



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Administration for Children and Families  
Office of Family Assistance

National  
Responsible  
Fatherhood Clearinghouse



# National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse

NRFC Webinar – July 22, 2020

*Using Virtual Technology: A Practitioner Conversation*

## Presenter Bios



**Richard B. Barr, Vice-President, Strategy & Organizational Development, South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families (the Center)**

Richard leads the Center's Strategic Direction by steering and stabilizing its growth and development. He also leads a team of technical assistance providers who work with the six organizations in the Center's statewide network, and helps maintain the state and community partnerships essential to organizational and programmatic enhancement. He is a native of Columbia, SC and a graduate of both Francis Marion University and Webster University. His varied work experience has led to theoretical and practical knowledge in the areas of family support, human growth and development, management, banking, economics, counseling, and community activism. Richard is drawn to working with people, especially to encourage men's empowerment and their recognition that they have an irreplaceable role as fathers. He

provides consultation on fatherhood engagement and family transformation services across the state and nation, and is federally recognized as an expert in the field of human growth and development and fatherhood. His presentations have been described as "dynamic, innovative, and explosive, but tangibly practical."



**Guy Bowling, Workforce Development Manager, FATHER Project, Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota**

Guy has overseen the successful implementation of three federally funded grants. Including a five-year \$2.5 million annual grant project funded in 2012 through the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Family Assistance. His specific area of focus is working with low-income, non-custodial, never married fathers and their families in culturally specific, multi-racial, multi-ethnic and rural communities. He received his B.A in Individualized Studies from Metro State University and is starting a Master of Public Affairs (MPA) program at the University of Minnesota in Fall of 2020. He was recently selected as a 2020 Bush Fellow through the Bush Foundation Fellowship Program, and will use this award to further his father empowerment studies while working to engage program alumni to improve police relations and influence the re-shaping of public safety.

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**Avis Denise Files, Director of Family and Supportive Services, Pathway Inc.**

Avis has served as Program Director of the *Brothers United* fatherhood program since 2015, when Pathway received fatherhood grant funding from the Office of Family Assistance (OFA). Prior to her current position, she was Program Coordinator (2006-2011) and Program Director (2011-2014) for an OFA grant-funded healthy marriage program, *Keeping It Together*. Over her career she has worked in the areas of domestic violence, homelessness and drug addiction services. She received a B.A. in Human Services from The University of Toledo and has traveled to a diverse array of venues speaking on fatherhood and healthy relationships. Her interactive presentation skills engage the audience and encourage active participation by all. Her motto is: Change A Father, Change a Family, Create a Future. In 2017, she received the Vicky Turetsky Women In Fatherhood Leadership Award for her work in advancing the field of responsible fatherhood and family strengthening. Avis and her husband, Michael Allen Files, have four children and two grandsons, and own Just Us Files, LLC, an organization that specializes in providing healthy relationship services for African American blended (mended) families.

**Nick Mazzeo, Quality Improvement Coordinator, Dads Matter, Children's Bureau of Southern California**

Nick has worked with the Dads Matter program since its inception in 2015. During this time, he has been continually learning and acquiring knowledge and skills to help fathers in his community. He supports high quality father involvement in a wide variety of roles. He has served as grant writer, group facilitator, trainer, copywriter, fatherhood advocate, and cook. Despite his passion for fatherhood work, his most essential role will always be as father to his two boys.

**James D. Melton, Jr., Family Services Manager, Fathers and Families Center (FFC), Indianapolis, IN**

James has served as FCC's Family Services Manager since 2008, mentoring young men and fathers to be actively engaged in the lives of their children and families. The Center's goal is to assist men and women in achieving self-sufficiency and strengthening their involvement with their children. Prior to his service at FFC, James served over 20 years in active military service in the U.S. Air Force, retiring in 2007. He earned three Associates in Applied Science Degrees (in Instructional Technology, Social Services, and Allied Health) from the Community College of the Air Force, and a Bachelor of Science in Health Care Management (*cum laude*) from Southern Illinois University. He also earned his Certificate of Theology from Phillips School of Theology at the Interdenominational Theological Center and is currently completing Master of Divinity Degree studies. In addition to his work at FFC, he is a published author and Senior Pastor of McClendon Tabernacle Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. James is married to the love of his life, Attorney Tara (Dudley) Melton, and they are the proud parents of three beautiful children. He tries daily to live up to Fathers and Families Center's mission, which is "building a noble legacy of fatherhood."