresources.org
- **Strong Fathers Program**, sreed@fsifamily.org
- **Fathers Forever Program**, glenwarren@afatherforever.com
- **Department of Health & Human Services**, holly.mcneill@dhhs.nc.gov
- **Department of Health & Human Services**, eric.zechman@dhhs.nc.gov

For more information about engaging fathers, **CenterPeace for Youth**, or the **Center for Family and Community Engagement**, please contact us.

*Promoting safe, healthy, and productive communities and families.*

www.cfface.org

919-513-2339