

# Fanning the Fatherhood **FIRE**:

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



Family-focused  Interconnected  
Resilient  Essential

## **W12** **Connecting Fathers and Families through Child Support**

### **PANEL HOST:**

**Demetricus Johnson, Program Specialist,  
Region 04, HHS-ACF Office of Child Support Enforcement**

### **PRESENTERS:**

**John Hurst, Deputy Director, Georgia Department of  
Human Services Division of Child Support Services**

**Kiska Dennis-Gear, Fatherhood Program Manager, Georgia  
Department of Human Services Division of Child Support  
Services**

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## **PRESENTERS:**

**Charlie Davis, Employment & Education Coordinator,  
Tennessee Department of Human Services**

**Karen Walker, Director of Family Assistance Contracts,  
Tennessee Department of Human Services**

**Patti Wood, Director of Operations,  
Child Support Field Services and Contracts,  
Tennessee Department of Human Services**

# Georgia



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# Background

- Chronic Non-Payors
- Barriers to Paying
- Resource Connection
- Support for Participants
- Statewide Programs



# Georgia Division of Child Support Services (DCSS) Outreach Programs

## Fatherhood Program

- Pre-contempt option
- Employment-based program
- Training, coaching and mentoring
- Strong Community Resource Collaborative approach
- Utilizes community resources leading to career employment
- Increase self-sufficiency
- Increase emotional, parental and financial involvement

## Parental Accountability Court

- Collaboration between the Department and Superior Court judges
- Alternative to incarceration
- Utilizes community resources
- Judicial oversight to address barriers
- Increase parental accountability and self-sufficiency



# Outcomes

## Fatherhood Program (SFY18)

- Provided services to 6,511 participants
- Enrolled 1,340 participants in GED training
- Enrolled 1,174 participants in short-term training
- Over 15,000 children have received support

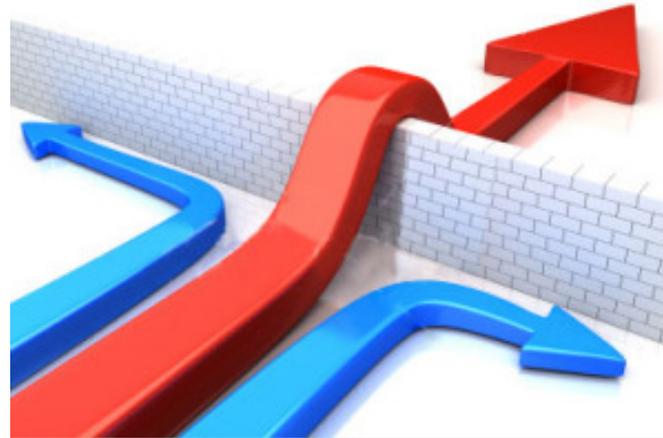
## Parental Accountability Court (since 2012)

- Over 6,212 participants have avoided incarceration
- Received over \$6.6 million in child support payments from participants
- Over 9,400 children have received support



# Challenges

- Trust
- Customer Engagement
- Community Resources



# Engagement

- Fatherhood Conversation Events
- Fatherhood Celebration Event
- Faith and Non-Profit Meetings
- PAC Kickoff and Graduation Events



# Partnerships

- Technical College System of Georgia
- Fathers Incorporated
- Community Employment Resources
- Community Employers
- Council of Superior Court Judges
- Administrative Office of the Courts



# Summary of Key Points

- Program Highlights
- Challenges
- Community Engagement
- Community Partnership



# Tennessee



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# Background

**“Family Centered Services”** is the approach used by the TN Department of Human Services to provide information and specialized services to our customers.

**“Two Generation (2Gen)”** Framework is an approach the we use to deliver services that intentionally focuses on the children and their parent /caregiver together, to harness the family’s full potential, to put the entire family on a path to permanent economic security, and to break cycles of poverty.



# National Incarceration Data

- The US has 5% of the world's population, yet 25% of the world's prison population.
- Nearly two-thirds of the people who are incarcerated are parents.
- More than 1.7M children have a parent in prison....and millions more children have a parent currently in jail.
- 92% of incarcerated parents are fathers.



# Tennessee Incarceration Data

- Tennessee is currently 12th in the nation for non-custodial parents who are incarcerated.
- Tennessee's number of incarcerated men and women has increased by nearly 12% in the last decade.
- African Americans are 16.8% of Tennessee's population, but 45% of Tennessee's prison population.
- Tennessee is in the top third of states that have the most incarcerated parents, with nearly 15,000 incarcerated parents in 2011 – 90% of whom were fathers.



# Fatherhood Services in Tennessee

Improving the parenting and communication skills of fathers allow them to become a greater part of their child's life.

Research shows that a higher level of engagement in their child's life leads to:

- Health
- Early development
- Education levels of their children
- Reduction in behavioral issues

Active participation of parents in the child's life has shown to increase the frequency of Child Support.



# Child Support and TANF Partnership

- When parents, custodial and noncustodial alike, are employed, they are able to fulfill a key parental responsibility by providing for their children.
- Helping families with education & employment opportunities and reliable child support payments is a central tenet of TANF.
- TANF funds can be used to promote employment programs for noncustodial parents. TANF-ACF-IM-2018-01





Assist noncustodial individuals re-entering our community and needing a new beginning with wraparound services – holistically providing support for critical and ongoing needs – as well as a launch-pad to meaningful, sustained employment.



# Project Return Successes

- Child support owed by participants (most recent fiscal year):
  - Average monthly obligation at enrollment = \$338.82
  - Average arrearage balance at enrollment = \$14,726.79
  - Never previously paid child support = 21%
- Of child support payers connected with Project Return:
  - Made their first payment within 60 days = 50%
  - Made their first payment within 90 days = 79%
- Employment is key! For PRs child support payers this year:
  - 76% have successfully gained long-term employment
  - 77% have retained their employment for at least two months



# Tennessee Department of Human Services Programs (TDHS)

The Child Support programs below have been expanded to increase the footprint for employment and fatherhood services provided by the Department.

- The Tennessee Partnership for Ongoing Parental Support (TPOPS)
- The Child Support Noncustodial Parent Employment Demonstration(CSPED)
- The Tennessee Child Support Employment and Parenting Program (TCSEPP)



# The Child Support Noncustodial Parent Employment Demonstration (CSPED)

- Helps parents who cannot pay their child support find employment. Parenting education is provided for all participants.
- The program serves customers in Nashville (Davidson County), Memphis (Shelby County) and Chattanooga (Hamilton County).
- Employment services are provided via the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, and Goodwill of Middle TN



# The Tennessee Partnership for Ongoing Parental Support (TPOPS)

- Works with noncustodial parents currently incarcerated in the Morgan County Correctional Facility, and nearby Rehab Center.
- The program also provides support to those who need additional assistance after release.
- Provides child support information and parenting education to individuals.
- The program is a partnership between TDHS and the University of TN, Social Work Division.

Morgan County Correctional Facility



# The Tennessee Child Support Employment and Parenting Program (TCSEPP)

- Helps noncustodial parents gain employment in East Tennessee. The program serves a large rural area where employment is not the only challenge.
- The Program serves customers in a number Knox, Cock, Grainger, Jefferson, Sevier, and Blount counties.
- TCSEPP is a partnership between TDHS and the University of TN, Social Work Division.



# What are the focuses of the community partnerships and what outcomes are expected?

## Mission

- To build strong families by connecting Tennesseans to employment, education and support services.

## Vision

- To revolutionize the customer experience through innovation and a seamless network of services.

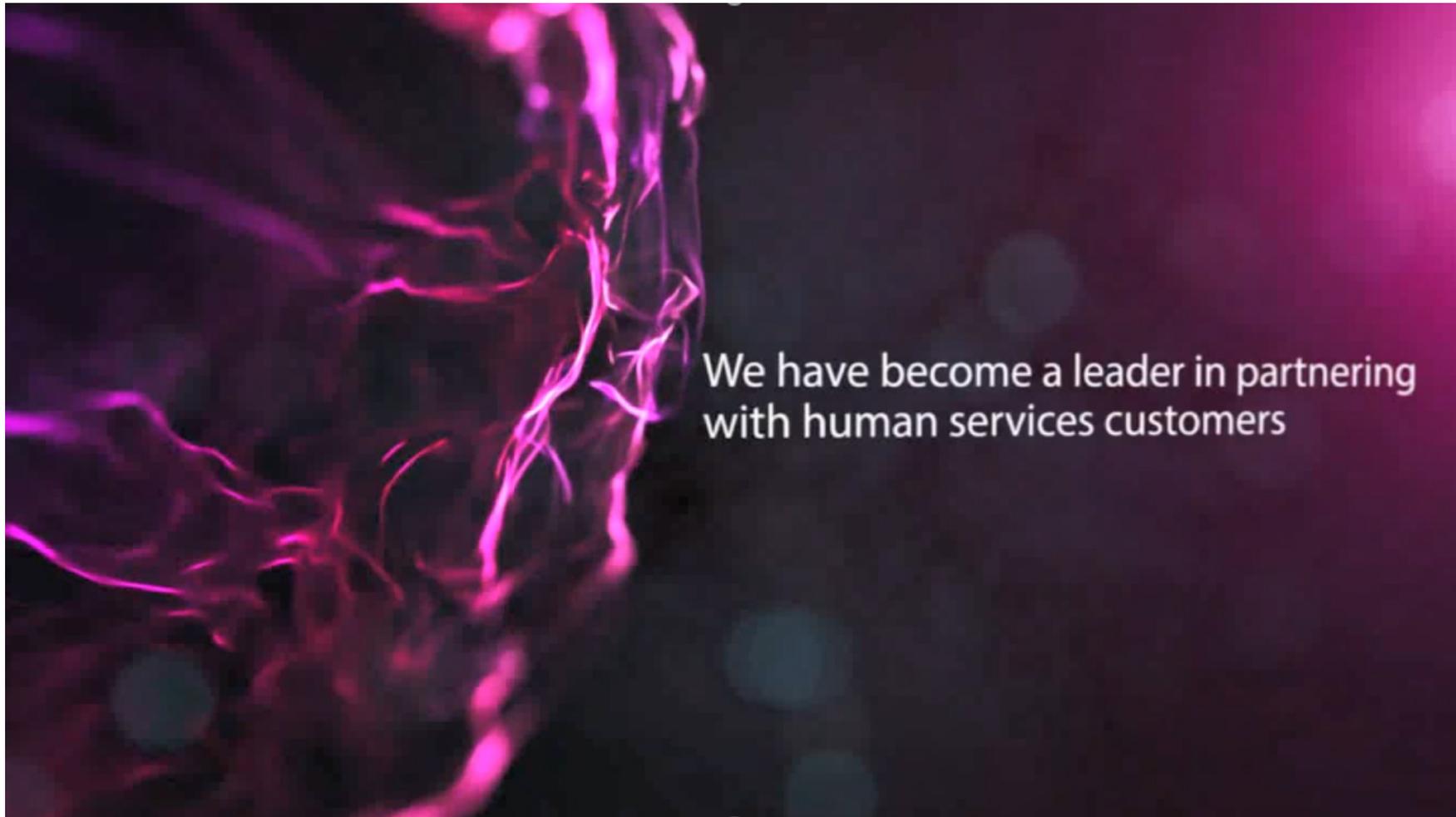
## Core Values

- High Performance
- Collaboration
- Continuous Improvement
- A shared Vision
- Customer-Centered Solutions

## Outcomes Bank

## One DHS Video





<https://youtu.be/AzhWYSYutV4>



# Questions and Answers



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## Stay in touch with us!

### Contact Information:

**Demetricus Johnson**

Program Specialist, Region 04

Office of Child Support Enforcement

Administration for Children and Families, U.S.

Department of Health and Human Services

61 Forsyth Street, Suite 4M60, Atlanta, GA 30303

[Demetricus.johnson@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:Demetricus.johnson@acf.hhs.gov) | 404-562-2871