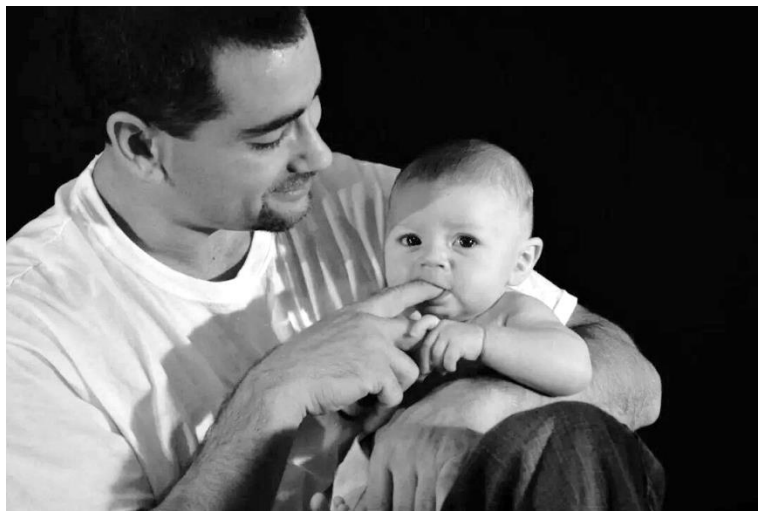


Charter

**Washington State Interagency Fatherhood Council
February 2019**



Core Team

Staff:

Department of Social and Health Services - Economic Services
Administration Office of the Assistant Secretary

Department of Social and Health Services -Division of Child Support
University of Washington - School of Education

Co-Champions:

Two Fatherhood Expert Representatives – two year staggered terms
Two State Agency Representatives –two year staggered terms

Stakeholders

Fathers with lived experiences – goal is to have a minimum of one third of the total Council

Department of Social and Health Services

- Economic Services Administration
 - Division of Child Support
 - Community Services Division
 - Tribal Liaison
- Developmental Disabilities Administration

Department of Children, Youth and Families

- Early Learning
- Child Welfare
- Juvenile Rehabilitation

Department of Corrections

Department of Health

Washington State Fathers Network

Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction

Office of Public Defense

King County Community Partners for Transition Solutions

Divine Alternatives for Dad's Services (DADs)

Partnership for Fathers and Families – Snohomish, King and Pierce

University of Washington

Family Education and Support Services

Spokane Fatherhood Initiative

Health Care Authority

Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys

- Family Support Division
- Court Facilitators

Office of the Administrator of the Courts

ParentalLink

Family Court Reform USA

Thurston County Drug Court and Superior Court

Section 1: Overview

The Washington Interagency Fatherhood Council (hereafter Council) was born out of a catalytic two-day fatherhood summit held in June 2018 where 140 interested stakeholders, including 40 fathers with lived experience, attended. The summit was supported and facilitated by nineteen statewide non-profit, academic, government, and community lead organizations. The summit culminated in a voting process to determine action steps and priorities for the coming year. The number one priority was to establish an ongoing, statewide organization made up of representatives from public, private and non-profit organizations as well as fathers, who would work together to improve how fathers are supported in their vital role in raising their children. The Council was formed to meet this request and began meeting in the fall of 2018.

Council values include:

- Education – providing learning opportunities for community members, as well as public private and non-profit service providers about the importance of and how to best support fathers
- Partnering – bringing together a broad spectrum of fathers, community members and service providers to achieve our goals
- Leadership - developing transformational leaders at all levels to bring our message to the community

- Cultivating – fostering and nurturing a father inclusive culture and approach to providing services
- Advocacy – consistent and ongoing support of and education about the positive impact of father inclusive policies and programs
- Diversity – understanding and valuing the varied cultures and experiences fathers have while raising their children
- Inclusion – welcoming the diverse spectrum of cultures and experiences of fathers to actively participate in the council

1.1 Purpose

The Council provides a common table for diverse perspectives with a stake in fatherhood issues to increase awareness and inclusion of fatherhood programs, policies and practices. Specifically the group will:

- Provide support and partnership across sectors and like efforts for knowledge dissemination around fatherhood issues.
- Create an information exchange of issues facing fathers,
- Develop near term strategies that can be implemented and measured and share those results with system leadership,
- Create a meaningful voice for fathers with lived experience,
- Create meaningful pathways to educate and advise partner organizations including-
 - Department of Corrections
 - Department of Social and Health Services
 - Economic Services Administration – Office of the Assistant Secretary
 - Division of Child Support
 - Community Services Division
 - Local Housing Authorities
 - Department of Health – Prevention and Family Engagement
 - Health Care Authority and primary care
 - Department of Children, Youth, and Families – Child Welfare, Early Care and Education
 - Family Courts and Administration of Courts
 - City and County Law Enforcement

1.2 Structure and Membership

The Council will welcome all interested stakeholders and encourage diverse perspectives. The partners will continue to support and cultivate state agency executive leadership by creating pathways to regularly engage and inform these leaders. The group will work diligently to continue to support fathers will lived experience to engage in this process as members and informants.

Co-Champions

The Council will elect four Co-Champions to lead the group. The Co-Champions will be involved in setting meeting agendas, guiding meetings, provide overall leadership to the council, and represent the council at outside events. The Co-Champions will be elected by the membership and serve 2 year terms. Each of the two Father and Agency Co-Champions will serve offsetting terms for the sake of continuity. They or their designated representative will attend each meeting.

- Father Voice – Two individuals with lived experience with the systems we attempt to influence. They should feel comfortable speaking to stakeholders all levels and in a variety of settings. These individuals should have experience with workgroup process to be part of a core team setting agendas and managing work flow.
- Agency Voice – Two individuals who have a leadership in one of the agencies who have an impact on fatherhood issues. They would ideally be able to influence policy by leading up and out into their organization.

Council Representatives

Council Representatives are members of the Council whom have been granted the authority to officially represent their organization on the council. They may represent the council in a variety of ways including, but is not limited to: speaking at public meetings, providing training, meeting with public and private officials. Designated Council Representatives have the responsibility to represent the overall perspective, agenda, and direction of the Council. Members of the council may be granted the authority to represent the council by the Co-Champions.

Ad Hoc Committees

The Council will create committees as topically needed. Every effort will be made to provide them with staff support from core team organizations. The scope of the committees will be determined by the Council and reviewed regularly. Committees will sunset when needed to keep the Council process as streamlined as possible.

Meetings

It is the goal of the Council to meet monthly for the first year and revisit this frequency annually. To facilitate statewide participation the group will rotate in person meetings with virtual meetings with video capabilities.

1.3 Staff Support

The core agencies will provide staff support to the Council and its Committees to the best of its ability. This will include facilitating agenda setting, notes, communication tools and meeting artifacts that forward the work. The core team will provide meeting facilitation until it is no longer requested by the Council.

1.4 Integration

The work of Council emerged out of a rich collective of stakeholders with a strong commitment to create action in addition to a forum for information exchange. To that end, the Council will seek ways to support existing transformational efforts that support family wellness to include both parents and advocate for new and emerging work to build from that perspective. Every attempt will be made to lesson complexity and to leverage existing work.

1.5 Success Criteria

The Council will create measures of success and milestones for its strategies. Potential areas of focus might include:

- State agency sponsorship that brings support and alignment to Council goals,
- Continued meaningful engagement of fathers with lived experience involved in significant numbers that ground the culture of the group.
- Alignment with existing and emerging statewide efforts with like mission and vision to create action.
- Promote, gather and disseminate data to determine benefits and potential change
- Potential data to measure success overtime
 - Fathers present at birth
 - Maintaining a presence in their children’s lives
 - Fathers engaging services/systems
 - Visitation orders
- Develop measures /milestones of accountability and a procedure for periodic review
 - Are goals being met?
 - If not, what are the barriers?
 - If so, what can we build upon?
- Celebrate successes

Section 2: Approach

The Council will build from the priority areas generated at the 2018 Fatherhood Summit as a starting point and create a learning culture that is responsive to its environment. The group will look for near term, intermediate and long-term changes that it can influence within existing resources and seek additional resources when indicated.

- Short term goal – work with service providers to ensure their staff are aware of services available to fathers and then provide the information to fathers
- Intermediate goal – Work with service providers to educate their staff on how they can work best with fathers to ensure they are aware of and feel comfortable accessing the services available to them

- Long term goal – Work with state and local policy makers and politicians to develop father friendly resources and policies to support fathers in their positive relationships with their children

Section 3: Communications and Influence

Communicating Council successes and development along with the growing knowledge will be critical.

3.1 Website

The Council will maintain a landing page on the Washington Frontiers of Innovation www.wafoi.org site. This will provide a two-way communication platform for interested stakeholders to engage the work.

3.2 Meeting Minutes and Agendas

Meeting Minutes will be taken and distributed before each meeting. They will be available to the public upon request.

4.0 Decision Making

The goal of the council is to represent a wide variety of experiences and needs, while recognizing there are limited resources and time available to commit to achieving our goals. The council will first strive to come to consensus on how best to proceed to achieve our goals. If the council is not able to come to a consensus, a majority vote will be used to make decisions. Co-champions will be elected by a majority vote.