

# Fanning the Fatherhood **FIRE**:

A National Fatherhood Summit  
June 4-6, 2019 | Nashville, Tennessee



Family-focused  Interconnected  
Resilient  Essential

## **W10** **Focusing on Family Safety: Findings from the Preventing and Addressing Intimate Violence when Engaging Dads Study**

**Panel Host:**

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**Presenters:**

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# Background

- Intimate Partner Violence (IPV): physical or sexual violence, stalking, and/or psychological aggression by a current or former intimate partner
- IPV prevalence
- Consequences of IPV
- IPV and men
- Role of fatherhood programs



# Goals of the PAIVED Project

1. Describe current approaches RF programs are using to prevent and address IPV
2. Assess challenges and successes in addressing and preventing IPV
3. Identify promising approaches in addressing and preventing IPV



# Methods

- Review and synthesis of RF grantee documents
- Review of fatherhood, IPV, and other relevant curricula
  - Discussions with select curriculum developers
- Interviews with:
  - 16 RF program staff across 8 RF organizations
  - 11 staff from partner organizations
- Observations of program sessions from 5 RF programs



# Results – Goal 1

## Description

- Partnerships
- Trainings
- Screening
- Responding to disclosures



# Results – Goal 2

## Challenges and Successes: Part 1

- 1 Fathers need integrated services to effectively address multiple issues they face, including DV
- 2 There is a need for free and accessible services for those who use DV

“If I’m worried about eating, the last thing I’m thinking about is going to a healthy relationship workshop that might cost me \$1,000.” – RF program staff



# Results – Goal 2

## Challenges and Successes : Part 2

- 3 Fathers resist identifying as perpetrators or survivors of DV

“When you see fathers laughing like, ‘She’s just in my face,’ and it’s like you don’t know the seriousness of it...You have PTSD because you were stabbed 9 times in your sleep.” – RF program staff

- 4 Screenings were not perceived to be effective in identifying DV



# Results – Goal 2

## Challenges and Successes : Part 3

- 5 Fathers resist DV education at first, but respond positively in the end
- 6 Providing space for men to talk about DV is important
- 7 Children were a motivating factor

“How are we a fatherhood program if we don’t talk about the effects that [DV] has on children?”  
– RF program staff



# Results – Goal 2

## Challenges and Successes: : Part 4

- 8 Mutual respect and appreciation facilitate partnerships; availability and openness are essential for collaboration

“If the people on the DV side are only interested in DV and gender-based violence and men’s violence against women more specifically, you’re not going to be good at this. If you’re coming to the fatherhood field like ‘fathers’ rights’ lens and ‘fatherhood at any cost’ then you’re not going to be good at this. We both have to be hiring folks and cultivating folks to meet in the middle...it’s hard.” – Partner organization staff



# Results – Goal 2

## Challenges and Successes: : Part 5

- 9 Focusing on fathers is essential to addressing DV

“You cannot be a fatherhood program without some kind of protocol put in place to address the violence that comes with intimate relationships that has a man involved with a significant other, that has children, that has suffered for so long with the abuse that happens throughout our community...it will show up.”  
– RF program staff



# Summary of Key Findings

## Key findings include:

- Using violence seemed to be a more relevant issue for fathers than surviving violence
- Staff identified several factors that contributed to father engagement in IPV services
  - Children were strong motivations for fathers to engage in IPV services
- Cost and stigma were major barriers
- RF programs and partner organizations described strong alliances



# Q&A with Staff from Two Fatherhood Programs

**Kirk Berry**

People for People, Inc.

**Tammie Eppley**

Centerstone of Indiana





# Questions and Answers

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## Stay in touch with us!

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