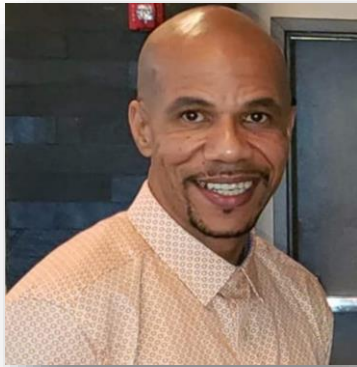


Washington Interagency Fatherhood Council
3rd Annual Fatherhood Summit
Speaker Biographies

Keynote Plenary - *The evolution of a myth made real—re-shaping our father frame!*



Corey B. Best,
Mining for Gold,
Community Curator
coreybest@rocketmail.com

“For me to truly live healthier, I cannot compare myself to another. I must compare myself to myself and do one thing different daily to get better”

Corey B. Best is first, a dedicated father who recently founded ***“Mining for Gold”***. He is originally from Washington, DC who now resides in Florida. This is where Corey began his transformation into adaptive leadership training, systems building, authentic family engagement, race equity, promoting protective factors, social equality, and highlighting “good enough parenting” for those impacted by the child welfare system. Corey has utilized his platform as a Community Curator to re-build child and family serving systems that are responsive to sharing power among constituents with a laser focus on preventing and dismantling all forms of racism.

Story as Father

Raising a son in Black body also means allowing him in many ways, to curate and develop me as his Dad. My indoctrination into “what a father is” or should be has continued to cause me to reexamine my identity, masculinity, and the importance of being emotionally and spiritually present to build a legacy for him.

Having been raised by a single mother, a village of matriarchs, I have always known the important value that Women add to my life. However, without having one consistent model that looked like me, I was often left to emulate all other male influences. Many of those influences deposited the need for stoicism and omnipotence. Which led to a worldview that required undoing. In my relationship with my son, I try my absolute best to teach him to advocate for his beliefs, stand true to justice, speak truth to power and never allow anyone or any institution to define who he is. That he is only one that can define himself.

Parenting from an anti-racist position becomes challenging and rewarding for him. Children are able to see and understand racial differences. Knowing that the world has already considered my son a threat while he was in his mother’s womb is of course, disheartening. But it is the reality of world. Therefore, it is incumbent upon me to explain the current racial discourse and teach him ways of critically thinking about what external forces are surrounding him daily. This has not led to fear. In fact, he has helped me to grow into the man I’ve always wanted to be. A liberated, imperfect, emotionally sound and honest human being!

Stressed Dads: Mental Health Struggles of Fathers from the Perinatal Period and Beyond.



John O'Neill, LICSW is currently contracted with Spokane County Felony Mental Health Court

John provides clinical services to participants enrolled in the 2-year diversion program. He acts as an expert witness in court, reporting to the judge regarding participants' progress. He is also currently contracted with the Federal Bureau of Prisons as a clinical social worker, providing clinical services to individuals who are in community custody.

Previously, John has been a Clinical Supervisor at Frontier Behavioral Health, a contracted social worker with the Washington State Office of Public Defense and worked as a Team Coordinator for Partners with Families & Children for 12 years. John is a regional and national leader in developing programs for fathers and has served hundreds of men with his "Engaging Fatherhood" parenting curriculum in Spokane Washington. John also taught at EWU School of Social Work as an Adjunct professor for 10 years, having developed a one-of-a-kind class entitled, "Social Work with Men and Families" that was featured at the 2007 International Council on Social Work Education Conference in Chicago. John has 27 years of experience in the field of child welfare, criminal justice and mental health.



Terry Britt, Guest Father

I am 55 years old and unfortunately have spent over 20 years in prison most recently 13 years straight. I am also a cancer survivor if 4 years. I have 14 years recovery from SUD and I am currently in recovery from PTSD and anxiety. I am the father of 2 boys 24, and 25. I am currently employed by Spokane County in their HARPS Program I have been working as a first responder at the COVID 19 isolation sites in Seattle and in Spokane. I have received my Certified Peer Counselor certification. I have been on numerous panels I have worked at Spokane Resource Center as a peer navigator for Pioneer Human

Services Roadmap to Success program. All of these things allow me to help people that are trying to transition back into society and live a normal life.

Early Social Emotional Development and Father's Role



Nucha Isarowong PhD, LCSW Barnard Center University of Washington

Nucha Isarowong is the Director of the Advanced Clinical Training Program at the Barnard Center for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health on the campus of the University of Washington. His clinical experience includes work with and on behalf of infants, children, and families in home and school settings. Most recently, he served as faculty at Erikson Institute in Chicago, IL, where he instructed classes in the Master of Social Work Program and the Infant Mental Health Certificate Program. His clinical and scholarship experience and interests address sociocultural, relational, and structural factors that influence social-relational dynamics and facilitate access to and utilization of resources and services by families caring for infants and children from the broad range of diverse communities. His current efforts focus on multi-level systems integration of diversity, equity, and inclusion principles in the context of father engagement practices and policies, integration of trauma-informed practice, generally, and in Part C Early Intervention, specifically, shifting understanding of disabilities and developmental differences, and affecting systems change. Nucha is a ZERO TO THREE Fellow (2012-2013), and currently serves on the coordinating council of the Academy of ZERO TO THREE Fellows. He also serves as a national workshop facilitator and member of the Executive Council of the Diversity-Informed Tenets for Work with Infants, Children and Families.



Nickolas Kasovac MA, IMH-E, OTS Infant Family Specialist and developer of the DAD Project for fathers and infants in Seattle.

Nicholas Kasovac, studied Infant Mental Health and became endorsed as an Infant Family Specialist. He has worked in Pediatrics for over 20 years in a variety of capacities/settings, including Pediatric Intensive Care, Pediatric Outpatient, Pediatric Pain Clinic, Child Development, Home Visiting, and Infant/Toddler Mental Health. He was trained in the HealthySteps approach to family support, and was on the first team to facilitate a

community-based model for NICU grads. He also created and managed a team of home visitors for Healthy Families AZ serving families with children at-risk. Since his training as a HealthySteps Specialist in 2004, Nicholas has developed programs for Fathers including The DAD Project: Fathers & Infants, The DAD Project: Toddlers & Fathers, Milk Men: Dads and Breastfeeding Support, and Baseball Tummy Time.

Nicholas has presented workshops on Fatherhood topics at WAIMH Congress 2014 in Edinburgh, Scotland and WAIMH Congress 2018 in Rome, Italy. He has been selected to present at WAIMH Congress 2020 in Brisbane, Queensland Australia (rescheduled for June 2021). Nicholas has taught Continuing Education classes on Fatherhood topics at Erikson Institute in Chicago and consulted with the Fussy Baby Team to increase father participation. He also teaches Conscious Fathering classes (prenatal for fathers to be) at Seattle area Swedish Medical Centers through Parent Trust for Washington Children. Currently, he is completing his studies in the graduate occupational therapy program at University of Puget Sound - Tacoma, WA.

Fatherhood Panel: Fathers tell their story - accessing services in challenging times



Moderator Jason Bragg Child Welfare Specialist & Father - Washington

Jason Bragg found himself personally involved in the Dependency system in 2012 with his son. Despite many barriers, he was able to successfully navigate the system and have his son returned to his care. Since then, using his own story and experience, he has realized his passion to help others. He has become a leader, a change maker and a powerful voice in the realm of child welfare.

Mr. Bragg has juggled a variety of roles since his personal experience with the system. Since 2014, Mr. Bragg has been contracted with the Washington State Office of Public Defense as a Social Service worker. In his work, he assists attorneys, parents, and stakeholders in breaking down barriers to help reunify families involved in child welfare.

In addition to working with a caseload that extends throughout King County, he currently serves on various committees at the local and state levels. He is an alumni member of the Washington State Parent Ally Committee and over the last 6 years he has helped change, advocate, and support legislative efforts to improve the child welfare system. He also facilitated Father's Engagement groups in Seattle Washington for the 6 years, which aims to educate and amplify the experiences of fathers in the system.



Edgar Hernandez Jr

My name is Edgar Hernandez Jr. I was born in East Los Angeles, CA. When I was 2 years old, my parents moved to Yakima, WA. I am a third generation Yakima citizen. I graduated from Davis High School and attended Yakima Valley College for 2 years. I grew up my whole life being exposed to the agriculture life in Central Washington. When I was 12 years old, my dad purchased his first orchard, and since then, I have gained knowledge in the agriculture industry. I married the most beautiful and wonderful woman in the world. We have 2 beautiful special needs children. My son is 7 years old and has high functional autism. And my daughter is 5 years old and has a physical disability. I work for an agriculture company where they specialize in chemical and fertilizer sales and provide field services to local fruit growers. I have been working for the company for 15 years and I help with field support, desktop publishing and web design.

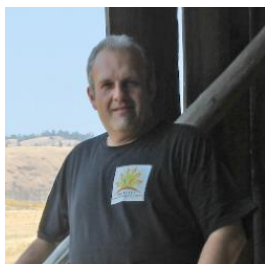
Also, I currently play drums for our worship team at our local church. Some of my favorite things to do with my family is going camping, fishing, hiking, swimming and other outings. My hobbies are reading, video games, drawing, photography, videography and digital design.



Temetrius Hollis

Temetrius Hollis is a 25 years old African American/Puerto Rican from Seattle Washington. Married with a beautiful 16 month old daughter. As a relatively new father, he is finding the parallels of his rough upbringing and hopes to extinguish the possibility of his daughter repeating his mistakes. As a youth he experienced everything the juvenile system had to offer and at 17 was charged as an adult and sent to prison when he was still a “kid” himself. His daughter was conceived and born while he was in prison and participating in the D.O.C Extended Family Visiting program with his wife. Due to good behavior and programming he was granted the opportunity to spend the last year of his 100 month sentence home with his daughter on electronic home monitoring.

He now makes a living as retail investor. When not studying stocks and finance he enjoys park visits with family and watching his daughter explore, he looks forward to teaching his daughter financial literacy. Staying in shape, lifting weights and boxing are all a part of his everyday life.



Nelson Rascon

Nelson Rascon is currently the Executive Director of Dads M.O.V.E. His involvement with the nonprofit world started as he was raising his three special needs children. While searching for support for his children, he collaborated and built relationships with several nonprofits and parent support groups. Sharing his life experiences helping his family and began helping others.

His expertise is rooted in personal experience, National Peer Certification (2012), certification in additional training modules, certified training module development, and serving as a Peer Certified Counselor. He has also attended and presented at several national conferences.

It was in 2007 that he decided to launch Dads M.O.V.E. with a host of advocates. He seeks to expand awareness about mental health and special needs for my community.



Joshua Smith Alternate Panel member

Joshua Smith is a native Californian, father of 6 and Founder of the non-profit "Our House Resource Group" where he connects our communities to resources while fighting for equal access for all. He also serves as a workforce development specialist at Pacific Mountain Workforce Development Council facilitating group workshops, orientations and career clubs with incarcerated youth and adults.

He holds multiple certifications in Parenting, Community Development, Child Psychology, and more. He is a Certified Recovery Coach and a Washington State Certified Peer Counselor as well.

He balances work and home while coaching his kids' sports teams, volunteering to serve in our communities and Roblox competitions.

Fatherhood Engagement – Developing services that engage and meet the needs of fathers: What we know from research and practice.



Tova Walsh PhD University of Michigan School of Social Work

Tova Walsh, PhD, MSW is an Assistant Professor of Social Work at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she is also a Faculty Affiliate of the Institute for Research on Poverty and Center for Child and Family Wellbeing. A primary focus of her research is strategies to better engage and serve fathers in child and family programs. Through her research, she aims to support emerging competencies in early parenthood and promote nurturing parent-child relationships, with an emphasis on supports for parents who face barriers to initiating or maintaining positive involvement with their children. Dr. Walsh is currently examining the parenting support needs of expectant and new fathers, and the parenting and co-parenting experiences of noncustodial fathers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Walsh received a joint PhD in social work and psychology from the University of Michigan, and completed postdoctoral training in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health & Society Scholars Program. Her research has been supported by grants and fellowships from the National Institutes of Health, Kellogg Foundation, and Doris Duke Foundation. She teaches courses on social work interventions with children, youth, and families. Prior to graduate school, she worked as a home visitor to families with children ages 0-3



Jennifer Bellamy PhD University of Denver School of Social Work

Professor; Associate Dean, Research

Despite the clear impact fathers have on their families, most child and family services do not well engage men as parents. We have a tremendous opportunity, and obligation, in the field of social work to support the well-being of children and parents by serving the whole family with effective interventions.

Jennifer Bellamy is the Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development and Professor at the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Denver. At GSSW she teaches research and theory courses at the master's and doctoral levels. She received her Master's of Science in social work from The University of Texas at Austin in 2000. Before earning her Ph.D. she worked as a crisis counselor and a project coordinator for a multisite demonstration project serving young, unmarried, low-income fathers. Bellamy completed her PhD at the Columbia University School of Social Work in 2006 and postdoctoral training at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in Saint Louis in 2008.

Bellamy's current research interests include the engagement of fathers in child and family services, child welfare and evidence-based practice. She has published extensively in the area of evidence-based social work practice and is currently engaged in the development and testing of interventions to better serve fathers in child and family programs including home visiting and child welfare services.



Keoki Kauanoë – Director of Fatherhood Engagement– Family Education and Support Services

Keoki Kauanoë is a native Hawaiian single-father of 4, the Director of Father Engagement at Family Education and Support Services, where he is a Master Trainer for the nationally recognized Nurturing Fathers Program, holds certifications in multiple parenting curricula and is a certified trainer for the QPR Gatekeeper Program. He also sits on the Washington State Interagency Fatherhood Council, The Board of the Equity in Education Coalition and The Thurston Asset Building Coalition.

When not at work or volunteering in his community, Keoki enjoys volunteering at his youngest son's elementary school, light saber duels and Minecraft and Lego builds with his youngest.

Women Infants and Children – Engaging Dads in the WIC experience



Todd Mountin is the chair of the National WIC Association task force focused on engaging dads into the WIC experience. As a father of 4 and career WIC employee Todd brings his unique perspectives gained from his gained from his experiences.

Micah Manu currently works as the Policy and Compliance Manager for the State of Georgia WIC program. He began his career with WIC in 2010 with the Columbus Health Department. During this time, he worked as a WIC nutritionist providing nutrition education and breastfeeding counseling to participants. In 2016, he moved to from the district office to state office and work through ranks to become Policy and Compliance Manager. Also, he is a core team member for the State of Georgia's Department of Public's Health Strong Fathers Strong Family Coalition. Micah holds a Bachelor of Science in Dietetics and a Master of Public Administration.



Ruben Lopez is a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist who has been working for the Public Health Foundation Enterprises WIC program since 1994. Currently, Mr. Lopez is an Area Manager and oversees four WIC centers in the Pomona area of Los Angeles California. Mr. Lopez has been involved with a project tasked with helping Men and Dads feel more welcomed and engaged during their WIC visits. As a father of two young men and as a Dietitian, he has counseled WIC participants, including men and dads, on the importance of a good diet and a healthy life style during critical periods of life such as pregnancy, infancy and childhood. His ability to speak Spanish and English has allowed him to provide much needed services to Participants from varied backgrounds.

Mr. Lopez has a Bachelors of Science degree in food, Nutrition and Clinical Dietetics from the California State University Los Angeles. He obtained his RDN status from the same University in 1989 and is currently finishing a master's degree in Nutritional Science with an emphasis on Human Performance.

Alameda Fathers Corps



Kevin Bremond is a father of three, he was born, raised, and currently lives in Oakland, California. He is Co-Founder of the Alameda County Fathers Corps. The Fathers Corps, established in 2013, is a partnership between First 5 Alameda County, Alameda County Health Care Services and Alameda County Social Services Agencies. The Fathers Corps promotes and supports fathers and father figures to be meaningfully engaged with their children and families, and advocates for family service providers to provide father friendly services and to assist fathers in strengthening their parenting skills. To achieve its mission, the Fathers Corps' efforts are focused on systems change, capacity building, and research and assessment.

In 2014 Kevin spearheaded the development of the Alameda County Father-Friendly Principles. The principles were adopted by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors in 2015. He currently leads the implementation of the Fathers Corps' 2018-2022 expansion plan. The expansion will increase the availability of father-specific parent education and support groups, provide father-centered capacity building opportunities for Alameda County systems and community based organizations, convene the second Alameda County Fatherhood Summit in October 2020, launch a fatherhood media campaign to change the narrative of fatherhood, and continue the county-wide Father-Friendly Principles awareness, training, adoption, and implementation campaign.

Kevin is committed to supporting and advocating for the effective engagement and intentional inclusion of fathers in the delivery of services to families in Alameda County and beyond.