

# 2019 WA State Fatherhood Summit Notes

#### Including Fathers in Transforming Maternal Child Health Systems

**Welcome!** 80 participants checked in to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Washington State Fatherhood Summit. Participants came together from across the state representing state agencies, medical providers, community service providers, advocacy groups, and dads with lived experiences.

**Summit Kick Off:** Nichole Ross, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services Economic Services Administration kicked off our day with a welcome to all participants.

**Opening Remarks:** Anne Stone, Frontiers of Innovation Project Director, started the summit off with a table group activity "What's on Your Radar" to help people think about what was top of mind for them around the issue of fatherhood. Sticky-notes were used to brainstorm what concerns each attendee was bringing with them.



**Keynote address:** *Fathers in Families: Three Questions and Search for Answers* by Dr. Craig Garfield, M.D., was introduced to by Dr. James Polo. Dr. Garfield is a Professor of Pediatrics and of Medical Social



Sciences at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. He is co-author of both American Academy of Pediatric's clinical reports on Fathers and Pediatrics. Dr. Garfield has familiarity with fathers in a medical setting and shared his own lived experiences about being a father. Dr. Garfield is working with federal government to make sure dads are included in data such as the PRAMS data. Dr. Garfield pointed out how advertising is now even taking note of the importance fathers play in their families.

Survey Findings Report: Dr. Holly Schindler of the University of Washington school of Education and

Fellow at the Harvard University's Center on the Developing Child presented "Transforming Systems through Father's Voices". Dr. Schindler examined the fatherhood survey that she polled across the state. Dr. Schindler found the greatest challenges fathers reported to face were Custody and parenting time agreements, No services



available for fathers, social Stigmas about fatherhood, Issues related to child



support, and financial insecurity.

Let's get focused: Anne Stone lead the attendees through exercises using the information and ideas generated during the morning "What's on your radar" activity. Each table was asked to place a few of their ideas onto an impact/effort matrix to rank the ideas in terms of the impact they will have and the amount of effort that it will take to launch. Each group brought their Just do it's, Quick Wins, and Strategic Long term goals to enter into the Mentimeter software so that participants



were able to vote using their cell phones in the room. See below for pictures from Mentimeter.

**Inspiration! A Father's Success Story:** John Miller from King County spoke with Dante Pollard about the struggles Mr. Pollard has overcome to be single father to his two girls. Mr. Pollard has

experience with various systems and has struggled to find support and resources through his journey.

### What are your top Just Do it ideas?

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- Engaging fathers in the prenatal space
- State agency training on changing stigma of how fathers are seen
- Advocating for fatherhood inclusion
- Parenting plan services
- 11% Father friendly forms
- Outreach creating events for dads
- Parental Leave education
- 7% Individual responsibility for our language
- 7% Job skills training and assessments

0%

**6**0

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## What are your top Quick Wins Strategies?

- Agencies working together 16%
- Educating about importance and benefits of active father involvement 13%
- cultural shift to recognize importance of dads 12%
- Judicial inclusion in conversation 10%
- Support when baby is born for both parents 9%
- Mentoring fathers 99
- Parenting classes 8
- Father specific resources 7
- How resources are found out about or shared 7
- Family support providing fathers individual and groups 7%
- No more disruption of father-infant relationship 3%

- 63

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#### What are your top Long Term Strategies?

- Give fathers access to family housing 14%
- More father mental health support 13%
- culture change- fathers are essential 13%
- Fathers rights to visitation and custody 9%
- Whole family approach to policy and practices 9%
- Coparenting strategies and support 0%
- Empowerment shift and self sufficiency 8%
- child support should be changed to not only be money but time 7%
- cross sector equity impact reviews 7%
- Communication across agencies 7
- Recognition of value fathers bring 5%



## How productive was our day together?

We generated idea that will make a difference. 4.3 We can make something happen togeher. 4.4 I and or my organization can play a role. 4.5

- 34

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