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Administration for Children and Families
Office of Family Assistance

National
Responsible
Fatherhood Clearinghouse



NRFC Webinar Series

Addressing Domestic Violence: The Role of Fatherhood Programs

April 16, 2014

Webinar Transcript

Moderator:

- Nigel Vann, National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse (NRFC)

Opening Remarks:

- Lisa Washington-Thomas, NRFC COTR, Office of Family Assistance

Presenters:

- Jacquelyn Boggess, Center for Family Policy and Practice, Madison, WI
- Michael Jones, Kanawha Institute for Social Research and Action (KISRA), Dunbar, WV
- ramesh kathanadhi, Men Stopping Violence, Atlanta, GA

Operator: Good day and welcome to the National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse April 2014 webinar. At this time, I would like to turn the conference over to Mr. Nigel Vann. Please go ahead, sir.

Nigel Vann: Thank you very much and welcome everybody. Today's webinar, as you see, is entitled Addressing Domestic Violence: the Role of Fatherhood Programs. We have three great presenters lined up for you today. We have Jacquelyn Boggess from the Center for Family Policy and Practice in Madison, Wisconsin; Michael Jones from the Kanawha Institute for Social Research and Action in Dunbar, West Virginia; and ramesh kathanadhi from Men Stopping Violence in Atlanta, Georgia.

It's actually been three years since we did our last webinar on domestic violence, but that does not mean this topic is not important. We've actually done more webinars on domestic violence than on any other topic. Since we've started in 2007, we've done five webinars on domestic violence. I think, you know, it's a topic that the field may have been slow to address when the work began back in 1980s. I remember a series of common ground conversations sponsored by the Ford Foundation in the mid-1990s where they brought their fatherhood and domestic violence grantees together to explore ways to work in partnership. And one thing I remember from those conversations is that the fatherhood people actually got it a little bit quicker perhaps than some of the domestic violence advocates who really wanted to be thorough and have a lot of early screening for men before they came to a fatherhood program. Practitioners pointed out that would potentially scare a lot of men away from coming to the fatherhood program. You know, we've come a long way since then; you know, there's still room for dialogue on both sides. We have to understand on the fatherhood side what the work of the domestic violence advocates is focused on and where their apprehensions, perhaps, come about from working with fatherhood folk. And we're going to talk some today about ways to continue that conversation, but there's certainly a lot of programs out there now, a lot of fatherhood programs, that are engaged in meaningful partnerships with their domestic violence partners.

You can't help men be good fathers unless you're talking about they interact with the mothers of their children and

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how they can be good role models for their kids. And if we look at the statistics, which we're going to do a little bit through the webinar, but at least one in five women experience domestic violence some time in their lives. An estimated 3.3–10 million children suffer the trauma of witnessing domestic violence each year. But that's really the clarion call for fathers and fatherhood programs to do something about this, and that is happening, but there's still a long way to go. I think that there is a definitely a clear recognition that responsible fatherhood means treating the mother or mothers of your children with respect at all times, maintaining a positive co-parenting relationship, being a positive role model for your kids, and responsibility of a good fatherhood program to point these things out and challenge dads to do better and also to be ready to make referrals if you suspect someone is a victim to a victim program, a victim abuse program, or if you suspect someone of abuse, or someone needs some help with that to an intervention program for abusers. So, to do all that, you got to have a strong partnership with your local domestic violence program; you got to have a well-developed protocol so that everybody is clear on how to handle situations, and your staff have all got to fully understand this.

So today the presenters are going to talk about ways that fatherhood programs and domestic violence partners can work together to prevent domestic violence, and we're going to talk about strategies that fatherhood programs can use to address domestic violence and engage fathers in the promotion of nonviolence. And before we go any further, I am going to turn over this over to Jen McHenry, who is just going to walk you through some of the logistics in terms of how you can ask questions, which we will be answering in a Q&A session at the end of the webinar. Jen?

Jen McHenry: Great. Thank you, Nigel. Thank you all for joining us today. Before we get started, as Nigel said, there's just a couple of housekeeping items I'd like to go over. The first is the ways to ask a question. So, as Nigel pointed out, we're not going to be taking any questions over the telephone or audio, but we will be asking you to submit them throughout the presentations today using the Q&A box. As you see on the right-hand of your screen at the top, little—the letters Q&A. If you add a question in here, it'll be submitted to us here at the back end, and we'll collect them to address at the end of the presentation. And again, please ask your questions throughout as soon as you think of one, please don't be shy. Any questions that are not addressed during the webinar today, we will be collecting and addressing after the fact and posting on our website www.fatherhood.gov. And if you have general comments, many of you have already discovered the chat box, and that is again on the right panel at the bottom of your screen, and a great way to say hello if you have something general you would like to contribute. Again, this is something that everyone can see. We will not necessarily be monitoring this 100 percent for questions, so if you have a question you directly want to ask a presenter, please use the Q&A box for that.

Also, on social media, the Clearinghouse is on Twitter at www.fatherhood.gov, and we'll be tweeting during today's event. If you are also interested in tweeting and following us and joining the conversation both here on the webinar and then out in the Twitter verse, you can use the hashtag #NRFCWebinar, and that's what will be used for talking about today. A copy of today's presentation slides are available for you to download from the pod in the middle-right screen—middle—excuse me—in the middle of the right-hand panel on your screen, then a Q&A box, a place to download—downloading the files, and then the chat box. If you'd like a copy of those sent to you individually, you can email us at info@fatherhood.gov if for some reason you're having technical difficulties downloading from here. And if you have any follow-up questions that you didn't think of during the webinar, general questions about the Clearinghouse, please contact us at info@fatherhood.gov. We'd love to hear from you. And I'll turn it back over to Nigel to get us started. Thanks, Nigel.

Nigel Vann: Great. Thanks, Jen. Yeah, and also, let me just point out that we are recording the webinar, and within a couple weeks of the webinar, you will be able to access the audio for this, the transcript, and also the slides if you haven't got them ahead of time. Now I see that Lisa Washington-Thomas is online, but are you on the phone with us, Lisa?



Lisa Washington-Thomas: I am, Nigel. Since we're in the chat box, some people are having problem with the audio, so if you could repeat the number for everyone that they should call in. Is there a way to let people know what the number that you'd call?

Nigel Vann: Can you address that, Jen?

Jen McHenry: Sure. Today's audio is being broadcast through the computer speakers, so if you are having issues hearing through that, email info.fatherhood.gov, and we have a staff person who can respond to you directly with that number. I'll also put it into the chat box. Again, the top of your screen, up on the top left, there's an Adobe logo and a meeting—there's also what looks like a little speaker—it should be green. I realize if you're hearing this, you're perhaps are not having as many technical difficulties, but there's a button up there that you can turn speakers on and off for the Adobe platform itself.

Nigel Vann: Okay. Yeah, actually, I realize you probably do need to put that in the chat box, Jen, so that people see it because they won't be hearing you.

Jen McHenry: [Laughing]

Nigel Vann: Okay, well, so with that said, and welcome, Lisa. Let me introduce Lisa Washington-Thomas. She's our representative with the Office of the Family Assistance—just to say a few words of introduction.

Lisa Washington-Thomas: Great. Thank you, Nigel, and thank you, Jen. I am so happy that so many people have joined our webinar. Domestic violence is an extremely serious issue, but there are always questions on how fatherhood programs should address this issue. Depending on who you talk to, there are different versions—ways that different programs address it. Whether they continue to provide services to fathers or whether they exclude them from their program, every, each one has significant reasons and good reasons for choosing their approach, but it still shows that we need to have more conversation about the fatherhood programs' role in addressing domestic violence, whether some of our dads are the victims or some of our dads are actually the perpetrator. And how do we help them get some help because what we've learned is just excluding someone doesn't help them from hurting either the family they're in or subsequent families if there's a breakup, but we want our children to be whole and healthy, and we need a whole and healthy parents to improve their—the child's outcome. So we think that this is an extremely important issue, and an issue that we need more dialogue about, and that is one of the reasons were having this webinar today. We are very excited, and I want to thank Jackie Boggess, who has worked with us on helping us to look at some of these issues and maybe not coming up with solutions but looking at some of the problems that there are in some of the—where we hadn't—issues that we hadn't necessarily focused on previously. We also will have ramesh on to provide information and Mike Jones, who I believe is one of our responsible fatherhood grantee—grantees from the KISRA program, and so they all have very useful information for you, and I'm looking forward to hearing more of what they have to say. So thank you, Nigel, and thank you everyone who is presenting, who orchestrated the webinar, and who are listening now. Please give us your comments. Thank you.

Nigel Vann: Thanks a lot, Lisa. Okay. So I am just going to take a few minutes just to give you a quick overview of the National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse, so if we can go to the next slide, Jen. And what you see there is a recent team picture of the Clearinghouse team. So we are funded through the Office of Family Assistance, and our basic mission is to provide resources for fathers and practitioners. Here [unintelligible] the screen, but if you look at the recent picture was taken at a recent team meeting in March, and Jen McHenry, whose lovey voice you heard a little while ago, is the second from left to the back there. Second from right of the back is Matt Crews, who usually does this, but he's actually on a plane right now, so Jen is stepping in for him. And we do thank Jen for that. And I just lost my picture, but I think about two over from Matt in the right row, there is a very attractive lady in a red top, and that is Lisa Washington-Thomas, our fearless leader. And at the front, you'll

see Kenny Braswell and Patrick Patterson, who are the Director and Manager of the Fatherhood Clearinghouse, and I'm over on the right-hand corner. So I have now lost my screen unfortunately, so I can't see the slides. So I'll say just say very quickly that—if you can skip through the slides for everybody else to see, Jen—you know, the Clearinghouse provides a range of resources targeted for fathers themselves, for practitioners, for other interested folk.

One thing that I'm particularly proud of is that we have a toolkit for practitioners, which is available at the website at www.fatherhood.gov/toolkit, and we're actually currently creating some new sections for that which will be available starting in June, and one of those deals with domestic violence. So with that said, I am going to move over and introduce our first speaker, Jacquelyn Boggess, who is co-director for the Center of Family Policy and Practice, as I said. Jackie's been with the Center since its inception in 1995, and I think I first met her around that time. She's been doing a lot of work since then in various areas impacting fatherhood work and domestic violence work. Her work as a policy analyst looks that interrelation among the welfare system, family law courts, and the child support system, with a focus on how social welfare policy and practice effects low-income fathers, mothers, and children. She has particular interest in the impact of nonresident father involvement on mothers and children, and her work in this regard has resulted in connections and collaborations with domestic violence organizations and progressive advocacy groups working on poverty reduction, violence prevention, and economic justice for parents and children. She's a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, law school and, as Lisa said in her introduction, is certainly one of the leaders in this work, has done a lot to help fatherhood programs and the domestic violence programs partner together. So with that, let me introduce and invite some wise words from Jackie Boggess. Jackie?

Jacquelyn Boggess: Thank you, Nigel. I'm going to definitely try to do that wise words thing. So I am also going to—if you could advance to my first slide, please. I'm also going to pick up on something you talked about, Nigel, those meetings in 1995. There was something very important you said. You said that at those meetings, domestic violence advocates were a little concerned about this work, about fatherhood programs in general, and them getting service—them getting funding, and them being in existence. They were a little bit nervous, and then fatherhood service providers were a little nervous about what we were asking of them. And as you said, worried about would it make people feel like they shouldn't come in because fatherhood programs, particularly at that time, were very much—there were a lot of them that were voluntary, and fatherhood service providers were concerned that men would turn away because of the domestic violence questions and conversation—maybe just conversation. And—but you said that one—two of the things that we came to understand that must happen was partnership between these two groups and also protocols within the fatherhood programs. You can see there on the slide what we do, and how we came to this work. We were there doing what my bio says in the early days, and it—and what came to me is how important domestic violence was going to be in this work as it moved forward. You can go to the next slide, please.

So what we realized—I'm going to keep sort of pulling back to those meetings because what we realized was everybody knew as we were sitting in those rooms that domestic violence is an important thing to talk about. Both Nigel and Lisa just told us, reminded us, how important that is, and Nigel gave us the statistics. I think—my memory and subsequent conversations helped me to understand that those providers are worried about that protocol thing sort of in the way that Nigel was talking about, and advocates were worried about the partnership. So we need partnership and protocol, but then that's where the—some of the concerns came in. The reason we were suggesting it—recommending it for fatherhood service providers—the reason we thought it was a good idea is because service providers had programs and programming that naturally lent themselves to talking about domestic violence—the peer support groups. And peer support groups and fatherhood programs are one of the most successful, helpful, useful portions of the program, and we thought that was an automatic place to concentrate on both prevention and intervention with regard to domestic violence. You can move to the next slide, please.

So, as I said, the thing that advocates were worried about was the partnership. And one of the reasons is if you think about the way domestic violence advocacy, the work, and sort of the, the movement in the United States, the way it came about, women had to fight very hard to get people to recognize that there was—that violence was happening to wives, to girlfriends, to children, to men, to all the people that it's happening to in families. Specifically and particularly, domestic violence advocates were talking about women and families and how domestic violence was impacting them. And so to suggest to them that they should partner with a group of men who, you know, they might ask the question of fatherhood service providers or us in meetings, they would ask questions, "What is the issue? How do you guys talk about domestic violence, and what's going on? And how many incidents do you see?" And the answers, as Nigel said, was that, you know, we hadn't sort of institutionalized it into fatherhood programs, and so there wasn't a good answer to respond to all those questions, and so advocates were nervous.

And one of the things in my work, over the many years that I've been doing it, is if we, if we talk to women and communities, particularly women in low-income communities, which I did—which our organization did about five or six years ago—what we recognized—what we realized was that maybe advocates might be a little bit concerned about what this is going to look like and rightly so. How are we going to do it? What is it going to look like? But we found is that women definitely wanted it to happen. They were—they want—sometimes, in some cases, well, women want to make sure that men can father their children. They want to—sometimes they want to make sure they can still stay with, live with, remain married to the father of their children, regardless of previous violence—sometimes. Sometimes though there's other issues, and when we talk to them, they just talk to us about how, for their community as a whole, for their families in general, for their children in particular, it was very important to them that men got help and services and what they needed around issues of employment and social welfare services and those kind of things. They thought it was very important, and they thought of fatherhood programs, as we described what they do—they thought that that would be a great place for that to happen. You can move to the next slide.

So I'll go back one more time to those early fatherhood conversations. I do remember fatherhood service providers being concerned about protocol—about men being turned away or protocol or things like that, but the other thing that I remember specifically was that many fatherhood service providers told me that they didn't want to make it worse. If I don't know the dynamics or the dimensions of domestic violence, I don't know what I'm doing. And domestic violence advocates, I think, would tell you that if you don't know or understand what you're doing, it could be made worse. Something that seems like they're helping might make things worse. And fatherhood service providers at the time told me that they were concerned. They didn't want to do things that made it worse, and so they have—what we recognized in the late 90s, the early part of this decade, was that what we have to figure out is what does that look like? And I know that you all—I know that sounds familiar because that's what we're still doing. I notice that Nigel was very careful to say that I may not have—we don't have all the answers—we don't have many of the answers, but this is one of those important times where it's really important to know what the questions are.

And so that is what does fatherhood programs do to address domestic violence in general? And then what do they do, which always was particularly urgent for me, what do they do in specific disclosures? Lisa was talking before about do you turn them away from the program or do you take them in? And that's one of those places where that makes partnerships with domestic violence advocates a little more uncomfortable because if fatherhood service providers say, "Well, we want to take—we want to keep them in the program." That made advocates a little more nervous, and understandably so, again because they see what domestic violence does to the people that they serve, and they're wondering how, you know, the regular way of treating—dealing with someone who has perpetrated violence is to ask for accountability and recompense and just standing up to what one has done, and it feels like sometimes the services that were included in fatherhood programs were not asking for that accountability and were in fact just—I don't know; I can't think of the right word—coddling, I guess, would be a word. And that we all know, those of us who know anything about fatherhood programs,

know that's not what fatherhood programs do, but it's understandable that advocates didn't know because advocates didn't know very much about fatherhood programs at the time. That is changing. I think Lisa said this too. That is changing. I mean, I can see it. I can always feel it changing. It's in the air. I talk to advocates, and I talk to fatherhood service providers, you know, once a week, and I can feel the change in the air. Everybody is starting to understand. And one of the reasons is because DV advocates want to be able to respond to women who say, "He needs something. He needs some help." And so that partnership is one of the things, one of the ways, that advocates, just for their own purposes, one of the ways that they can respond is to provide a referral to a fatherhood program in town for the woman who comes to their facility or shelter or agency. You can move to the next slide.

And so it's really important that, if we're going to decide that the way to do this is partnership, that is to say advocates helping fatherhood service providers understand what to do when in specific disclosures and in general, and fatherhood service providers helping advocates understand about the community, about with the men are going through, it's that overlap of it's all one community, that everyone is dealing with the issues that you see here on your screen. And so how do they work together? You can move to the next.

So keys to working together—and those of you who have done it, who have tried to do it, who have been successful, who have met with challenges know that, you know, working together is important. Readiness, understanding what you're going into, is a big part of it, and that means that fatherhood programs have to understand about that accountability that I was talking about earlier, that advocates are asking for accountability, and the reason that they need accountability is because the work that they do is safety for victims of domestic violence. Again, and I just want to put this in too that it's really important to remember that advocates work with victims of domestic violence. There you go—period. So they know domestic violence has occurred. Fatherhood service providers work with men, fathers, not necessarily perpetrators of domestic violence, and that was also one of the imbalances in that coming together of a partnership. You know, if it's one side was working with all the victims and the other were working with all the perpetrators, that might work better because we could all come to some foundational agreements, but actually, fatherhood service providers work with men, some of whom have used violence in their relationship. Others of whom, as Lisa said earlier, have been victims of violence. Many of whom who have been victims of community violence and other kinds of violence, also domestic violence, and so, you know, it's that—it's that imbalance so that—separating out domestic violence is an important issue here. And then advocates have to understand about compassionate accountability for men and families. You can move to the next slide for me.

There are some challenges. How do you collaborate? What do you do? What are those protocols look like that Nigel is talking about? That mutual understanding that I talked about earlier is going to be the key. It doesn't seem like it, but that mutual understanding is going to be the key to the how-to of collaboration. What are we doing? What are we doing together as opposed to this is my job and this is your job and how—that's still true, and people still have their foundational jobs, but how do we support the entire community together? All of these people that we are both working with, how do we get families and children safe and secure? There's trepidation, of course, and then there are practical questions as some of the very practical questions come into those protocols and screening tools. We think that those should be simple, and we get copies of them in the mail. Somebody's using this one is and somebody else is using that one. As Lisa said earlier, everybody's got their own sort of deal. We do it like this, and we do it like that. Those practical questions, "How are we going to do it?" are very important; however, I will promise you that that mutual understanding that I talked about earlier is going to be much more important than the exact specifics of your screening tools and your protocols. Do you both understand what the work is? Do the advocates understand what the men are dealing with? Do the men—do the fatherhood service providers understand what domestic violence is and how it's impacting children and their families? Next slide, please.

Oh, wow! I'm at the end, and that's good, I went under time. So we have been doing that work. I mean, I may sound like I have—like I have these conversations a lot, and if I do, it's because I have. And so we have created a collaboration and partnership guidebook, and that guidebook helps agencies, fatherhood service providers, DV advocates, child welfare organizations—anybody who wants to get in and do this work, and the work is not only economic security and employment for men or domestic violence prevention, the work is communities and children and getting the communities up and running. And so anybody who wants to jump in at any point to do this work can use the guidebook and get there other partners, which we always stress that the other partners not just the "opposite of you." That is to say for fatherhood service providers, DV advocates, and for advocates, fatherhood service providers, but the—your other partners are important too—your child welfare agencies, your local—even maybe food bank, who knows? This guidebook will help you figure out exactly for your community and your situation, who needs to be your partners in doing this work? And then that Safety and Services: Women of color speak about their communities is the result of our taking to victims. Most of the victims and survivors that we've talked to were women of color, probably about 85 percent African-American, 22—I can't subtract—15 percent Latina survivors, and we talk to them about what they thought about services for men and programming like the fatherhood programming that many of you do.

I'm at the end, and I think I'm at the end of my 15 minutes, so I'm going to turn it over to the next person.

Nigel Vann: You were spot on, Jackie. That was great. Fifteen minutes exactly, I believe, if I timed it right, as well. Yeah, thank you. And some great points. You know, I've learned a lot from Jackie over the years about this work. And as we've been working on the domestic violence section of the online toolkit that I mentioned, one of the things that I really picked up was that if a fatherhood program really wants to start a conversation with domestic violence partners, and that means, you know, advocates for victims as well as intervention programs for abusers that you need to go on with telling the story about what you do and how it's going to help them, the other organization. And the piece that is still on the screen there that Jackie's organization put together on the words of the women speaking, you know, it's like—I think, ideally, if you can get some women from the community to come with you and talk to potential domestic violence partners about the value that they see in the work that you do, but some of these materials that Jackie has available can help spark that conversation if you don't have live women to go and have the conversation for you, so.

So let me move to introduce our next presenter, who is Rem—oh, that's Mike Jones. We're actually going to ramesh's slides now, I think, if we can, Jen. Our next presenter is ramesh kathanadhi, who is the director of Community Engagement with Men Stopping Violence in Atlanta, Georgia. I only met ramesh a couple of weeks ago, but I've been very impressed by the vision that he brings to this work. And he's got some very good stuff that's he's about to share with us. He's a facilitator of Men Stopping Violence's men education program and violence intervention programs. He also works closely with young and adult men through their internship program. He previously worked at transforming communities on a California-wide demonstration project that aimed to prevent teen dating and domestic violence. He came to the work of ending male violence against women through supportive and critical—this is ramesh's words—through supportive and critical encouragement from the women's resource center at his college campus, from South Asian domestic violence advocates, from agricultural labors in India, and innumerable women in his own life. So he's thought about this a lot. He's also worked as a community empowerment program coordinator in Queens and Brooklyn when he was working at CONNECT, New York City, and he has degrees from the University of California, Berkeley, and Harvard Law School. So, ramesh, tell us what you do and join in the conversation here.

ramesh kathanadhi: Thanks, Nigel. I'm always super embarrassed when somebody reads an introduction for me, but I sort of imagine my mother beaming with pride. So I appreciate that. So, hello everyone, my name is ramesh. I work at Men Stopping Violence, and our mission is to provide the knowledge and tools required to mobilize men to prevent violence against women and girls. And I think what Jackie said about fatherhood programs being a place that are engaging men were broadly in the community and specifically, fathers, is

wonderful because if we are going to end the problem of domestic violence, we can't simply keep working with men who are abusive. We need to work with all men in our community. So over the last 30 years, we've learned a lot about intervening in and preventing men's violence against women, and we do that work in a number of ways. Nigel mentioned some of those things around our internship program. We have a classroom. We do trainings and workshops a little bit online and a lot in person. And all of that stuff has really taught us a lot of lessons. But today, I want to focus on—I want to focus on our perspective of why this violence happens, and what men can do about it. I'm going to use stories from my classroom and from a program that we have called the Because We Have Daughters. Now one way to think about classroom is, you know, as a place to send those guys, you know, the bad ones that do all that bad stuff. But at Men Stopping Violence, we really see it as a place for all men to acknowledge abusive behavior and to practice holding ourselves and others to account for that behavior. It's a piece of male culture that we don't get to practice very much, and it's something that we think can translate out of the classroom and into other groups of men, perhaps, even in fatherhood programs. So the other place that I want to talk about a little bit about today is a program that we have that's called Because We Have Daughters, and it's really a way to engage dads and father figures around the care and concern that they have for a specific girl in their life and transform that into a generalized care and concern for women and girls in their community because, ultimately, that's will make their daughter or granddaughter or niece safer.

So how do we actually do this work? Over the many years that we've been doing it, there are some core operating principles that we started. And I love that Jackie just did a great job of illustrating the first lesson that women's voices and experiences must be central to our work with men. She really showed the benefits of working closely with women's advocates but also really listening to women directly in families and communities about what they want. And what they want isn't that simple. Right? Like they want often to negotiate whatever relationship that they have with an abusive partner, whether it's just generally in the community, as a co-parent, or maybe even continue the relationship, but they want that violence to end. And that's not an easy thing for us to do. But today, I'm going to focus in on something else, which is our principle that we are the work. Very—it's really at the center of what we do in terms of how—excuse me—it's really at the center of what we do in terms of how we engage men. And its conveniently the title of a book recently published by one of our founders, Dick Bathrick, which tells sort of—tells the history and the stories of how we came to realize each of these principles. So let's get to it.

Let's take a look at how we typically talk about domestic violence in our communities. Right? Typical dialogues—one typical dialogue is that domestic violence happens because that there are some men that are bad guys, that are monsters, and that they just really can't control themselves. When we have this conversation, we're putting the onus on women by saying, essentially, it's your job to avoid the bad guys, and the message that we give to men is either don't be a bad guy or don't be in a relationship with one of those guys. Now, another conversation that we have about domestic violence is typically to talk about it and ask the question of what did she do to prevent the violence? Now, this says very much, to me, like suggesting that a victim of police brutality could have avoided the whole situation if she or he just acted right. That conversation takes the focus off the abusive behavior and the person in control of that behavior. And underlying both of these conversations is an assumption that domestic violence is not a community problem, it's not a problem bothering our society, but a problem of individuals. Right? Because if it's an individual problem, then I don't have to look at broader society. Certainly, I don't have to look at myself, and I don't really have to investigate my community. It's just that person's problem, either the person that's being victimized or the person that's doing the behavior. And if is a problem of individuals, then me as a man in the community, I'm certainly not responsible for other men's behavior. Well, another underlying assumption is that domestic violence is really not that big a deal, and one way that we combat that is through the statistics like one in five women will experience an attempted or completed rape by the time she completes college, and most likely, it will be by a man that she already knows. Now, that figure scares the living daylights out of me because I have a niece that's six months old, and by the time she enters college, I don't want that to be the reality that she lives in. So if we're going to do that work, we

really, really have to think more broadly than about intervening specifically with individual men, which goes to our understanding of this problem as a problem for community accountability.

Actually, I want to take a step back. So one thing I want to say is that it's sort of hard for us to imagine what it means—sort of hard for men I should say—to imagine what it means to live life as a girl or a woman in our communities. We think of violence typically as happening one incident at a time rather than as a problem of an inescapable and unsafe environment. So for myself, I never took street harassment that seriously. I mean, I used to see it as a disgusting but generally harmless form of teasing, but when I really started listening to women and girls' experiences of harassment, and this is throughout the course of my listening, the stories included things like being followed in cars by men or by groups of men, threats of rape, grabbing and touching, homophobic insults, men exposing themselves, and much more. I mean, what would it be like to live with that kind of constant threat behind seemingly benign comments like "Smile," or "Hey, baby"? For girls on the street, for girls—excuse me—harassment on the street begins early, some in elementary school and for many, when they enter into puberty. And since this is something that I didn't see as a big deal, I never addressed it with other men in my life. It actually took me until my mid-30s to start talking about it. So, when we say that domestic violence is not a problem of individual pathology or criminology, that it's a problem of community accountability, what we're saying is that even if every single man that was using violence in his relationships entered into a classroom for family violence intervention program, this problem wouldn't stop because once he leaves the classroom, he re-enters the community, and what the community says and does is really important. So we got some changes that we think are really, really important to make. The first is we got to change the way the community talks about this. When we change the question of—we change the community's first response from why does she stay or what does she do into why does that guy abuse, we can actually make a really, really important impact.

So let me tell you a story about Billy. Billy is an older, white male who in the course of his classwork began to acknowledge his very severe physical beatings of his partner and his daughters. He reported in class that for years, his religious community put pressure on his partner to stay in the marriage, and often that community asked her what she and the daughters had done to provoke him. In those years, he was never once approached about his violence and was often upheld as a pillar in the community. It really struck me listening in listening to Billy's story that Billy used the community's response to further isolate and control his family. So it really matters what we, more broadly in the community of men, what question we start with. Now, this is of course is really helpful. It is really helpful to know that our community response matters, but it's also really important to shift the question from that guy to ourselves as well because I was really clear—I am not like Billy at all. I have never used physical violence to intimidate someone into doing what I wanted. Well, that's what I thought until I was sitting in another class listening to a man named Jimmy. Jimmy is an immigrant man, a little younger than myself, who described the incident that got him arrested. He was arguing with his partner in the car. When she wouldn't agree with them, he started driving recklessly and crashed the vehicle, almost killing his son and his partner. I really saw myself in this story. I remembered moments when I accelerated the car, wove into and out of traffic, and even a time when I got a speeding ticket for driving recklessly while it was raining and blaming my partner at the time for making me drive recklessly. It clicked for me. I had to become more aware of my own behavior as a part of my work to end men's violence against women.

And another question that still needs to be met is moving beyond just asking why individual men do it to asking the question why men as a group, as a larger community, use so much disrespect and abuse with women. Now, it's useful to have an answer about why individual men do it, and at Men Stopping Violence, we say it's because he chooses to, he can, and it works. So he chooses to. For those of you who have ever had a bad boss at work, you probably remember unfair accusations, taking the blame for mistakes, and being treated poorly both publicly and privately, and noticing that the same boss was incredibly capable of being nice no matter how angry he or she was with the higher-ups. The same principle applies with men who use violence in their relationships. They very rarely will treat their best friend or a police officer the way that they would their partner no matter how angry, upset, or stressed they are. He's making a choice. I was making choices.

Now, he can. Billy's story, I think, makes this point about how typically our communities don't hold us to account for the violence that we use, but also, very few people ever come into the classroom. Maybe 50 people a year come into Men Stopping Violence's classroom, so there are very few spaces that are—where men are actually required to be honest about our abuse. And most of us get away with abusive behavior left and right.

Now, it works. This is really an important piece about violence that I think often we skip over, which is that we see violence as a dysfunctional thing, perhaps, as growing up, etc., but my friend, Chuck Derry, who works with men in Minnesota, asked the question to a class of men that were there to address their abusive behavior, "What do you get out of your abuse?" Now, for the first five minutes, nobody said anything. Right? They were very reluctant to admit what they actually received or what they got out of abuse, but in the next 50 minutes, the men talked nonstop about the things that they got when they used abuse. Often, these things are like, "I get food on the table." "The kids side with me." "She does whatever I tell her." "She's afraid to do anything." "I know what's happening with the finances. ..." So it's a tactical use of violence, and it's important for us to recognize that violent works, and it's functional. And it's important to undo that. Well, the larger question about why men in a group do it is, I think is an entire workshop on its own, but suffices to say—aha, excuse me, I get really excited and talk too fast, please let me know if I'm going too quickly—but suffices to say that we see male socialization as one of the problems that we really need to attend to. We learn a lot about manhood, women, and sex from other men in our communities, and fatherhood programs can be really wonderful places to have healthier conversations about each of those things. And also, all of these men are likely parenting, and so their communicating these messages to their daughters and sons. So it's a great opportunity to sort of access men. Now, the other piece is that, as a group, we get this stuff from all levels of our society. It's not just coming from our peers, but it's also from our institutions, community, and larger institutions out there as well.

So what do we do about it? Right? If it's true that very few men come into these intervention classes, where do men gather to talk real talk, to really look at how they grew up, what it means to be a man, and how to relate with children and women in their lives. Well, fatherhood programs to me are a fantastic place where men are having these conversations in genuine ways. So it's pretty great to think about us working more closely together, and I think that what the goal of our work can be is not just about screening and identifying men who batter but also about really moving the needle towards a healthier masculinity, one that will really help our families and our communities by moving the definition of fatherhood from the domineering patriarch that's using a lot of control to a connected and concerned ally. So it's a great opportunity, and I really expect to help part of the story—to help part of this work. And I've got a ton of stories that I'm going to try to condense, and hopefully, this will help move forward what we think about in terms of what fatherhood programs can do.

So these stories come from our classroom, and overall, I hope that the stories make the points on the screen that kids can be a real strong motivator for change, that we really need to revisit the lessons that we got from our male elders, and that men connecting as fathers can be a really positive motivator, both in hearing about ourselves and in supporting other men to overcome their abusive behavior. Alright. So the first story that I wanted to share is that—is Neil's. So when Neil started the class, he started, and he just couldn't understand what the big deal was when he yelled at, grabbed, and threatened his adolescence son. As his son's coach and father, he felt obligated to teach him to be a man, to be strong, to perform with excellence on the field, and he wouldn't believe that his son was actually scared of him. James, an older man in the same class—was a childhood pitcher. He was a really good one, and he grew up in a time when a man could brutalize his children or his partner; the community could know all about it but would remain absolutely silent. James began to share stories about how his father beat him mercilessly as a way to punish him for failures on the field, and how his father brutalized his mother. James remembered that as a child, he wished someone, anyone would stop his father from being abusive. Hearing James' story about his dad helped Neil connect with his behavior. And once he became willing to acknowledge his son's fear, he became more able to validate his ex-wife's experiences and how his yelling and criticism affected his children. James, who was also working on his own abusive behavior,

invited his sons into the classroom. He wanted to publicly acknowledge to them and claim responsibility for his abusive behavior. Something I think he did because he really wished that his father would have done it in his lifetime. That decision ultimately had a phenomenal impact on the class. All the men that were fathers had a renewed motivation to really rethink about how they were walking through the men—or walking through the world as a man and as a father.

Finally, I want to give the story of David. David is a man in his early 40s who wasn't feeling open to men in the classroom. He kept his distance. He gave feedback in class, but his classmates really didn't take his feedback seriously because they didn't see him as authentic. Midway through the class, David decided to drop his defenses. He called the men to wish them a happy Father's Day, and that changed everything. Honoring their role as a parent opened up space for David to be genuine with them and for them to be genuine with him. It actually made more room for accountability and connection.

So this is some of the stories from our classroom, and I want to share a story from Because We Have Daughters. And Because We Have Daughters is actually a place where men and daughters come together, play games, do activities, and have facilitated discussions in between, and the dads actually get to sit together both to prepare for the activities and to process them afterwards. For those of you that are interested, you can see a video of it on our website. So, first of all, little girls and their dads. Right? What a great combination. Everybody loves that idea, but the real work is in getting dads to talk to each other, to learn about the violence that women and girls navigate, and to change their notion of protection from controlling their daughters towards being an ally. And, you know, I think one of the things that I find really amazing is that when men get together as fathers and talk about this whole "how do I protect my daughter" piece, that they really start to assess the lessons that they have learned around manhood. And that one of those lessons is to pretend like we have it all figured out and to stuff our emotions in our pocket. But Because We Have Daughters is a program that that really gives a chance for them to learn from each other, to learn from their daughters, and to really get more connected, one of the principles that we had in Because We Have Daughters is listening. And I know it seems kind of like a silly principle. Like, listening, of course that's a great practice—yeah, we should all have it, but if we could actually take a moment to imagine what our communities would look like, what our personal lives would have been like, if the adult men in our lives, if the young men in our lives, all practiced listening to women, hearing their experiences, and even when they disagreed, not interrupting them, and truly validating the experiences that women bring to the table, I think that we might be living in an incredibly different world.

So I think that fatherhood programs can be a really cool place to deepen empathy, strengthen the self-reflection that is required of men if we're going to help prevent violence, and also a place to get more generally connected to men. The challenge though is that we really have a tough time bringing men together. Men don't like to talk about violence against women. They don't like to talk about the violence they use, and we don't have really good public conversations about this stuff. But we have to have better conversations if we're really going to change the way that things work.

So I wanted to kind of maybe propose an inspiration. I learned a little bit about Mother's Day, and one of the things that I learned about Mother's Day was that back in 1870, Julia Ward Howe, the author of the Battle Hymn Republic, wrote an open declaration hoping to gather women together to call for an end to all wars, to establishing a Mother's Day for peace. And that one of the people that was inspired by Julia Ward Howe, Anna Jarvis, went on to organize mothers on both sides of the Civil War for peace and reconciliation. I just thought, "That's pretty awesome." I mean, I like giving my mom flowers on Mother's Day, but what else would it mean for me to recommit to peace building and to supporting the work of women towards peace building on that day? And then I thought, "What would it be like if fatherhood could take that same kind of stance that we would put our efforts into creating a fatherhood that stood behind both socially and politically the idea of making better, healthier, safer communities for all of us. Right? To really shift fatherhood from that idea of who stands behind me and obeys what I say to who do I stand with and how do I stand with them? I think that the work really

requires of all of us, as fathers, uncles, granddads, all men in our communities that we genuinely stand in front of the mirror honestly, that we recognize and acknowledge our own abusive behaviors, so that when we're engaging with other men, it's not that guy out there, but how we can end our abusive behavior. That we stand with women and girls, so that our alliance actually makes a lot of sense for what women wanting in the community, and that we stand with each other.

So that's our principal—we are the work, and I hope that helps explain how fatherhood programs can be connected with each other as well as with domestic violence programs and also with intervention programs.

Nigel Vann: Thanks very much, ramesh, and you'll see on his final screen there, that there is various contact info. You can like them on Facebook, and please follow up and get more info. That was—you know, I think one of the key things I took away from your remarks, ramesh, was the fact that we really have to look at ourselves. Ted Strader actually made a similar point on our last webinar where we were talking about working with dads around substance abuse problems, but, you know, in general, as staff of fatherhood programs, as individual fathers, as individuals, we just need to look at what we're doing ourselves before we can even think about helping other people do these things. Right?

So for our final presenter, Michael Jones, program manager with the Kanawha Institute for Social Research and Action, otherwise known as KISRA. As Lisa said, they're currently a fatherhood grantee, and certainly a great example of folk in the trenches doing this work. Mike and his team have really been doing some good things, though, over the last eight years. Mike has been with KISRA for eight years. He's been employed in the area of social and behavioral services since 1993—has worked with diverse populations around issues such as behavioral disorders, alcohol and substance abuse, profound and chronic mental illness, foster care. Mike is socio- pastor, worship leader, and men's ministry leader and founder at the Ferguson Memorial Baptist Church. He's a certified fatherhood, domestic violence, and PREP Within My Reach instructor, and he's the proud father of two gifted daughters, and a neophyte in the grandfathers' club. I'll have to talk about that one later, Mike. Okay. Tell us all now—actually, before we go any further, Mike had a power failure. Is your power back on, Mike?

Michael Jones: No, it is not.

Nigel Vann: Okay. So this is where we run into some of the limitations of our wonderful, modern media. So Mike can't see his screen at the moment, and so what we're going to do, Jen is going to flip through the slides, and I'll just sort of remind you what the screens are that you need me to, Mike. So, I think essentially, you know, you can just chime in on this conversation and tell us about the work that you do there in the community in West Virginia. And your first slide is where you're talking about how you screen in terms of where you get your referrals from, you know, and the second slide is the—is your little screening card that you use.

Michael Jones: The reality check cards.

Nigel Vann: Yeah.

Michael Jones: Okay. Thank you for allowing us to be a part of this conversation, and I really want to applaud ramesh and Jackie for—Jacquelyn for the excellent presentation and the information that was given. And it's truly a lot of what we're seeing in our program here, the Kanawha Institute for Social Research and Action in Dunbar, West Virginia. Just a little dynamic of the area that we're in—we're in Appalachian region. The state of West Virginia has about 1.3 million people in the total population, which is smaller than a lot of the cities which a lot of you live in. And of that population, it was reported from the last report from the West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence that there were a reported 18,000 cases of domestic violence. Those are the ones that were just—that was reported. We're in an area, which is kind of bad to say that, you would look at and would kind of

support some of the domestic violence abuse. And anyone who knows anything about the Appalachian culture, it's a pretty rugged area, and there's a lot of fighting, a lot of drinking, and a lot of arguing between mates. And when we approach this thing about partnering and deciding against domestic violence, it was—it was kind of tough at first because as Jackie spoke about and historically, it will appear that fatherhood programs and domestic violence programs were at the surface diametrically opposed to each other. And then we had to have the conversation, and we're still having a conversation because the work on this particular issue is still evolving, and it's unfolding. And—but I can say just also like Ramesh, that it is a very exciting work.

My personal interest towards this work was that I was also impacted by domestic violence as a child. My father was an alcoholic, and he abused my mother. And when the opportunity came for us to engage in this work, I jumped in it with full feet, heart, mind, and soul because of my personal experience and I wanted to see things different in the community. I wanted to do different with my daughters and with my mates, and I can honestly say that I think some of the effects of my experience has caused me to be a great father to my wonderful daughters, who are beautiful and smart.

We do a screening process. We receive our referrals from the Family Court, day report centers, mental hygiene agencies, from family members, even from self-reports and self-referrals, and other partnering agencies. And we're able to get these referrals because we had to go into the different areas, and we had to begin this conversation about this very sensitive yet tough issue about domestic violence and also to take our position because when we started this program, there were a lot of men's groups that were not necessarily producing good messages towards this issue, and as a matter of fact, I would even say that there were a lot of selfish messages, men's rights groups. And even, it left a very poor taste in the Family Court system around the state of West Virginia, so when we came along, we had to have a dialogue with the court system. We had to have the dialogue with the coalition groups around the states, and we're still having dialogues with these entities. Also, we had to have a dialogue with the actual domestic violence service providers around the state also, and that was our last great crossing.

So we talked together, we met, we came—we put our minds together to come up with some instruments that we would believe that would help our population, and one of the things that came out of this forging was this reality check card. I'm on that screen now. And this tool is what we found to be a very, very effective tool because it asks some straight-line questions, it gives the person the opportunity to go through, read some questions, to answer with a simple yes or no whether they experienced these particular questions, and once you come down to the bottom of the card, it says if you have experienced any of these, on the backside, there's a list of all the referring—all the licensed domestic violence providers in the state of West Virginia. And we also dialogue with our advocates around the state. You know, we had come to the point where it's like you encourage the person who has been the victim of domestic violence to make the call to the local authorities, which also led into a conversation with our local authorities to inform the police departments, the sheriff departments just to talk about, you know, some protocols when they come upon the scene, and they receive a domestic call. And how do you work through that and walk through at? And also which led to—as I will talk to you a little later about—to this fantastic task force that we have in the state right now.

So out of the conversations with the coalitions, we also came up with this curriculum, which we call the DV-101. And I strongly state that our curriculum is one that educates and brings awareness not one that provides intervention. You know, we were being accused by one of the local BIPS programs for trying to be—you know, trying to provide intervention services, and we're like, "No, that's not what we do." We don't want to really take that on, but we want to provide the information and make sure that we give the persons who, whether they're the batterer or the perpetrator, the resources that they may receive some help. So the curriculum that we have is called the DV-101. The curriculum topics cover what is domestic violence, and some of the most—I want to say the most exciting results that we've seen has come out of that first—that first section because what we have found out that a lot of guys who come through our program, when they come through that particular—

especially when they deal with the card and they come through that first course, they honestly have their eyes widened like a deer caught in headlights and sayin, "Wow, I did not know that I was doing these things." And one of the amazing stories is that we had a guy who came out of a class after his first session, and sought—he wanted help, he wanted help. He wanted to get into a class to help with his anger management and to manage it—his anger issues. So we relayed him over to our anger management class, and he wanted some help with his relationship because of his—even though he say he was not one who committed physical violence, but the way that he talked to his mate and the way he was using coercion and control, he recognized that at the first—out of the first session, and we were able to get him into one of our PREP courses, Within My Reach, to address some of those issues and also just to let him talk with the advocates over at the coalition. You know, just try to help him get some further help.

Another class that we have is still what is coercive control? That deals with the power and control wheel, and also we deal with the as the—the impact of domestic violence, and what are equal and respectful relationships? We find that there's a great dialogue in our—I must say that my staff, my facilitators are wonderful. They have a very great—they establish a great rapport with the class, and we have guys who have come in and—you know, of course, they're coming in at first, they're coming in anxious and irritated, but by the end of their programming, they go back and they have these great rapps going back to the Family Court that this one of the best things that ever happened to them in their lives. The goal is just to bring an awareness and education of the dynamics of domestic violence. I won't go back through that because Jackie and ramesh have done an excellent job of just walking through that. We also provide resources for victims and perpetrators of domestic violence.

How do we address this? We talk with our participants about, you know, the behavior and the environments and the patterns of domestic violence. We let them know that it can take many, many different forms, and it's not just about hitting. It goes through the intimidations, the verbal, even the control that's dealing with the finances, and as ramesh also talked about, it goes through stalking, and, you know, domineering, and this whole thing about control. We also found out that that there are some key elements of domestic violence that comes in the form of intimidation. And even though you hear a lot of people saying, "No, I don't verbally abuse, or I don't physically abuse," but then you want to belittle your mate to humiliate her, to make her feel smaller than you. And of course, you know, there are some things about physical injury. And we also let them know that domestic abuse is not the result of losing control. Some people are like, "I just lost my temper, and that has happened." It's a bigger thing than you losing your temper or using drugs or all those kind of things. It's—as also mentioned before, it's a culture, it's a community culture. It's many dynamics to this whole thing that leads these particular behaviors.

Another thing that we talked about with our participants is we address the issue about domestic violence from the physical abuse apart, and you know, it's just wrong. Verbal and nonverbal are just wrong. And definitely when you're using sexual coercion to to control your mate its just wrong. And then, I really opened up a Pandora's Box in just a general conversation with another part of the program that I manage. You know, we were just talking—I was talking with some volunteers that we have that's dealing with our mental health population, and I was just talking about with them about this whole concept of equal and respectful relationships. And even to the point of the basic budgeting of your finances and operation of your home, that if you are not involving your mate in the process of developing these types of things, then you might find yourself in sort of a controlling aspect of your relationship. And it hit home in that I wasn't, you know, trying to do a domestic violence course, but they begin dialoguing right in the meeting about this particular issue. And of course, it was said also earlier about the spiritual abuse and the stalking and the cyberstalking.

We also let them know that the relationship, a lot of times that the victim is not coming from someone with strength, from some stranger off the street, or out of the mountains somewhere, but the majority of it, has been reported in the state of West Virginia, were spousal abuse or significant others. A lot of it came through former

significant others and former spouses, even to the dynamics of it becoming something that's happening from the in-laws or—you know, it's a strange dynamic if you have a house that have kids in it, and the father is involved in a domestic violence situation and patterns that the kids have a tendency to pick it up and start using those same types of tactics and behaviors towards their mom. So we've seen a lot of that, and you know, we see a lot of it happening between—that the brothers and sisters because the dynamics of the family being so fragmented and dysfunctional. So it comes from there. We also have witnesses that it comes from the fathers and from the mother, stepparents, and etc.

Some of the resources that we use—we always start with some videos or documentaries. I don't know if all are on that particular slide yet, but one of my favorites—

Nigel Vann: Yes, I am.

Michael Jones: Sir?

Nigel Vann: It's okay. I was just saying that slide—that's slide on the screen, yes.

Michael Jones: Okay. So one of my favorites is Mary J. Blige's No More Drama. I just so happen to like Mary J. Blige, and it's an awesome, awesome video that addresses the domestic violence issue, and it has hit home with a lot of our participants. And another one that hit home was the video by Kelly Clarkson, the all-American girl expressing her domestic violence in the song that she has called Because of You. And then another one that really has hit home real good with our participants is on the documentary side, The Burning Bed. If you—it's from Within My Reach curriculum, which is produced by PREP. If all can ever get that video and watch that and show it to your participants, it will really do something very phenomenal in their life and this whole process of going through this awareness and education component.

Our partners in the fight against domestic violence are a great team. We have the West Virginia Supreme Court, Kanawha County Family Court, the Kanawha County Prosecutor's Office, the West Virginia Public Defender's Office, the Kanawha County Public Defender's Office, and Kanawha Court Day Report Center, the Charleston Police Department, the West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and also, the YWCA Resolve Program, which houses the BIPS program. And this coalition was formed out of our dialogue with the West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and I must say that that conversation took place about two years before we were able to even come up with a good agreement and protocols and with the domestic violence reality check card, and ultimately, it led to the curriculum that we have. But out of this, we had to dialogue, and we talked about who we should have at the table. And of course, this task force is not completed yet. It's still a growing and evolving process, but at the current time, these are the partners that are sitting around the table trying to address this issue in state of West Virginia, especially in Kanawha County.

Nigel Vann: Actually, Mike, I—

Michael Jones: Lessons—

Nigel Vann: I apologize for butting in, but we are getting a bit tight on time. I wonder if I could just move you to address the question that you address on your final slide about—

Michael Jones: Okay.

Nigel Vann: What, you know, what do we do when we know someone is being disrespectful or abusive to girls or women in general? How do we—how do you have a conversation with the participants in your program about not looking the other way, you know, if you have a friend or a cousin who you see just not necessarily being

physically abusive but putting down their partner maybe? How do you have those kind of conversations with the fathers?

Michael Jones: Well, the first thing, you know—the first thing, the staff—again, let me back up on that one, and I'll address it real quick. We have taken every one of our staff members through the DV-101 training. And so the coalition, they've trained our staff; they attend our conference to address the issue. But the one thing that we try to encourage everyone is not look away. Not look away because it's almost like if you look away, it's almost like that your licensing that behavior, especially once someone discloses that they are—that they are perpetrator or even if someone has reported that are—have been battered. But if you witness it—if you witness it with the partners, you know, say something. It doesn't take a whole lot for us to just address the issue with the person if we see it. Just tell them that we don't think it's right, and they should think about alternative ways to address problems because everyone has to address problems, but it doesn't have to come to belittling, intimidation, or even physical abuse. Also, we encourage our participants and staff, if you know about it, try to call the hotline that's mentioned in the slide somewhere. I don't have that number in front of me but call the hotline. If you see someone being beat or battered in the community, call your local police department, you know, to get someone in to intervene in that situation because we know that the last—well, the worst part of domestic violence can lead to a lethal situation where someone is killed.

So there are some points on the—some lessons learned on the slide. Again, I don't have that in front of me, but you know, I think my time is up, and I thank you for allowing me to be a part of this conversation.

Nigel Vann: You did fantastic, Mike, for not having the slides in front of you. That was really good. Thank you. We are tight on time. We have had a few questions come in. We're not going to be able to address them all, but as we always at these webinars, we will address them afterwards and post them with the webinar slides, so you'll be able to see responses to all the questions after the webinar. We had a few questions come in about the sort of general partnership issues. Rather than ask any of those specific questions, can I just ask you, Jackie, just to perhaps leave us with one final thought on sort of the key things to be thinking about as you look to develop a partnership in the community?

Jacquelyn Boggess: Yeah. I think the most important thing is if looking—if you're looking to develop a partnership, and you're looking around, who's around you, who's available, you know, and one of the ways to learn sort of who to approach is to find out what some of the work is. I mean, go to DV, you know, events and things like that to get to know people, maybe before you approach them so you know what they do. That's going to be the most important thing to know what they do and go into the room knowing that it's not just for your final goal, but also for theirs, which is ending violence, you know, that's what this partnership is about. So going and knowing all that. And then make sure to be really informative because a lot of times advocates don't really know, and it depends on where you are. In some communities, we have advocates who, you know, been working with fatherhood programs for a long time. They know all of the ropes, but in other places, they absolutely don't know the difference between your kind of fatherhood program and fathers' rights organizations and things like that so go in explaining exactly what you do, what it looks like—you know, some of the details. And also, do some of the internal work that Ramesh and Mike both just talked about. So how do we talk about this in our program? What kind of words and phrases and terms do we use that might throw people off? What are some of the things that are going to be uncomfortable maybe for our potential partners? And then approach them, you know, with sort of this mutual positive outcomes and goals.

Nigel Vann: Great. Yeah, I think, you know, really sort of one of the overall lessons is that this takes time, right? And you really got to take time to have the conversation and listen to each other, you know.

Jacquelyn Boggess: Absolutely.

Nigel Vann: Let me just ask one question for you, ramesh. This question is asking, "How does your organization solicit participant and/or build interest in the programs you offer?"

ramesh kathanadhi: That's a great question. So for the classroom, we have about 50 percent of the folks that are coming into the classroom coming to us through referrals from the criminal legal system, and the other 50 percent are coming as community referrals from folks that are working with therapists, folks that are working with their parish leaders, by a partner that simply says, "You have to do something or else I am going to leave," etc. So men are always externally motivated when they come into the classroom, but that's one place. And in terms of other programs beyond the ones that start with intervention, we try to work with key places in the community that sort of shape what masculinity can look like, so places of worship, families, you centers, things like that. We really try to build partnerships with them to help support their work.

Nigel Vann: Great.

ramesh kathanadhi: And one of other places I really want to say that's important is colleges. We're starting to get more and more referrals from colleges and trying to be more engaged with colleges and universities in their efforts to really talk about relationship and sexual violence.

Nigel Vann: Yeah. Yeah. That's a great point, and I think that all of this work that the earlier that we can be talking to people, you know, the younger people are when we're talking to them about any of these fatherhood issues, particularly, these kind of issues, the better, you know.

Mike, there's been a few questions here about your DV-101 curriculum. Can you just tell us how many sessions, and I believe you told me it's still in draft and not widely available. Right? Is that true? Is it going to be available for other people at some point?

Michael Jones: Yeah, at some point it will be. The classes are one time a week, two hours—for two hours, and there are four sessions, and so it goes over a period of four weeks. And the reason that we have it set up like that, we wanted to give our participants time to have the exposure to the information and a reflection period, so and to give them just the time to reflect upon it and then come back and have more, you know, have more dialogue in the next session about information that was presented to them before.

Nigel Vann: Okay. There was another question, which I'll ask for you, but also, you know, Jackie and ramesh can dive in on this one as well. But the question was, "How effective is it to do role-plays in the classroom around any of these issues? Did you do any role-plays to address these issues?"

Michael Jones: Yes, they—within some of the coursework, that is lined out in it, especially in the session that's dealing with the equal and responsible relationship. We also, you know—we also use within that component one of the subjects that is addressed with the—from the Within My Reach curriculum, the deciding versus sliding. So they do some of the role-plays about that just to address the issue how to decide into a relationship versus sliding into a relationship, and that seem to be very effective.

Nigel Vann: Okay. Jackie? ramesh? Any thoughts on role-plays?

ramesh kathanadhi: For us, role plays can be a really wonderful place to deepen empathy, and then also to sort of bring things to light. It's—role-play is like all tools; it depends on the larger context in which you're using it. What's the bigger message that you have? What are the facilitators done to prepare themselves for holding that processing session after the role-play? And really having clarity and commitment to accountability, compassionate accountability, I think, is the way that Jackie put it but also towards safety for the families that are being impacted by these behaviors.

Nigel Vann: Great. Okay. Jackie, any thoughts on that?

Jacquelyn Boggess: No, I would agree with both of those statements from both Mike and ramesh.

Nigel Vann: Great. Okay. Well, what I'm going to do now, I want to take a couple of minutes and have Jen just walk us through our survey questions. We just wanted to get some feedback from everybody, and then I'll come back to each of the presenters and to give you just sort of 15 or 20 seconds for one final thought to leave people with, if you wanted to be thinking about that. So Jen, can we do the poll questions?

Jen McHenry: Yes. Absolutely. We're excited to get some feedback. So the first question— and I'll pull it up onto the screen now is, "I have a better understanding of ways that fatherhood programs and domestic violence partners can work together." Again, "I have a better understanding of ways that fatherhood programs and domestic violence partners can work together." And the options here are strongly agree, agree, unsure, disagree, strongly disagree, and no vote. One more moment.

Okay, and we're going to close out of this and ask a second question. And our—if I can pull it up. Our second question is, "I received good ideas and practical strategies to address domestic violence issues with fathers." Again, "I received good ideas and practical strategies to address domestic violence issues with fathers." Oh, I'm having—a little bit of technical issue with this, so lets—

Nigel Vann: Do we need to perhaps have some dos after the fact, Jen?

Jen McHenry: Can you see this now? You should be able to answer this.

Nigel Vann: There we go.

Jen McHenry: Got you. My apologies. Again, good ideas and practical strategies to address domestic violence issues with fathers. And our options here are strongly agree, agree, unsure, disagree, strongly disagree, and no vote.

We'll close out of this poll and ask our next question, and that is, "The general tips for how fatherhood programs can engage fathers in the promotion of nonviolence were helpful." In the general tips for how fatherhood programs can engage fathers in the promotion of nonviolence were helpful. And the options here are strongly agree, agree, unsure, disagree, and strongly disagree. And we'll wait one moment.

Okay, and we're going to close out of this question, and ask our final question, which is, "In general, I received good information and resources that I can use in my work with fathers and families." Again, "In general, I received good information and resources that I can use in my work with fathers and families." And the options for the last time are strongly agree, agree, unsure, disagree, strongly disagree, and no vote. One moment. And that's is our last question. Thank you for your patience and taking the time to answer, and we will turn it back over to Nigel.

Nigel Vann: Thanks very much, Jen. Yes, just as a reminder, you can go to www.fatherhood.gov. Just go to our webinar page, and in the next week or so, you will be able to get, as I said, the recording of this, the transcript, and answers to any questions that we didn't get to. But before we do, before—also, let me remind you to check back for our toolkit, which is going to be available starting in June where there will be some new resources addressing domestic violence. Though, we are out of time, but let me just give each of the presenters one quick moment just for a final thought to leave us with.

Dive in at will, guy wills.

Jacquelyn Boggess: This is Jackie. I would just reiterate how important it is that fatherhood programs be a site of prevention, and then we're not pointing fingers or trying to be intervention programs, but that we really construct out programs to work on domestic violence prevention that is talking about violence and some of things that both Mike and ramesh talked about earlier.

Nigel Vann: Great. Thanks.

ramesh kathanadhi: My closing thought would be—this is ramesh. My closing thought would be. It's okay to expect more of men, and in fact, there is a lot more that men can do to end violence against women and girls, around especially self-reflections, really listening to women's experiences and leadership, and coming together as men to make peace and safety for all the women and girls in our community.

Nigel Vann: Mike, if you're here. Mike?

Michael Jones: This is—this Mike, and my closing thought would be to make sure that with the guys that we have in our service employ to make sure that we let them know that domestic violence is not a resort of losing your—losing control. It's intentional, and the abuser is purposefully using verbal, nonverbal, or physical means to gain control over another person, and if we are witness to that, we should definitely not turn our heads, but we should do some type of intervention.

Nigel Vann: Wonderful. Thank you, yes. So let me again thank each of the presenters, particularly Mike, for doing this without the benefit of modern technology.

[Michael Jones laughing]

Nigel Vann: I know it's a little bit strange when you're doing these presentations and you can't still hear you're talking to. But we certainly had a lot of good comments in the chat side, so I'm sure people are out there crackling and applauding you all. But if you look at the final screen, you'll see there is our contact info again, so please email us with any questions and join us on Facebook or Twitter. And we'll see all next time. Thank you very much.