



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 – May 20, 2020

Coparenting 201: Tips for Fatherhood Programs and Fathers

Presenter Bios



Brian Higginbotham, Ph.D., Professor and Extension Specialist, Utah State University

Brian is a Professor in the Department of Family, Consumer, and Human Development at Utah State University (USU) and also serves as the Associate Vice President of USU Extension, a role in which he provides support to Extension faculty stationed throughout Utah's 29 counties. During his career at USU, he has created a large research-based Relationship Education initiative with programs for those who are single, dating, married, remarried, and divorced. He directs and researches family-life Extension programs that promote relationship knowledge and skills such as *Smart Steps for Stepfamilies*, *24/7 Dads*, and *How to Avoid Falling for a Jerk/Jerkette*. He is responsible for the state's on-line Divorce Orientation course and his *Utah Marriage Handbook* is used in High Schools and distributed by county clerks around the state. Approximately 10,000 Utahns benefit from his programs each year. He has 80+ research-based articles/resources and has secured approximately \$21 million in external funds. Brian received his Ph.D. in Human Development & Family Studies and M.S. in Marriage & Family Therapy from Auburn University.



Armon R. Perry, Ph.D., MSW, Professor, Kent School of Social Work, University of Louisville and Project Director, 4 Your Child

Armon's research focuses on the intrapersonal, interpersonal, and external factors influencing men's involvement in the lives of their children and families, as well as the impact of that involvement on family well-being. To date, his research findings have pointed to the association between increased levels of paternal involvement and increased contributions from the paternal extended family, higher levels of reported religiosity, higher reported levels of maternal parenting efficacy, and fathers who report having functional co-parenting relationships with their children's mother. The findings also highlight the relationship between a fathers' provision of instrumental and affective support and positive outcomes for families such as fewer behavioral problems in children and lower levels of reported maternal stress. Although still early in his academic career, Armon has been recognized as an "emerging scholar" in the Scholar's Network on Black Masculinity, an assembly of scholars convened to reshape academic, public policy, and popular culture understandings of the lives of African American men. In addition to his research, he leads the *4 Your Child* fatherhood program and teaches social work courses informed by his experience as a child protective services social worker.

Take Time to Be a Dad Today

Toll-free: 877-4DAD411 (877-432-3411) | Fax: 703-934-3740 | info@fatherhood.gov | www.fatherhood.gov

facebook.com/fatherhoodgov

[@fatherhoodgov](https://twitter.com/fatherhoodgov)



Cheri D. Tillis, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Fathers' and Families' Support Center (FFSC), St. Louis, MO

Cheri has been with FFSC since 2003. She is responsible for oversight of agency programs, daily operations, and 55 staff positions at 4 program locations, with a focus on building community partnerships, federal grant writing, and ongoing program development. Prior to joining FFSC, Cheri worked as a Youth Specialist for the St. Louis Division of Youth Services and also served with AmeriCorps, working in schools and community centers throughout St. Louis. Cheri has represented FFSC at many national conferences, where she is often called upon to speak about FFSC's program, which is increasingly pointed to as a national model for fatherhood programs. She holds a Master of Science in Human Resource Management from Lindenwood University, a Bachelor's in Criminal Justice from Jackson State University, and a Business Management for Non-Profit Leaders Certificate from Washington University Olin School of Business. She was also a 2016 Missouri Foundation for Health Fellow and has served as the Principal Investigator on several Fatherhood research studies in partnership with Washington University in St. Louis, MO. Most importantly, she is the wife of Bradford Tillis and mother of 2 sons, Caleb and Nicholas.



Demetrice Davis, Technician/Strategist/Father/FFSC Alumni

Demetrice is an electronics technician doing contract work for a multitude of companies and the father of two daughters (ages 14 and 3). He is a graduate of the Fathers and Families Support Center (FFSC). He has a good coparenting relationship with the mother of his eldest daughter and is actively working to receive joint custody and develop a coparenting plan with the mother of his youngest daughter. He credits Lisl Williams, FFSC Director of Legal Services, for helping him with the necessary legal paperwork and her all-round encouragement and support. His tips for other coparenting fathers include: "Be Calm," "Keep your Cool," and "Let the System Work for You."