

2024 Fatherhood Summit
Table Group Discussion Consolidated Notes

Schools

Barriers for Dads -

- Can't volunteer at schools if you have a felony- different district by district
- Overall lack of volunteer opportunities for dads
- Stigmas around dads helping out at schools
 - Especially in the classroom
- Need more male teachers
 - Especially at lower grade levels and pre-school

- Implicit bias that moms are a stronger force in child's learning life
- Deferring to mom before dad
- Male/dad stereotypes means dads are stereotyped
- Dads not feeling welcome or invited
- Staff don't feel equipped or capable of connecting with dads
- Time of events are not usually not best for most dads

- Don't take parents/dads suggestions ideas for child seriously
 - Especially during IEPs, 504s, etc.

How Government Can Do Better/Opportunities -

- Schools should develop a fatherhood inclusion program
 - Recruit dads to volunteer
 - Hire fatherhood specialists
- Make sure to have gender diversity among teachers/staff
- Put more money into father advocacy programs
- Take a stance that dads are important (all areas of government should do this)
- Train staff about the importance of fathers
- More programs and \$ for dads programs
- Have a fatherhood section at schools
- Provide direct, hands-on activities for dads to interact with children
- Have dads share about what they do as a career

- Schools should share information with both parents equally
- Make it easier to navigate different programs and systems

Hoping To See More of -

- More vendor table specially from community dad programs
- More time to network and mingle
- Icebreaker that encourage talking/meeting people
 - A lot of people stayed in our own group
- Topic discussions lead by area experts to help educate and facilitate discussions
- More example/stories of dads who do not have extreme parenting experiences - prison, drugs, CPS etc.
 - Not system involved dads on the panel

What Excited Me About Today -

- Stats on Washington fatherhood
- Personal stories of dads on the panel
- Personal stories of dads who got awards
- Panel was gr8!
- Lunch was good
- Ideas presented with a hopeful and healing framework
- Program and agencies collaborating

Other General Thoughts – Hoping for these collaborations and ideas!

- Important to preserve families dignity when using benefits and assistance – like EBT is more discrete than food stamps, kids access to clothing and food for school
- Families should receive a holistic needs assessment and navigator that helps connect them to identified services from different agencies
- More data gathering and sharing
- More advertising and media supporting fatherhood
- DCYF & DOC need to continue to co-align process and breakdown barriers to increase incarcerated parent's fair and equal access to dependency and family court
- Advertise to dads about fatherhood content and events
 - Advertise in bars, emails, gas stations, the letters that go out to families for reminders of checkups