

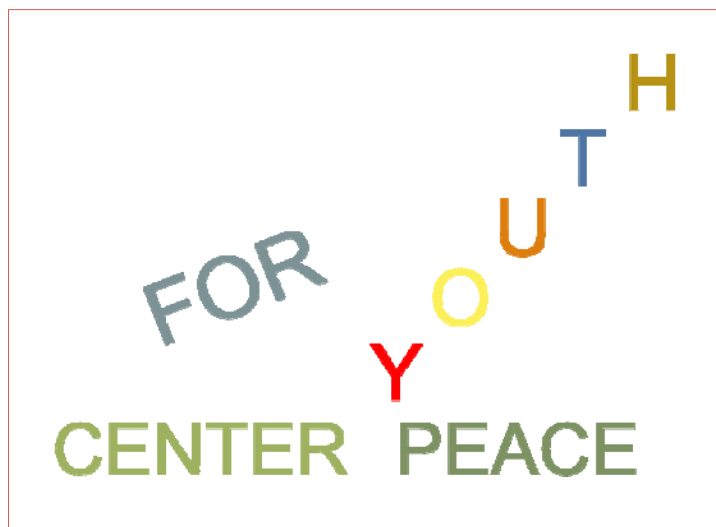
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Fatherhood Facts:

*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 pro-social 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

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