

# Fanning the Fatherhood **FIRE**:

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



Family-focused  Interconnected  
Resilient  Essential

## **W13** **Know the Flow: Fatherhood Efforts Led by Outstanding Women**

### **PANEL HOST:**

**Kimberly Dent, Executive Director,  
Ohio Commission on Fatherhood,  
Columbus, Ohio**

### **PRESENTERS:**

**Dr. Alicia La Hoz, Founder and CEO,  
Family Bridges,  
Wheaton, Illinois**

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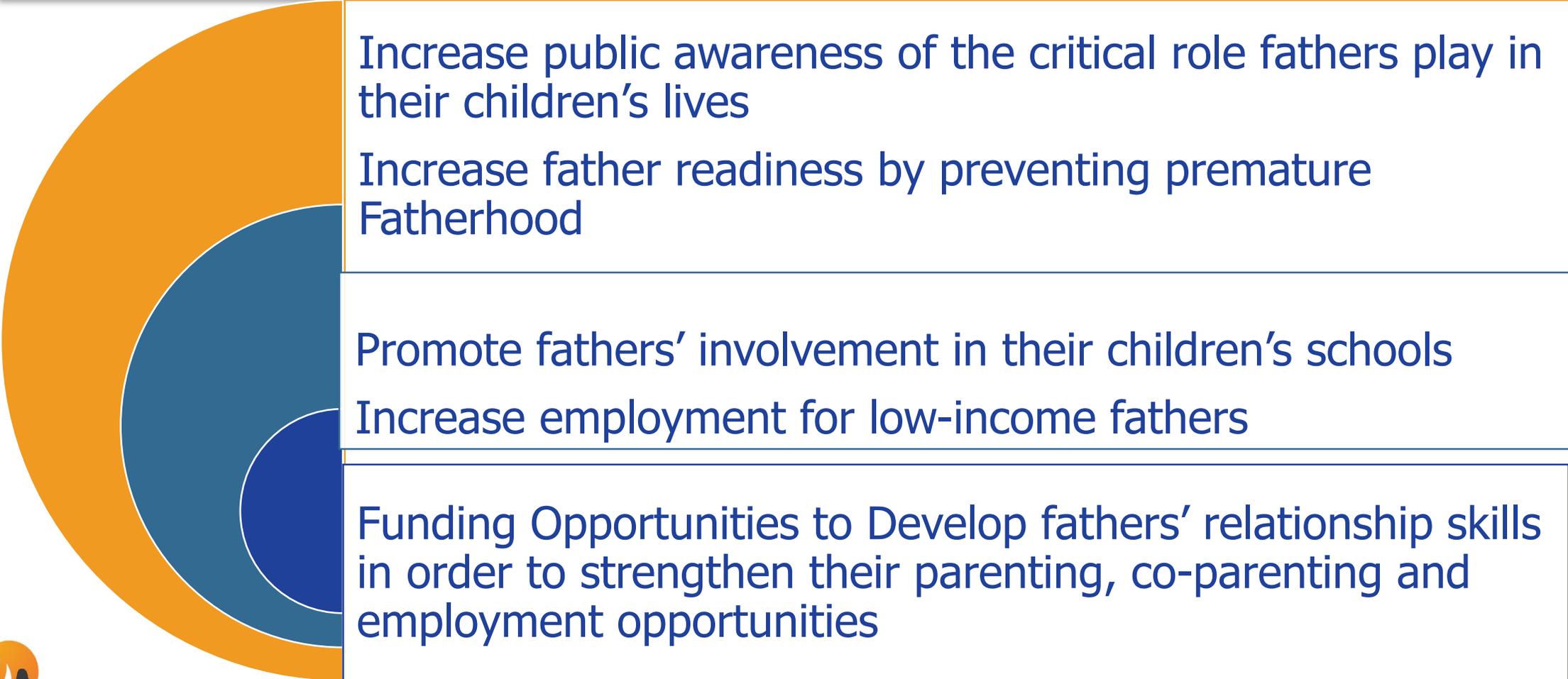
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**Avis Files, Director  
Family Supportive Services,  
Pathways, Inc.,  
Toledo, Ohio**

**Mary Weaver, Executive Director,  
Friends Outside in Los Angeles County,  
Los Angeles, California**



# *Ohio Commission on Fatherhood – In State Law Since 1999! Overall Focus*



Increase public awareness of the critical role fathers play in their children's lives

Increase father readiness by preventing premature Fatherhood

Promote fathers' involvement in their children's schools

Increase employment for low-income fathers

Funding Opportunities to Develop fathers' relationship skills in order to strengthen their parenting, co-parenting and employment opportunities



# *Ohio Commission on Fatherhood – Structure and Services Since 1999*

- Twenty Commissioners (six members of the State Legislative Branch (Bi-Partisan), Designee from the Governor's Office, Representation from the Ohio Supreme Court, Representation from State Departments and five Members of the Public Appointed by the Governor)
- TANF Funded (Current Introduced State Budget = 2.2 million per State Fiscal Year)
- Currently serving 1,200 low-income fathers and families – Seven Non-Profit and Faith-based Regional Community Fatherhood Programs



# *Ohio Commission on Fatherhood – Structure and Services Since 1999*

- Recommend Policy Changes
  - Recently – Child Support Guidelines
  - Ohio Department of Health Home Visiting Rules
- Ohio County Fatherhood Mobilization Project
  - Local Leadership Engagement
  - Sustainability Throughout Ohio with \$10,000 Fatherhood Seed Funding (Train Counties – 28 of 88 Counties Complete)
- Fatherhood Conference Mandated by State Law Every Two Years (Next Summit Scheduled for May, 2020)
  - What's New in the Field?
  - Recommend Policy Changes
  - Celebrate Fathers Served by Funded Programs



# *The Field of Fatherhood Where Have We Been? Where Are We Now?*

## **Fatherhood – Field Studied for Several Decades – Has Evolved**

- Dates back to 50's/60's (Theory and Method)
- Evidence-Based vs. Evidence Informed Curricula and Programming?
- How should the field define target populations and services?
- Parenting skills, Co-Parenting and Healthy Relationship skills, Job Readiness and Job Retention skills
- 2005 Federal Legislation Passed and 2006 first round of grant funding provided by HHS/ACF/Office of Family Assistance.

**OVER THE YEARS, AN INCREASED NUMBER OF WOMEN HAVE JOINED  
THE FIELD OF FATHERHOOD**



# *Women on F.I.R.E Who Know Their F.L.O.W.*

- **Dr. Alicia La Hoz – Family Bridges (Chicago, Illinois)**
  - Leader
  - Creative
  - Passionate
- **Ms. Avis Files – Brothers United (Toledo, Ohio)**
  - Leader
  - Trendsetter
  - Outcome Driven
- **Ms. Mary Weaver – Friends Outside (Los Angeles, California)**
  - Leader
  - Innovative
  - Fearless





# Family Bridges

**Dr. Alicia La Hoz, Founder and CEO**

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## OUR VISION

Strong families for purpose-driven children, leaders of their generation, committed to their communities.

## OUR MISSION

Family Bridges promotes thriving communities by delivering services to strengthen family relationships, while embracing their cultural and spiritual values



# The Process Begins

## People

Invest in our people  
Servant Leadership,  
Shared Meaning,  
Sense of Community

## Products

Multi-Media Resources  
Researched-based  
curricula tailored for  
schools, churches,  
businesses  
Books & Workbooks

## Process

Engage trusted champions  
Consulting model  
Train in programs, outreach,  
retention



# Fatherhood & Leadership

## The 4 's of Leadership



Communication is crucial for any effective interaction.

Clarity is about prioritizing and sound decision making.

Creativity is a skill needed for problem solving.

Culture - Becoming a great team developer requires focusing on serving others instead of being served.



# Pathway, Inc. Brothers United Fatherhood Program

Avis Files, Program Director  
Brothers United



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**Population in Toledo, Ohio is 278,508**

**Single parenting represents a rise in poverty from 13% to 27% (2018)**

**Men are missing in the workforce (only 1 in 4 are employed)**

**Cost of housing and lack of safe affordable housing is a universal problem across all zip codes, age, race and ethnicity, income or family size.**

**Infant Mortality Rate for African American babies - 14.2 per 1,000 live births nearly 3 times as high as the infant mortality rate for white babies at 5.0 per 1,000 live births.**

**The poverty rate for men who live in Toledo, Ohio is 26.5%**

**Ohio has more opioid overdose deaths than any other state. Ohio is at the top of the nation for heroin overdoses at 1,208 deaths -50% more than New York City**

**Toledo's population is less educated than any other major metropolitan area.**

Community Needs Assessment 2017



## **Pathway Inc. ( Designated Community Action Agency for Lucas County)**

### **MISSION:**

To reduce poverty by providing comprehensive services that create pathways to self-sufficiency.

### **VISION:**

To reduce poverty by inspiring hope and delivering services to those who seek self-sufficiency.

### **Pathway Inc. Brothers United One Minute Message**

Pathway Inc. Brothers United Program believes that children are important everyday we support and advocate for Fathers because when children have involved Fathers the whole community thrives.



# Who and How we serve?

## Who We Serve

- Low Income
- Young Fathers (16-19, 20-24, and older fathers)
- Not in school
- Mental Health
- Criminal History
- 10 worst neighborhoods (heavy criminal activity)
- Those who live where infant mortality is high
- Gang Activity

## How we serve

- 24 day program
- 68 hours of workshops on 16-19 year olds and 58 hours on 20-24 year olds
- 15 passenger van for transportation
- Food during cohort
- Tiered incentives
- Subsidized & Unsubsidized Employment
- Forklift Certification
- Safe Serve and Safe Serve Managerial Certifications
- Work Clothing
- Transportation Subsidy (up to 90 days)



# **FRIENDS OUTSIDE IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY (FOLA)**

**Dads Back! Academy**  
**Mary Weaver, Executive Director**



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# FRIENDS OUTSIDE IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY (FOLA)

Founded in 1972, we are the longest-running organization of its kind in the County. Our uniqueness is our sole focus on persons affected by the criminal justice system, directly or indirectly.

- Program model: Co-located services where clients normally gather, e.g., One-Stop Centers, Faith-based centers, Schools, Community Colleges, Correctional Facilities.
- We address the “unintended consequences” of incarceration through specialized services. These consequences include trauma (before, during, after incarceration), financial hardship, loss of family bonds, stigma of the “system,” and emotional stressors.
- We serve inmates, ex-inmates, their children and families throughout the greater LA County area.





# Fatherhood Program

**Our reentry fatherhood services began in 1995** in response to community need as identified by one of our reentry Case Managers who experienced a number of fathers asking for help to find and reunify with their children. The program continued its organic development:

- **National Fatherhood Initiative grant:** Remodeled office to make it “father-friendly” and purchased a curriculum to conduct fatherhood groups.
- **Children’s Institute, International grant:** Began support groups using CII’s legendary Dr. Hershel Swinger’s methods and practices.
- **HHS-ACF Office of Family Assistance, 2012:** Our first federal grant - launched Dads Back! Fatherhood program.
- **HHS-ACF Office of Family Assistance, 2015:** Dads Back! was transformed to an Academy. A cohort model, the Academy is a three-phase program, the second of which is Monday – Friday, 9 AM to 4 PM for one full month.
- **First 5 LA, 2016:** Supplemental funds for OFA grantees to identify policies and procedures that need to be created/modified/thrown out in order to better support reentry fathers who are trying to have a relationship with their children.





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## Stay in touch with us!

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