

## **Final Report**

Welfare Peer Technical Assistance Network

White House Community Roundtable and  
Town Hall Meeting on Responsible  
Fatherhood and Healthy Families Report

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“Of all the rocks upon which we build our lives, we are reminded today that family is the most important. And we are called to recognize and honor how critical every father is to that foundation. They are teachers and coaches. They are mentors and role models. They are examples of success and the men who constantly push us toward it.”

Senator Barack Obama July 15, 2008, Chicago, IL

## **I. Background on Key Federal Agencies Supporting Responsible Fatherhood, Healthy Marriage, and Faith-Based and Community Partnerships**

### **A. White House Office for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships**

The **White House Office for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships** was created by President Barack Obama as a resource for nonprofits and community organizations, both secular and faith-based, looking for ways to make a bigger impact in their communities, learn their obligations under the law, cut through red tape, and make the most of what the Federal government has to offer. Four key priorities to be carried out by the 11 agency centers for faith-based and neighborhood partnerships and the President’s Cabinet Secretaries include:

- Making community groups an integral part of economic recovery and poverty a burden fewer have to bear when recovery is complete;
- Creating one voice across offices in the administration that will look at how women and children are supported, address teenage pregnancy, and reduce the need for abortion;
- Supporting fathers who stand by their families, which involve working to get young men off the streets and into well-paying jobs, and encouraging responsible fatherhood; and
- Working with the National Security Council to foster interfaith dialogue with leaders and scholars around the world.

### **B. Federal Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood Initiatives**

In 2002, the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families** launched a Healthy Marriage Initiative designed to “help couples who have chosen marriage for themselves, gain greater access to marriage education services, on a voluntary basis where they can acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to form and sustain a healthy marriage.” With the passage of the Deficit Reduction Act in 2005 (DRA), provisions included the establishment of the Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood Program which provided over \$150 million dollars each year for a period of

five years to support programs supporting healthy marriage formation and sustainability and promoting responsible fatherhood. Over 125 healthy marriage programs and approximately 100 responsible fatherhood programs have been funded across the United States since the inception of the DRA. The Office of Family Assistance administers the Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood programs and grants and provides targeted programmatic and evaluation technical assistance and support to programs operating discretionary grants to help couples form and sustain healthy marriages and promote responsible fatherhood.

### ***C. U.S Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships***

The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships (The Partnership Center)**, is a mechanism for the Department to engage and communicate with grassroots to ensure that they have up-to-date information regarding health and human service activities and resources in their area. The Partnership Center works to build partnerships between government and community and faith-based organizations, which help the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services serve individuals, families, and communities in need.

## **II. Purpose of White House Community Roundtable and Town Hall Meeting on Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Families**

In 2008, then Senator Barack Obama commenced a national dialogue on responsible fatherhood and the need for and value of fathers in the lives of their children. On June 19, 2009, President Barack Obama hosted a ground-breaking *Town Hall Meeting on Fatherhood* and reinforced responsible fatherhood, personal responsibility, and community involvement. As a result, the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships partnered with community stakeholders, Federal agencies, and others to coordinate a series of White House Community Roundtables and Town Hall Meetings on Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Families as a means to focus on discovering and emphasizing strategies “that work” in encouraging responsible fatherhood, while supporting families and communities.

On August 5, 2009, the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships and the Administration for Children and Families hosted the inaugural ***White House Community Roundtable and Town Hall Meeting on Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Families*** in Chicago, Illinois. The first in a

series of locally-focused meetings designed to highlight the importance of fatherhood in communities across the nation, this event provided a forum for responsible fatherhood program representatives, researchers, practitioners, and policymakers at the Federal, State, and local levels to discuss the successes and challenges faced by fathers and responsible fatherhood programs.

Divided into a series of listening sessions, the *Roundtable* event hosted a group of local Chicago-based fatherhood and healthy marriage program representatives to discuss specific program components and promising activities that historically improved services to fathers, families, and communities. The interactive *Town Hall* consisted of fathers, practitioners, and policymakers and allowed an open dialogue among stakeholders to catalog services, solutions, and challenges for responsible fatherhood programming. As a result, the White House Community Roundtable and Town Hall Meeting on Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Families provided the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and other Federal partners with real-world information about what fathers, organizations, and communities are doing to address the challenges and barriers fathers encounter in raising their children, while outlining a set of community-based solutions to reduce barriers for fathers to support their families and their communities.

### **III. Participants**

For this first Roundtable and Town Hall event in Chicago, a select group of Chicago-area fatherhood practitioners, policymakers, and researchers, along with regional and national stakeholders and partners, were invited to share and discuss their programs, successes, and challenges. Almost 70 responsible fatherhood and healthy marriage program participants representing religious, ethnic, and cultural diversity in the fathers and families they work with discussed the successes and challenges faced by fathers in the Chicago area. A Town Hall event held in the evening drew approximately 300 participants ranging from fathers, responsible fatherhood and healthy marriage grantees, practitioners, and policymakers.

### **IV. Community Policy Roundtable**

The ***White House Community Roundtable on Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Families*** provided an opportunity to further the national conversation around responsible fatherhood and healthy families and to lay the foundation for the day's events, the peer-to-peer dialogs, and the Town Hall.

## **A. Setting the Context**

Mr. Joshua DuBois, Executive Director, White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships kicked off the Roundtable by providing an overview of President Obama’s call for a national conversation on responsible fatherhood, the objectives of the day’s events, and the overall theme of the initiative. Mr. DuBois mentioned that President Obama’s call for a national conversation—not to mention possible program/policy options—are focused on the need to ensure that children grow up with positive role models and mentors, receive community support and nurturing, and that education is valued. Education and nurturing neighborhoods are essential to reducing the overwhelming and disproportionate drop out rates and criminal justice attachment among so many of America’s children. Mr. DuBois reiterated the President’s commitment to responsible fathers, programs that reconnect fathers to families, and initiatives meant to improve the lives of at-risk children, families, and communities.

Ever since President Obama hosted some well-known fathers and everyday dads from across the country to discuss what fathers are doing to strengthen themselves, their families, and their communities, national, local, and community groups have been coordinating a series of discussions and activities to improve the role of fathers in the lives of their children and their communities. President Obama is leading a national discussion and renewed focus on the important role of fathers and the central need of strong, stable healthy families in the lives of children. Whether it was his championing of responsible fatherhood in the Illinois State Senate or his co-sponsoring of the *Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Families Act of 2007* in the United States Senate, Barack Obama has been at the forefront of the responsible fatherhood policy arena.

As President, Mr. DuBois mentioned, Mr. Obama has remained steadfast on the priority of responsible fatherhood because he believes that fathers and families are the catalyst for significant and sustainable change in communities across the nation. In fact, on Father’s Day 2009, the 100th anniversary of Father’s Day, President Obama visited a local nonprofit near the White House and held a Town Hall Forum on Fatherhood and Healthy Families with the goal of conveying a message about a need for personal responsibility and the fact that government cannot do it alone. Rather, individuals, families, and communities should focus on determining “what works” and what does not work in responsible fatherhood and strategically move forward from there. A component of the White House’s intent to work with stakeholders to uncover and catalog successful strategies to strengthen families and communities, the Roundtable was part of an ongoing initiative to highlight programs that have improved relationships,

strengthened families, and enhanced the lives of children from diverse groups. Moreover, the White House is committed to hearing from community and faith-based groups, other stakeholders, and individuals about how the government can partner with and help support successful activities.

As President Obama stated in June, “We want to take this show on the road, we want to go to communities all across the country and learn from local leaders, from dads, from pastors, from nonprofit organizations and others about what they are doing to address these challenges.” The Chicago Roundtable, in his hometown, was the opening salvo in the collective goal of bringing together community organizations, members, and representatives to discuss what they are doing to meet specific challenges and create solutions. The **Roundtable** is the first of two complementary activities focusing on specific areas of interest for fathers, families, and communities. The second component is a Town Hall Forum designed to explore concerns and opportunities, and discover what organizations, Federal and State government, and individuals can do to address the issues of father absence and to strengthen communities.

### **Listening Panel Members**

Facilitated by Joshua DuBois and Michael Strautmanis, Chief of Staff to Valerie Jarrett—the Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Relations and Public Engagement, the *Community Roundtable and Town Hall Meeting* started with an informative and timely listening panel of respected leaders, advocates, and stakeholders from the responsible fatherhood, public policy, and advocacy organizations. The four panel members were charged with focusing on themes within the discussions and comments throughout the Roundtable, and then to provide comments at the end. These four representatives were:

- **Michael Strautmanis**, Chief of Staff to the Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Relations and Public Engagement;
- **Alexia Kelley**, Director for the Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services;
- **David Hansell**, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families; and
- **Congressman Danny Davis**, U.S. Representative, 7th District, Illinois, U.S. House of Representatives.

Mr. Dubois introduced key speakers for four topics centered around healthy families and responsible fatherhood including 1) Connecting Anti-violence and Fatherhood; 2) Mentoring Young Men and Future Fathers; 3) Fatherhood and Economic Stability; and 4) Promising Practices for Increasing Father

Involvement. Each speaker provided introductory remarks around the topic to frame the discussion for Roundtable participants before dividing into smaller breakout discussion groups.

### **Connecting Anti-violence and Fatherhood**

Studies show that communities with above-average rates of father absence have nearly double the rates of violence among young people. Government officials, educators, and community activists have been engaged in fruitful discussions over the causes of the increase in the rates of violence among young people, particularly youth of color. They all agree that a major issue facing disadvantaged communities is a comparatively lower rate of father presence. The Founder and Director of CeaseFire, The Campaign to Stop the Shooting, Dr. Gary Slutkin, discussed the efforts of the organization to reduce shootings and killings in neighborhoods using a public health technology-based intervention. As incidents of violence among youth have increased, communities are seeking effective strategies for curtailing violence. Although most neighborhoods have tried to “get tough” and have increased funding for law enforcement and incarceration, by hiring and training outreach workers and interpreters, CeaseFire is attempting to reduce the shootings and killings in neighborhoods by involving the entire community. As a result, CeaseFire has witnessed a 40 to 70 percent reduction in shootings and killings in neighborhoods where the community-based program has been implemented. The CeaseFire model is being replicated in many cities around the country and has been identified as a potentially “game-changing” practice for communities plagued by youth violence. The holistic approach values the need for strong families, stable communities, and additional outlets for youth that limit the likelihood that they will be pulled into a life of violence and crime.

The CeaseFire program is an innovative way to fill a particular gap in the lives of young people and those most at-risk to violence. The CeaseFire program provides an alternative to youth and in the process provides tailored attention, targeted resources, and a capable and culturally-relevant mentor who knows the life circumstances of the young people being served.

The CeaseFire model has garnered national attention for its different types of youth services in various communities. Its’ individualized and integrated prevention and intervention activities for at-risk youth was evaluated by the U.S. Department of Justice and the research study documented the measurable declines in shootings in neighborhoods where CeaseFire has been implemented. The study also documented that CeaseFire workers were the most important persons in a young man’s life—after the mother—and these mentors were a central feature of the provision of culturally relevant services,

including tutoring, part-time and summer employment, counseling, recreational diversions/activities, and personal development. Dr. Slutkin provided additional thoughts to Roundtable participants that the key to success are well-trained, well-placed mentors that understand the social and cultural norms of at-risk youth. These mentors and other staff can fill a gap in the needs of men in communities and many communities are seeing a dramatic drop in youth crime following the coordinated activities of the CeaseFire program. Notwithstanding, the challenges many communities face in increasing violence is not just an absence of family and community, it is the social pressure of the neighborhood and the CeaseFire program is a good first step to improving the social networks available to youth and families.

### **Mentoring Young Men and Future Fathers**

Today, as more and more families witness a decline in strong, stable fathers and father figures, coupled with the lack of organized youth-centered activities, mentoring young males to be positive role models and contributors to their communities is an important component of successful responsible fatherhood programs. David Hirsch, the founder of the Illinois Fatherhood Initiative (IFI) provided introductory remarks around mentoring young men and future fathers. Established in 1997, the IFI connects children and fathers by promoting responsible fathering as well as helping equip men to become better fathers and father figures. The Initiative is charged with improving relationships between fathers and their children and the linkages between men and their communities. Building trusting relationships between peers and adults is key to creating these linkages. Mr. Hirsch spoke about the need for increased Federal, state, and local resources to help make a difference in the lives of youth with more father involvement, as well as the need to partner with organizations. Major partners in the Illinois Fatherhood Initiative include the Chicago public schools, the state Board of Education, and the Office of Catholic Education.

Beyond biological fathers, the importance of stepfathers, grandfathers, and father figures cannot be overstated. Strong communities require strong leaders and within many communities the dearth in strong, stable fathers reduces the likelihood that young men will be instrumental contributors to their families and communities. Mr. Hirsch reiterated the importance of strong male role-models in the development of young men and repeated the aged-old adage that men are needed “to take a boy to man, even if the biological [father] was not around.” These men would provide a stable stepping stone and help fill that gap that exists for so many children.

It is estimated that 1.1 million Illinois children grow up without a father at home. Some programs and solutions described by Mr. Hirsch that are currently being used by the Initiative state-wide include: 1) a boot camp for new dads program at hospitals, which is a peer-to-peer program for first time expectant fathers; 2) Cook County Sheriff's boot camp for 17 to 35 year old first time offenders; and 3) a Springdale, Arkansas-based Watchdogs program that is affiliated with the National Center for Fathering and provides men with the opportunity to come into the schools whether they are fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, or father figures, to get a firsthand view of what is going on in the classroom. Education has an immeasurable impact on young people, their communities, and society as a whole. It is through education that young people not only find themselves, but also find out about the world around them. But education for at-risk youth has to be interesting and tailored to the needs of these children. Mr. Hirsch concluded by reflecting that one of the best opportunities to get men involved in the lives of their children is through the education of those children.

### **Fatherhood and Economic Stability**

Fathers play an important role in the lives of their children and, by extension, their communities. Fathers are recognized as important motivators, vital caregivers, and influential forces for young people. Fathers are an important part of behavior development, including economic maturation among youth. Mr. Robert Wharton from the Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County, Inc. (CEDA) discussed the importance of fathers in the economic stability of children, young people, families, and communities. He spoke specifically of the need to connect men to jobs and focus on the intersection of workforce development, fatherhood, and economics. Whether it is job training, subsidized employment, or financial planning and financial fitness promotion, targeted programs are a necessary component to reaching out to fathers. In many cases economic stability equals social stability and the importance of economic stability cannot be understated.

The CEDA, a community action agency and largest nonprofit community action agency in the country, serves over 1,000 young men in some of the most challenging communities and has had tremendous success in delivering services. Mr. Wharton shared several keys to success, including increased focus on healthy babies and healthy relationships between fathers and their babies. Having the love and attention of a dedicated and stable father promotes healthy babies, which leads to healthy children and healthy adults. Mr. Wharton repeated the call of President Obama for access to "cradle to coffin" education, including early head start, childcare, and skills training to youth so that they can follow a

career path. CEDA has developed a small business owner program that has been well-received by communities and the program emphasizes job creation, self-sufficiency, and independence. More importantly, the program is a vital tool for improving the social development among men and further improving their feelings of self-worth, value, and importance. He concluded by emphasizing that economic stability to families is critical to overcoming many community challenges.

### **Promising Practices for Increasing Father Involvement**

Studies have shown that fathers are very important to the lives of their children and that active and positive involvement in their children's lives increases the probability that their children will lead healthy and productive lives. Borne out of the groundbreaking work of The Honorable Danny Davis (Illinois), various father involvement practices have been instituted to improve the connections between fathers and their children. Reverend Walter Jones of Fathers Who Care spoke about promising practices on increasing father involvement based on the *Fathers, Families, and Public Policy Task Force* that Congressman Davis formed to address the needs of fathers and families. Although much of the dialog about building strong families—particularly among low-income families—centers on the role of single mothers, there is a growing and validated understanding that fathers are important for the maturation of children and development of communities. Fathers Who Care brings together men from all walks of life and determines what is needed to improve father involvement, improve services to fathers and families, and increase success among children.

Moreover, Fathers Who Care integrates various community resources and provides diverse service options from substance abuse treatment to child support counseling in an effort to improve the relative ease of bringing fathers and families closer together. Reverend Jones restated that there is a need for community collaborations, dedicated organizations, responsible fatherhood advocates, and healthy marriage groups to commit to their clients and the goal of forming strong families. Also, he challenged attendees to focus on the efficient use of physical and fiscal resources and the creation of stable bonds and relationships with at-risk fathers, their children, and their communities. No matter what has happened or may happen, fathers do care about their children and need support to reduce the tendency and attachment to the criminal culture and other unsavory activities in order to economically survive. It is important to note—according to Reverend Jones—that people who are in tenuous situations do not change just because they feel like changing. Rather they change when they have a reason and have something to change to.

## ***B. Group Discussions***

One of the most successful methods for uncovering promising activities is to share with peers about “what works” and what does not work. Several groups were established that centered on the main themes of the Roundtable. Mr. Dubois provided an overview of the next session of the Roundtable and laid the groundwork for a series of four breakout topical discussion groups. Generally, the breakout topical discussions had three overarching purposes which included: 1) highlighting good models; 2) providing an opportunity for dialogue and networking across the local, state, and regional levels; and 3) informing the White House’s approach to fatherhood programming at the Federal level.

Community-based programs and local practices shared their success in reaching fathers and families. In turn, the information collected would inform continued dialogue among Administration staff in order to set goals, determine needs, and understand models that are working to increase father involvement. The topical discussions would serve as a foundation on which further work would be built and provide the framework for the White House’s responsible fatherhood activities, programs, and messages, from budgeting to programming to technical assistance needs.

The four topical discussion groups were:

- Connecting Anti-violence and Fatherhood;
- Mentoring Young Men and Future Fathers;
- Fatherhood and Economic Stability; and
- Promising Practices Increasing Father Involvement.

Each facilitated breakout discussion was guided by a set of overall questions that focused on public policy, specific recommendations, and attempts to collect promising practices. These questions—developed by the White House Office of Faith-based and Community Partnerships—were developed to “prime the pump” and to guide discussants in their peer-to-peer dialogue. Mr. Ben O’Dell from the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships facilitated the Mentoring Young Men and Future Fathers topical discussion group, which was tasked with outlining some real-world experiences and community-based approaches for improving youth mentoring and preparing young men to be responsible fathers. Mr. Cedric Grant, from the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships facilitated the Fatherhood and Economic Stability discussion group and sought

to sketch a set of promising activities that programs and communities have utilized to improve the financial fitness of fathers and families. Mr. Peter Groff of the Center for Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, U.S. Department of Education and Kimberly Konkel, Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, jointly facilitated the discussion group on Connecting Anti-violence and Fatherhood and this group discussed and listed a group of necessary activities and program components to reduce violence. Ms. Robin McDonald, Division Director in the Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, facilitated the fourth discussion group that was centered on Promising Practices for Increasing Father Involvement. This group outlined components of successful programs to improve father involvement. Each group discussed its topic for about an hour and captured the discussion on flipcharts and selected a reporter who would highlight the key discussion topics from the breakout discussion.

### **Connecting Anti-violence and Fatherhood**

This breakout discussion group discussed the current state of fatherhood and the impact that violence has on the ability of fathers to build and sustain strong families and stable communities. The group shared some of the most prominent barriers and challenges fathers face in raising children in a safe environment including unemployment, the current economic downturn, poverty, large numbers of incarcerated fathers, and the growing number of gangs in fatherless communities and neighborhoods. The group also discussed the relative lack of understanding of the principles of responsible fatherhood among many males and how this lack of understanding limits their ability to be valuable contributors to their families and their communities. Although many communities have—unfortunately—accepted that violence many times is a part of life it is still difficult to build strong and stable families in the shadow of criminality and violence.

Notwithstanding the obstacles, some programs and strategies have been developed that respond to the specific needs of communities and these activities include direct-action engagement and peer mentoring. Other communities have seen success in changing the mindset of communities, engaging faith-based groups to reach out to fathers, and also promoting the input and involvement of mothers to create responsible fathers, sons, and create safe and healthy families and communities.

The group's discussion also highlighted ways that government can help programs meet the ever-growing challenge of violence in communities, and the correlation between fathers and violence in

communities. Although most people see gangs as a group of violent individuals, successful programs serve other purposes for many youth. Gangs provide youth with a sense of well-being, identity, social support, and in the absence of a father assumes the role of a father. Successful programs “appreciate” and “value” what the gang begins to represent and work to limit the influence of gangs and gang members in the maturation of youth. Even though gangs become a youth’s “father,” it is possible to reclaim the role of an actual father, a mentor, family member, or other individual. Programs must begin to realize what gang membership means and in many ways, families and communities may unintentionally encourage gang participation and violence when they fail to provide youth with stability and support.

The group recommended that Federal and State policymakers and other stakeholders should provide resources; develop a strong national presence; generate a clear, consistent violence prevention message that is culturally and linguistically relevant; encourage and drive the conversation and national agenda on violence and its impact on communities; create healthy role models; provide a direct and explicit definition of fatherhood; and improve the role of mothers in the development of strong families and stable communities, not to mention the importance of mothers in the development of responsible fatherhood.

### **Mentoring Young Men and Future Fathers**

This breakout discussion group focused on four primary points: 1) role of government in mentoring; 2) diversifying perspectives around mentoring; 3) defining best practices; and 4) creating sustainability in funding of fatherhood programs.

The group specifically discussed the need for government to provide more incentives for community-based programs and stakeholders to work with youth in their communities. Also, policymakers should encourage collaboration across programs and throughout communities and organizations. In order to collectively and effectively mentor children, fathers and families need to be in touch with the schools, neighborhood institutions, churches, mosques, synagogues, and other agencies working to build healthy families. Group members stated that the responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Marriage community at the Federal, State, and local level really needs to understand the lessons learned from the private sector and local communities and determine how to minimize ideological differences through a comprehensive collaborative approach to responsible fatherhood and building healthy families and communities. Stakeholders in the private and public sectors should work together to combine funding streams and maximize limited resources to respond to the many challenges faced by young men, fathers, and

communities. While low-income men are more likely to be engaged in their community, it is difficult to find men in some neighborhoods and communities to serve as mentors and even serve in roles of significance—such as coaches for Little League Teams. The group spoke to the challenge of finding mentors for many young men and also spoke about the challenges of finding male mentors and understanding when to reach out to women in the community to serve as mentors if there are not enough men.

The group shared that it is very important to diversify social, cultural, and religious perspectives in a neighborhood environment and to incorporate non-traditional households into mentor programs. Additional focus should be placed on fathers who have returned from prison and the impact that this has on their children, particularly their sons. The group also discussed the diverse cultural nuances that need to be focused on and how mentoring activities would have to take into account the different cultural mores of each race or ethnicity. For example, mentoring in the Native community often happens in drum circles, while faith communities—Muslim, Evangelical, and Catholic—have different environments and backgrounds which must be considered when crafting programs.

The definition of best practices was the mentoring group's third focus area—determining what programs and practices are effective, and working to make them more effective. The peer-to-peer discussions focused on some of the most effective strategies that each representative has come across in mentoring. Whether it is formal, structured mentoring programs in which youth are directly assigned to a mentor or informal mentoring where like-minded groups of similar persons come together, mentoring programs should take into account the specific needs of the youth being served and the communities being targeted. Improving mentoring programs is not about “who's program is better,” rather it is about taking components of a variety of programs and identifying how different stakeholders can come together and collaborate around the development of responsible fatherhood and healthy marriage activities that build stronger communities and improve outcomes for fathers and families. Discussants reiterated that programs should value and appreciate the differences in communities and mentoring programs should look at reframing mentoring from purely relationship-building to activity-doing.

The group's last point was that there needed to be long-term sustainability in funding and programming by identifying potential programs that will create community and neighborhood stability. The group further reflected on the need for nonprofits and philanthropic organizations to understand what is working when determining the funding of programs. There is a need to look at small group

mentoring models where mentees have a larger pool of mentors who may also have the same background and experiences. Mentoring should be not a substitute but a supplement to engaging family members and others on behalf of the child. Roundtable participants agreed that there needed to be a national call for mentors to reach the approximately 17 million kids who need mentors. Even though currently there is a pool of about 3-4 million mentors, there is a whole population of men who are empty-nesters and men who need to understand that they can focus within their own family and circle of influence to mentor a child and build relationships. For example, the “Double Duty Dads” program, a national program, was shared as an example of a promising program that has the potential of improving the mentoring outcomes for children thereby creating a long-term, sustained, and trusting relationship with a mentee/mentor.

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Administration for Children and Families, David Hansell spoke about the need for evidence-based practices that are supported by a common understanding of what the group is seeking to accomplish, determining the measurable outcomes using program evaluation, and understanding what works. Using this as a starting point would help identify what resources could be used or allocated, and how they could be used effectively to meet common outcomes.

### **Fatherhood and Economic Stability**

The fatherhood and economic stability group shared that men face barriers to work such as a lack of jobs, housing, transportation, and health care, and that there were many potential solutions to address these barriers. The group outlined some key components for moving fathers towards economic stability including the need to teach men how to network, providing them with the social supports, effective public policies that promote asset-building, improving child support payments while negotiating lower arrearages, and taking advantage of opportunities to engage fathers in direct dialogue with employers. The group highlighted that many successful programs are working proactively with employers to recruit fathers from programs, which is a useful entrée to open the door to economic stability. For example, the Couples Employment program in Baltimore works with men and women and seeks to improve the employability and employment of couples, thereby creating economic stability in their homes.

Economic issues impact the ability of fathers to provide financial support for their families, and the discussion group pointed to the need for joint responsibility by fathers and mothers in their financial roles of providing for their children. The group spoke about the need for responsible fatherhood programs to teach *responsive* fatherhood and have fathers do what they can to provide both economic and emotional support for their children. Although the current social welfare system—for the most part—is set up to

serve women and children, there are new initiatives that provide additional support to fathers to further include them into the lives of their children and families. These programs provide successful access points for services to men and integrate other programs such as child support and houses of worship into a comprehensive suite of services available to fathers, families, and communities.

Low-wage and low-income fathers and families face many impediments to attaining self-sufficiency. Providing essential work supports is important to creating economic stability. From transportation, health care, child care, and housing to addressing substance abuse issues, job and skills training and providing professional clothes, tools, and health aids such as eyeglasses, work supports are crucial to integrating low-income and at-risk men into the larger work world. Even though some fathers may have kids in several homes, and men may have multiple jobs that keep them from interacting with their children, the ultimate goal is to create economic and emotional stability for fathers and families. Successful programs should focus on ensuring that fathers are job ready, have access to jobs, receive education and training; are provided alternatives to prison if they cannot pay child support; and access to jobs to help promote economic stability in more neighborhoods. In conclusion, the group discussed the benefits of work supports—such as earned income tax credits, child care assistance, public health insurance coverage, and housing assistance—in helping fathers and families achieve greater levels of self-sufficiency.

### **Promising Practices Increasing Father Involvement**

This group addressed promising practices that can increase father involvement. They first explored the prospects of defining today's father and the concept of responsible fatherhood. The discussion centered on the father's role of raising children, adding presence in their households, creating a sense of safety, security, love, and spending time with their children as fatherhood models. In the past, fathers have served primarily as providers and protectors; however a more holistic concept of fatherhood and better understanding of fathers, marriage, relationships, and family is needed to help fathers today. There is broad diversity among fathers in their culture, language, background, economic barriers, and especially in understanding new home and legal situations, multiple partner fertility, and fathers who are operating within multiple families to raise children.

Discussion also included the role of the Federal government, and the need for collaboration across multiple departments and agencies to create policies, programs, and funding streams that meet the needs of States and their fathers through multiple avenues. In generating new policies, as echoed by other groups, this group also spoke about the need to define and distinguish “fatherhood,” “responsible

fatherhood,” and “families” to adapt to changing environments and home situations. There is a difference between the role of fathers, the identity of “fathers”, and the identity of a “man,” which differs across cultural and social backgrounds. The group discussed that the Federal role should be to encourage programs that are collaborative (including funding); include women and mothers in programs and discussions; look at policies that exclude or penalize fathers such as paternity issues and courts; focus on marriage and where children are living; and involve fathers and mothers in prenatal needs. Responsible fatherhood involves providing economic stability, nurturing academic and emotional well-being, and providing values and direction. Currently issues facing responsible fatherhood and healthy marriage programs and organizations include limited funds and the reality that programs serving the same families and children are competing for the same resources instead of combining efforts to build successful programs.

### **C. Concluding Remarks**

Mr. Joshua DuBois and the members of the Listening Panel provided reflection and feedback during report-outs from each of the four Roundtables. Mr. DuBois reiterated the need for positive father role models and mentors, and the importance of community support, education, and programs that reconnect fathers to their children.

## **II. Town Hall Meeting**

“... we pay tribute to the loving and caring fathers who are strengthening their families and country.”  
President Barack Obama, June 21, 2009

The **White House Community Roundtable and Town Hall Meeting on Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Families** concluded with an interactive Town Hall of stakeholders. Participants consisted of fathers, practitioners, and policymakers from responsible fatherhood and healthy marriage programs, organizations, and other stakeholders from the Chicago and regional area. The purpose of the Town Hall Meeting was to provide an opportunity for dialogue among stakeholders to discuss solutions and challenges for responsible fatherhood programming. Networking opportunities were also provided so that other organizations can learn from successful models. The Town Hall was slated to further uncover successful models and promising activities, while providing a platform for responsible fathers and program

directors and national media figures to discuss their firsthand experiences with fatherhood and outline what works in getting fathers to be more engaged in the lives of their children and their communities.

The event drew approximately 300 participants, and included a video message from President Barack Obama that focused on the “power of presence” of fathers in the lives of their children. Joshua DuBois welcomed Town Hall participants and summarized the Roundtable and the catalyst for conducting this first Town Hall meeting. In-line with President Obama’s call for a renewed focus on responsible fatherhood, the Town Hall was designed to allow citizens to discuss responsible fatherhood programs and activities and to share individual experiences with policymakers with the intent to influence public policy.

Michael Strautmanis provided welcoming remarks to Town Hall attendees and reiterated the President’s commitment to responsible fatherhood beginning with his tenure as Senator to his call on June 19, 2009 on the 100th anniversary of Fathers Day. Mr. Strautmanis outlined the key objectives of the Town Hall and welcomed vigorous, but respectful discussion among participants. Although the White House did not unveil any new public policy at this event, the Roundtable and Town Hall were designed to discover how the Federal government, community-based programs, faith communities, and other stakeholders can support or adopt programs that help fathers and at-risk children succeed.

### ***A. Father’s Panel and Question and Answer Period***

An important component of the Town Hall was a round-robin discussion of fathers that represented cultural and economic diversity. These individuals reflected on their roles as fathers and mentors and opened up the discussion among the hundreds of attendees. “I raised my kids. We didn’t always have money, but we had time together. The most precious thing you can give your child is time” was a key statement of Mr. Shune D. Carr when he reflected on his previous incarceration, and how this affected his ability to provide economic stability for his children upon release from prison. Although finding economic stability and job security was hard, Mr. Carr persevered and became a strong champion for his children and an exemplar for his community. His message centered on the importance of individuals. No matter the obstacles, keep going, keep trying, and perseverance will pay off. As the father of three daughters and one son, Mr. Carr is now a single parent, but he spoke about the importance of serving as a father for your children no matter your circumstances.

The importance of encouraging community involvement, volunteerism, and taking time to be a father every day was emphasized by Mr. Bryan Kidd. Mr. Kidd reflected on being a father to two young children and working at Sears, but more importantly emphasized the need for involvement in faith- and

community projects and initiatives. He explained how volunteering on Habitat for Humanity projects and mobilizing church members to help plan and execute them provides him with a link to his community and how fathers can become responsible citizens through volunteer work.

Detective Gerald Hayes shared his history and commitment to raising over 70 children as a foster father. Detective Hayes has served as a foster father for more than three decades and he highlighted the importance of establishing strong father figures and role models for children. Even if a man is not the biological father of a child, he can play an important role in the life of children and communities. Detective Hayes also has four biological children, and spoke about the need to bring emotional and social stability to all children. He believes that it is important to mentor children and improve their lives and their communities.

## ***B. Testimonials***

The Town Hall included celebrity testimonials from several professional sports players and their families. Mr. and Mrs. McNabb, parents of Donovan McNabb, the quarterback for the Philadelphia Eagles, spoke about the Donovan McNabb Foundation and the Professional Football Mothers Association. The Donovan McNabb Foundation was founded by Mr. and Mrs. McNabb with the goal of raising awareness of diabetes. The Professional Football Mothers Association is led by Mrs. McNabb, and provides mentoring to mothers with sons in the National Football League to keep them grounded and focused on being responsible sons, fathers, and mentors. Kendall Gill, former Seattle SuperSonics and Charlotte Hornets basketball player spoke about his “one regret” about fatherhood is that he did not become a father sooner. Mr. Gill shared that fatherhood makes him a better person and that parenting is difficult, but rewarding.

## ***C. Townhall Questions and Answers***

The participants at the Town Hall had the opportunity to participate in a question and answer period. There were many questions, comments, and responses directed toward the White House and the general consensus was that responsible fatherhood programming is important to the future of American children and American communities. The responses reflected the diversity of attendees and various stakeholders present at the Town Hall and ranged from support for increased female participation in responsible fatherhood programs to increased programming for incarcerated fathers. The Town Hall was

intended to assist community stakeholders in more effectively fulfilling their roles as community advocates, while assisting fathers to become better parents, better partners, and more successful workers. The White House received recommendations on how to promote the positive involvement of both parents in the lives of children, with a specific focus on fathers and their role in the lives of their children, their families, and their communities.

Participants thanked the members of the fathers' panel and celebrity guests for sharing their stories and how they persevered and emerged as responsible father models. Attendees shared that it was important to remember that over 10 million single moms wear the hats of moms and dads, and so in addition to developing responsible fathers, it is also necessary to pay attention to single moms because many are single by reason of circumstance, not choice. One attendee remarked that it is important to create and support programs such as *The Safer Foundation* to work with people with criminal records and work with individuals to find and retain employment. In response, a representative from Healthy Marriage in Milwaukee shared that men they work with who are incarcerated have responded to classes with enthusiasm, and appreciate the lessons around communication, conflict resolution, and building healthy relationships.

Town Hall participants also spoke about the importance of providing resources and programs for teens that are targeted to the specific needs of younger adults, younger fathers, and new families. Resources are needed to ensure that families remain stable and that includes improving relationship building, as well as diversifying programs to meet the needs of different types of fathers. Town Hall participants found the meeting to be helpful in providing a national message from President Obama, hearing from administration staff about next steps and creating direction around responsible fatherhood and healthy marriages, and providing examples of programs and father role models to demonstrate strong fatherhood qualities. Attendees appreciated that this was merely the first in a series of locally-focused meetings designed to highlight the importance of fatherhood in communities across the nation and they look forward to additional Roundtables and Town Halls and a compendium of promising practices in responsible fatherhood programming.

#### ***D. Concluding Remarks***

The Town Hall provided for rich discussion, sharing by the panel members, and an opportunity for participants to engage in dialog directly with the Administration and Panel members on the needs of fathers, mothers, and healthy families and communities in promoting responsible fatherhood. Mr. Joshua

Dubois and Mr. Michael Strautmanis provided concluding remarks at the end of the Town Hall, and encouraged participants to continue the dialog with their peers, the Administration, and other programs and organizations in the Chicago area and beyond.

## VI. Conclusion

“This is an issue that he takes very seriously both because he [President Obama] grew up without a father in his own life, but also because he’s seen the impact that present fathers can have, and absent fathers can have, in our communities.”  
Joshua DuBois, Executive Director, White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships

On August 5, 2009, the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships and Administration for Children and Families hosted the inaugural **White House Community Roundtable and Town Hall Meeting on Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Families** in Chicago, Illinois. This groundbreaking event provided the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and other Federal partners with real-world information about what fathers, organizations, and communities are doing to address the challenges and barriers fathers are facing as they try to become positive role models and contributors to the lives of their children, their families, and their communities.

An estimated 24 million children are growing up with absent fathers, and a disproportionate number of them are children of color. Those children are at higher risk of falling into lives of poverty and crime and becoming parents themselves in their teenage years. Despite the challenges and regardless of the circumstances, President Barack Obama is devoting considerable time and significant resources to promote the importance of being a good dad and he is calling on citizens to make it a national priority. The White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships and other Federal partners will continue to host forums around the country this fall and winter to develop a cadre of promising practices and community-focused strategies on responsible fatherhood and family strengthening activities. The event in Chicago served as the first in a series of locally-focused meetings designed by the Obama Administration to highlight the importance of fatherhood on families and in communities across the nation. The combined Roundtable and Town Hall Meeting reached almost 400 individuals from diverse backgrounds, differing programs, and varied perspectives. The attendees represented responsible fatherhood program representatives, researchers, practitioners, and policymakers and the event provided valuable information and guidance to senior administration staff on the challenges and solutions that

programs, cities, and communities are facing and using, respectively, to reduce barriers for fathers to support their families and their communities.

The discussions, dialog exchange, and recommendations from the Roundtable and Town Hall Meeting were numerous, yet focused on key recommendations and focus areas for the Administration and fatherhood programs in Chicago and elsewhere throughout the United States. Some of the key recommendations to the Administration include:

- Focus on identifying evidence-based practices and programs and disseminate to programs across the United States to utilize in the development and implementation of responsible fatherhood programs;
- Provide resources to increase involvement and leadership of communities in identifying and addressing the needs of fathers, mothers, children, and families;
- Lead the development of a clear and consistent definition of fathers, responsible fatherhood, and family that captures a holistic concept of today's father;
- Highlight the need for partnerships across fatherhood, faith-based, and healthy marriage programs in order to better leverage resources to create a collaborative, non-competitive environment;
- Charge fathers, families, and communities to foster and nurture responsible fatherhood mentors by focusing on the children they already interact with through family, friends, and their community;
- Increase access to "cradle to coffin education and workforce training/skills through holistic education programs ranging from early Head Start to adult education and training; and
- Supply adequate work supports such as housing, transportation, child care, child support, and education and training for all fathers, especially ex-offenders, that promotes economic stability thereby improving child well-being.

# Agenda

# WHITE HOUSE COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE and TOWN HALL MEETING on RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD and HEALTHY FAMILIES

Chicago, IL ★ August 5, 2009

## COMMUNITY POLICY ROUNDTABLE

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3:00 PM Welcome & Purpose - Joshua DuBois

**Listening Panel Members**

Joshua DuBois, Executive Director and Special Assistant to the President  
David Hansell, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Administration for Children  
and Families

Alexia Kelley, Director, HHS Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships

3:10 PM Testimonials from the Community

**Connecting Anti-violence and Fatherhood**  
**Mentoring Young Men and Future Fathers**  
**Fatherhood and Economic Stability**  
**Promising Practices increasing Father Involvement**

3:25 PM Instructions for Roundtable Participants

3:30 PM Breakout into Roundtable Discussions

**Fatherhood Roundtable Topics**

ROUNDTABLE #1: Connecting Anti-violence and Fatherhood

ROUNDTABLE #2: Mentoring young men and future fathers

ROUNDTABLE #3: Fatherhood and Economic Stability

ROUNDTABLE #4: Promising Practices increasing Father Involvement

4:30 PM Roundtable "Reporting Out" Session

*Each Roundtable will nominate a spokesperson to report out on the discussion  
for 5 minutes*

4:45 PM Comments and Questions Listening Panel Members

5:00 PM Adjourn

5:00-6:30 PM Networking Session for Roundtable Participants



# WHITE HOUSE COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE and TOWN HALL MEETING on RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD and HEALTHY FAMILIES

Chicago, IL ★ August 5, 2009

## FATHERHOOD TOWN HALL MEETING

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6:30 PM **Welcome**

Joshua DuBois, Executive Director  
White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships

6:35 PM **Video Welcome from President Obama**

6:45 PM **Welcome & President's Commitment on Fatherhood**

Michael Strautmanis  
Special Assistant to the President & Chief of Staff for Office of Public Engagement

6:55 PM **Father's Panel**

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### **Detective Gerald Hayes**

Gerald has been a foster father since 1978, having raised an estimated 70 children. Gerald is biological father to 4 children in whose lives he is also active.

### **Shune D. Carr**

Mr. Carr, father of three daughters and one son, was previously involved in the criminal justice system. Now going on seven years as a single parent, Shune is active in his community and most importantly, the lives of his children.

### **Bryan Kidd**

Bryan has two young children and works at Sears in Hoffman Estates. Bryan volunteers much of his time mobilizing church members to plan and execute Blitz Build projects through Habitat for Humanity.

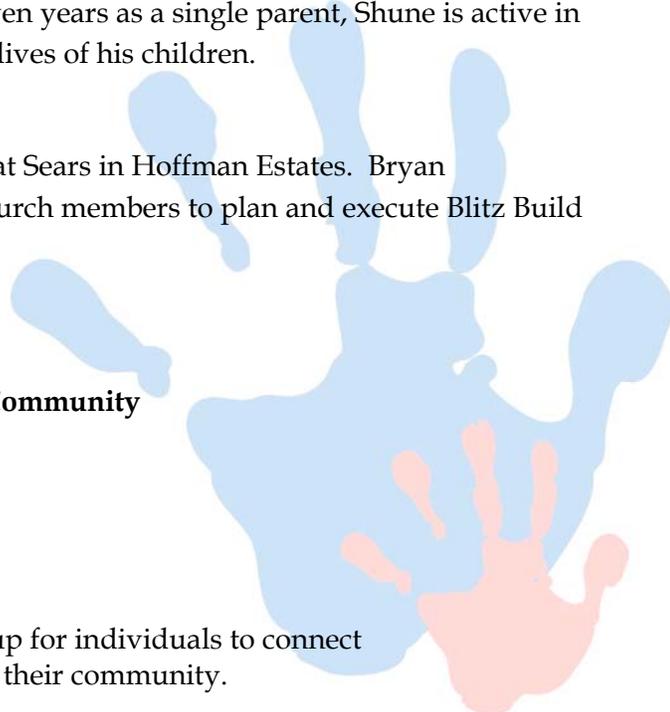
### **Celebrity Guests**

7:10 PM **Question and Answer Session from the Community**

7:40 PM **Closing Remarks**

7:45 PM **Adjourn**

Booths for local organizations will be set up for individuals to connect with programs and activities in their community.



## **Participants List and Evaluation**



WHITE HOUSE COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE and TOWN HALL MEETING on  
**RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD and HEALTHY FAMILIES**

A graphic consisting of two handprints. The larger one is light blue and the smaller one is light red, positioned behind the main title text.

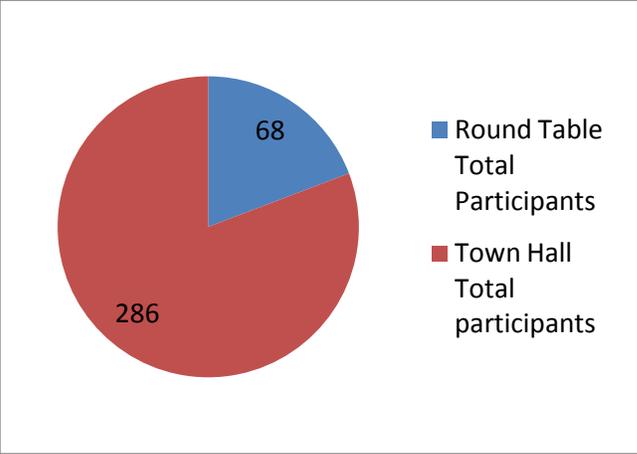
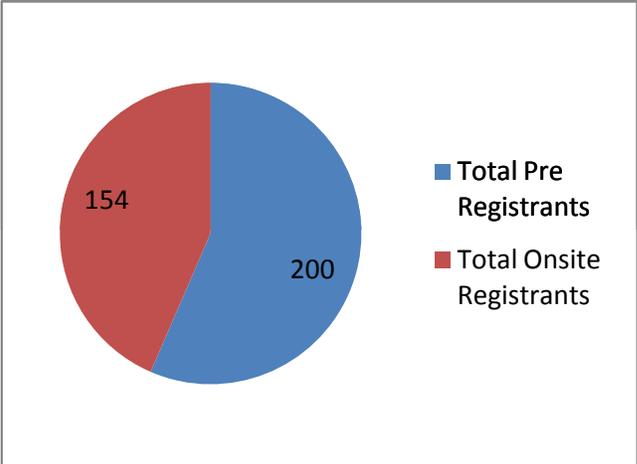
Attendance,  
Registration &  
Evaluation Report

Chicago, IL ★ August 5, 2009

**WHITE HOUSE COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE and TOWN HALL MEETING on RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD and HEALTHY FAMILIES**

**Registration Summary**

<b>Round Table Total participants</b>	<b>68</b>
Pre Registrants	44
Onsite Registrants	24
<b>Town Hall Total participants</b>	<b>286</b>
Pre Registrants & Pre Registrant Guests	156
Onsite Registrants	130
<b>Total Participants</b>	<b>354</b>



WHITE HOUSE COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE and TOWN HALL MEETING on  
**RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD and HEALTHY FAMILIES**

**Evaluation Form Numerical Value**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Average Value</b>
1. Information presented on responsible fatherhood and healthy families was relevant.	4.4
2. Information was presented in a logical and understandable manner.	4.1
3. I learned about other programs in my community that I may contact.	3.9
4. I learned something new from attending today.	4.1
5. The format of the event was suitable to the topic.	3.9
6. Event staff were helpful and courteous.	4.4

*Ranked on a scale of 1 to 5. An average of the 113 evaluation forms returned.*

*1=Strongly Disagree*

*2=Disagree*

*3=Neither Agree Nor Disagree*

*4=Agree*

*5=Strongly Agree*

*0=Not Applicable*

WHITE HOUSE COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE and TOWN HALL MEETING on  
**RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD and HEALTHY FAMILIES**

**Federal Staff**

	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>
1	Eileen	Brooks	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families
2	David	Camporeale	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families
3	James	Citron	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families
4	Diann	Dawson	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families
5	Stephen	Dillard	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
6	Joshua	DuBois	White House, Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships
7	Max	Finberg	U.S. Department of Agriculture
8	Cedric	Grant	U.S. Department of Commerce
9	Vander	Green	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families
10	Peter	Groff	U.S. Department of Education
11	David	Hansell	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families
12	Elizabeth	Hailey-Smith	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families

13	Alexia	Kelley	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships
14	Kimberly	Konkel	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships
15	Robin	McDonald	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families
16	Jesse	Moore	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families
17	Debra	Pontisso	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families
18	Benjamin W.	O'Dell	White House, Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships
19	Jacquelyn	Rivers	U.S. Department of Justice
20	Nancy	Sanchez	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families
21	Michael	Strautmanis	White House, Office of Public Engagement
22	Lisa	Washington-Thomas	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families
23	Kent	Wilcox	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families
24	Mary Ann	Wren	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families

**WHITE HOUSE COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE and TOWN HALL MEETING on  
RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD and HEALTHY FAMILIES**

**Contractors**

	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Organziation</b>
1	Tanyanic	Brown	The Dixon Group
2	Erika	Mercer-Epps	The Dixon Group
3	Shai Monique	Pipkin-Cooper	The Dixon Group
4	Revae	Tharps	The Dixon Group
5	Sheris	Williams	The Dixon Group
1	Kristin	Abner	ICF International
2	Matt	Crews	ICF International
3	Louisa	Fuller	ICF International
4	Josh	Good	ICF International
5	Jeanette	Hercik	ICF International
6	Rich	Lewis	ICF International
7	Jennifer	McHenry	ICF International
8	Jacqueline	Schmidt	ICF International
9	Randel	Turner	ICF International
10	Damon	Waters	ICF International

**WHITE HOUSE COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE and TOWN HALL MEETING on  
RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD and HEALTHY FAMILIES**

**Exhibitors**

	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
1	Damaris	Bran	Confederation of Spanish American Families
2	Edward L.	Smith	Healthcare & Family Services
3	Roland	Warren	National Fatherhood Initiative
4	Mildred	Wiley	Bethel New Life

WHITE HOUSE COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE and TOWN HALL MEETING on  
**RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD and HEALTHY FAMILIES**

**Pre Registered Round Table**

	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
1	Dr. Devan	Baker	City of Milwaukee
2	Torrey	Barrett	
3	Lerone	Benett	Ebony Magazine
4	Michael	Bennett	DePaul University
5	John	Bouman	Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
6	Shune	Carr	Resource Referral Outreach Center
7	Darryl	Davidson	City of Milwaukee Health Department
8	Monica	Elenbass	
9	Eric	Gass	City of Milwaukee
10	Kirk	Harris	National Fatherhood Leaders Group
11	David A.	Hirsch	Illinois Fatherhood Initiative
12	Phillip	Jackson	Blackstar
13	Walter	Jones	Fathers Who Care
14	Joe	Jones	Center for Urban Families
15	Richard	Jones	Metropolitan Family Services
16	Wrenetha	Julion	Rush University Medical Center
17	Michael	Knowles	National PTA
18	Jeffery	Leving	Illinois Council on Responsible Fatherhood
19	Clara	Lopez	El Valor
20	Amanda	McMillen	SGA Youth
21	Bishop Cody	Marshall	Freedom Temple of God and Christ

22	Terence	Mitchell	Ill Dept. of Human Services
23	Art	Mollenhauer	BBBS of Metro Chicago
24	Rami	Nashashibi	Inner City Muslim Action Network (IMAN)
25	David	Pate	Center for Family Policy and Practice
26	Joseph	Podlasek	American Indian Center
27	Claude	Porter	PLCCA, Inc.
28	Lois	Rakov	
29	Terence	Ray	Milwaukee Fatherhood Initiative
30	Matt	Richards	University of Chicago School of Divinity
31	Cynthia	Savage	Circle of Parents
32	Charles "Chuck"	Saylors	National PTA
33	Gary	Slutkin, M.D.	CeaseFire
34	Rev. Horace E.	Smith	Apostolic Faith Church
35	Norris	Stevenson	Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services/DIVISION of Child Support Enforcement
36	Ron	Tonn	North Lawndale Employment Network
37	Roger	Walls	Freedom Temple of God and Christ
38	Roland	Warren	National Fatherhood Initiative
39	Robert	Wharton	CEDA
40	David	Whittaker	Chicago Area Project
41	Roderick	Williams	Prison Fellowship Ministries
42	Diane	Williams	Safer Foundation
43	Bart	Winters	St. Vincent de Paul Center
44	James	Worthy	Center for Urban Families

**WHITE HOUSE COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE and TOWN HALL MEETING on  
RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD and HEALTHY FAMILIES**

**Onsite Roundtable Registration**

	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
1	Brandi	Collins	Safer Foundation
2	Meza	Enrique	Community Economic Development Association - CEDA
3	Marc	Fisher	HHS/ACF
4	Heather	Foster	U.S. Department of Education
5	Gerald	Hall	Community Economic Development Association - CEDA
6	Marshall	Hatch	New Mount Piligram
7	Amber	Herman	USDA Center for Faithbased & Neighborhood Partnerships
8	Anthony	Hoshaw	Chicago Theological Seminary School
9	Waldo E.	Johnson, Jr, Ph.D	University of Chicago
10	Pamela	Lowry	Healthcare & Family Services
11	Michael	Mayfield	Community Economic Development Association - CEDA
12	Steven	McCullough	Bethel New Life
13	Jennifer	McIntyre	Urban Ministries, Inc
14	Donald	Miller	The Mentoring Project
15	Bishop Edgar A.	Mullins	Greater Grace Church
16	Rev. Dee Dee	Osobor	Apostolic Faith Church
17	Jacquelyn	Rivers	U.S. Department of Justice
18	Michael	Robbins	U.S. Department of Education - Center for Faithbased & Neighbohood Partnerships
19	Alexander	Roseborough	Fathers, Families In Transition
20	Rev. Dr. Reginal J.	Saffo	PTMAN
21	Dana	Travis	
22	Rev. Albert D.	Tyson, III	African Methodist Episcopal Church

23 Nigel

Vann

National Responsible Fatherhood  
Clearinghouse

24 Dr. Janette

Wilson

International Sunday School Broadcast

**WHITE HOUSE COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE and TOWN HALL MEETING on  
RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD and HEALTHY FAMILIES**

**Pre Registered Town Hall**

	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
1	Stephen	Alexander	Guest of DePaul University
2	Vary	Arrington	Third Baptist Church of Chicago
3	Sara	Avalos	El Valor
4	Bevan	Baker	City of Milwaukee Health Department
5	Savina	Balasubramanian	Center for Family Policy and Practice
6	Torrey	Barrett	
7	Paul	Beals	Guest of Circle of Parents
8	Deondre	Bedgood	Guest of Circle of Parents
9	Brenda	Bell-White	Service Integration Office, Wis. DCF
10	Lerone	Benett	Ebony Magazine
11	Michael	Bennett	DePaul University
12	John	Bouman	Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
13	Maria	Buchanan	Family Bridges of Chicago
14	Rodney	Byrd	Guest of IL Dept. of Human Services
15	Mirlene	Cadichon-Dossous	United Way of Metropolitan Chicago
16	Shune	Carr	Resource Referral Outreach Center
17	Todd	Cole	Guest of Illinois Council on Responsible Fatherhood
18	Richard	Cozzola	Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
19	Zakee	Darr	Verify on Site
20	Darryl	Davidson	City of Milwaukee Health Department
21	Ptosha	Davis	Girlfriends Holdings, LLC

22	Donald	Dew	Guest of Circle of Parents
23	Nina	Duenas	El Valor
24	Monica	Elenbaas	YMCA of the USA
25	Sabeel	Exl	National Fatherhood Leaders Group
26	Revin	Fellows	Guest of Fathers Who Care
27	Paul	Florsheim	Verify on Site
28	Deirdre	Gamble	Common Ground Agency
29	Eric	Gass	City of Milwaukee Health Department
30	Junior	Gentry	Milwaukee Fatherhood Initiative
31	James	Graham	Guest of Fathers Who Care
32	Shawn	Green	Guest of Prison Fellowship Ministries
33	Wayne	Halick	Guest of Illinois Council on Responsible Fatherhood
34	Maureen	Hallagan	Marillac Social Center
35	Harold	Hampton	Oneida Nation
36	Nore	Hare	National PTA
37	Camille	Harmon	Guest of El Valor
38	Kirk	Harris	National Fatherhood Leaders Group
39	Anthony	Harris	Guest of Circle of Parents
40	Erin	Hart	National PTA
41	Christopher	Hightower	Guest of Il Dept. of Human Services
42	David A.	Hirsch	Illinois Fatherhood Initiative
43	Albert	Holmes	Milwaukee Fatherhood Collaborative
44	Phillip	Jackson	Blackstar
45	Matthew	Johnson	Girlfriends Holdings, LLC
46	Calvin	Jones	Guest of Fathers Who Care

47	Walter	Jones	Fathers Who Care
48	Joe	Jones	Center for Urban Families
49	Richard	Jones	Metropolitan Family Services
50	Wrenetha	Julion	Rush University Medical Center
51	Jerry	Kellman	Gamaliel Metro Chicago
52	Kevin	Kirberg	Illinois Fatherhood Initiative
53	Magda	Kmiecik	Center for Family Policy and Practice
54	Michael	Knowles	National PTA
55	Alicia	La Hoz	Family Bridges of Chicago
56	Jeffrey	Levin	Guest of Fathers Who Care
57	Jeffery	Leving	Illinois Council on Responsible Fatherhood
58	Mike	Levon	Guest of National Center for Fathering
59	Clara	Lopez	El Valor
60	Andrew	Lyke	Arusi
61	Bishop Cody	Marshall	Freedom Temple of God and Christ
62	W. Curtis	Marshall	Wisconsin Division of Public Health
63	Joe	Mason	Guest of IL Dept. of Human Services
64	Jimmy	McAlister	Guest of Fatherhood Initiative
65	Howard	McGhee	Guest of Illinois Council on Responsible Fatherhood
66	Amanda	McMillen	SGA Youth
67	Donald	Miller	The Mentoring Project
68	Terence	Mitchell	Il Dept. of Human Services
69	Art	Mollenhauer	BBBS of Metro Chicago
70	James	Mosley	Milwaukee Fatherhood Initiative
71	Anita	Moss	Marillac Social Center

72	Rami	Nashashibi	Inner City Muslim Action Network (IMAN)
73	David	Pate	Center for Family Policy and Practice
74	Eboo	Patel	Interfaith Youth Core
75	Jearlean	Paul-Maggitt	West Side Future YMCA
76	Jay	Payleitner	Guest of National Center for Fathering
77	Peter	Payne	Guest of Prison Fellowship Ministries
78	David	Pendleton	Guest of Circle of Parents
79	Alfonso	Pettis	Guest of Lowrey
80	Mike	Plukett	Guest of Fatherhood Initiative
81	Joseph	Podlasek	American Indian Center
82	Claude	Porter	PLCCA, Inc.
83	Vincent	Price	Black Star Project
84	LaMar	Pulliam	Fatherhood Initiative
85	Lino	Quinonez Jr.	Guest of Circle of Parents
86	Marcus	Radford	Key Of Life Teaching Center
87	Lois	Rakov	
88	Leticia	Ramirez	El Valor
89	Stanley	Ratliff	Guest of Prison Fellowship Ministries
90	Terence	Ray	Milwaukee Fatherhood Initiative
91	Matt	Richards	University of Chicago School of Divinity
92	Albert	Richardson	Marillac Social Center
93	Clem	Richardson	
94	Matthew	Rodriguez	National PTA
95	Esmeralda	Roman	Gender JUST
96	Sister Renee	Rose	

97	Alex	Roseborough	Guest of Fathers Who Care
98	Reverend Dr. Reginald	Saffo	Guest of PLCCA, Inc.
99	Cynthia	Savage	Circle of Parents
100	John	Sciaccotta	Guest of Illinois Fatherhood Initiative
101	Alison	Sergio	Verify on Site
102	Don	Shane	Verify on Site
103	Gary	Slutkin, M.D.	CeaseFire
104	Rev. Horace E.	Smith	Apostolic Faith Church
105	Sheldon	Smith	Guest of IL Dept. of Human Services
106	Wayne	Sneed	Guest of Illinois Fatherhood Initiative
107	John	Sowers	The Mentoring Project
108	Peter	Spokes	Fathers Who Care
109	Norris	Stevenson	Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services/Division of Child Support
110	Suzanne	Strassberger	Metropolitan Family Services
111	Emely	Surico	El Valor
112	Calvin	Taylor	Healthy Marriage and Relationship Program
113	Ron	Tonn	North Lawndale Employment Network
114	Dana	Travis	Guest of IL Dept. of Human Services
115	Donald	Wadell	Guest of North Lawndale Employment Network
116	Roger	Walls	Freedom Temple of God and Christ
117	Roland	Warren	National Fatherhood Initiative
118	Maurice	Weaver	The Global FoodBanking Network
119	Loretha	Weisinger	Marillac Social Center
120	Robert	Wharton	CEDA

121	Charon	White	Guest of Fatherhood Initiative
122	David	Whittaker	Chicago Area Project
123	Angela	Williams	Guest of Prison Fellowship Ministries
124	Roderick	Williams	Prison Fellowship Ministries
125	Diane	Williams	Safer Foundation
126	Jose	Wilson	Guest of North Lawndale Employment Network
127	Bart	Winters	St. Vincent de Paul Center
128	Lee	Wofford	Guest of Fatherhood Initiative
129	James	Worthy	Center for Urban Families
130	Christian	Zapata	I Am Able

**WHITE HOUSE COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE and TOWN HALL MEETING on  
RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD and HEALTHY FAMILIES**

**Onsite Town Hall Registration**

	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
1	Charles	Adams	University of Chicago Police
2	William	Baker	CEDA
3	Mark	Barrett	CEDA
4	Van	Bensett	Life Directions
5	Saul	Berrum	CEDA/Headstart
6	Laura	Berrum	CEDA
7	Jeanna	Bosacki	thinkmarriage.org
8	Nancy	Brown	Meier Clinics Foundation
9	William	Brown	KLEO
10	David	Buchanan	Lawndale Christian Health Center
11	LeHavre	Buck	Center for Self Sufficent
12	Lamont	Burr	Safer Foundation
13	Mirta	Cabrere	thinkmarriage.org
14	Johnnie	Chandler	Top Level
15	Stephanie	Clark	Project Single Moms
16	Darrell M.	Cleveland	Children of the Incarcerated
17	Darryl	Coleman	AGAPE Family Life Center
18	Rufus	Coleman	Safer Foundation
19	Juan	Cruz	Safer Foundation
20	Veronica	Cruz	Confederation of Spanish American Families
21	Jaymee	Cumnnigh	Enriching Marriage In Indiana

22	Debbie	Dailey	The Villages - Healthy Families
23	Marcus	Davis	HCI
24	Margaret	Davis	HCI
25	Juan Carlos	Diosdado	El Valor
26	Troy	Dobbins	KLEO
27	Connie	Dyer	Urban Evangelism
28	Michael	Eaddy	PLCCA
29	Andrey B.	Filipowilz	Law Offices of Jeffrey Leving, LTD
30	Heather	Gandy	Meier Clinics Foundation
31	Veronica	Garcia	SGA Youth & Family Service
32	David	Garst	
33	Hannah	Garst	
34	Melissa	Gholar	CEDA
35	Sabrina	Gill	IHMFC
36	Jerome	Gordon	Safer Foundation
37	Tara	Grokey	thinkmarriage.org
38	James	Hagler	Law Offices of Jeffrey Leving, LTD
39	Tio	Hardimon	CeaseFire
40	Rodney	Harris	Cornerstone Counseling Center at Chicago
41	Frank	Harris	The Resource Referral Outreach Center
42	Lonnie	Harris	CEDA
43	Stephaney	Harris	Illinois One Family One Child
44	Bennie	Higgins	Alma Center
45	Christopher	Hightower	
46	Bron	Hill, Sr	Cook County Juvenile Court

47	Michael B.	Holmes	II. Department of Human Services
48	Yolanda	Huerta	Hispanic Bible
49	Holly	Hunter	
50	Mildred	Hunter	Office of Minority Health, OPHS, US Dept of Health & Human Services
51	Victoria	Infante	Confederation of Spanish American Families
52	Janiece	Jackson	School District 162
53	Lorie	Jackson	Destinee Global, NFP
54	Anthony	Jackson	Citizens to Elect Wallace Davis, III
55	Rev. Catherine	Jackson	Black Star Project
56	Frankie	Jackson	Citizens to Elect Wallace Davis, III
57	Mary	Johnson	Corazell Community Services
58	Derric	Johnson	CEDA
59	Ida	Johnson	Cornerstone of Hope/Enriching Marriage In Indiana
60	Jami	Kaiser	thinkmarriage.org
61	Stacey	Kidd	
62	Bryan	Kidd	
63	Frank	Kopecky	Advisory Community, Illinois Department of Healthy Family Service
64	Linda	Langosch	CEDA
65	Howard	Latham	Chicago Area Project
66	Jorge	Linares	El Valor
67	Berenice	Luna	SGA Youth & Family Service
68	Thomas A.	Mason, MD	Project Brotherhood
69	Tandy	Matthews	Illinois Action for Children
70	Kevin	McClure	II Childrens Mental Health Partnership

71	Elise	McWoodson	HFS-Child Support Enforcement
72	Cynthia	Moreno	Il Department of Health Care & Family Service/Child Support
73	Robbie	Moultrie	
74	Mary	Myrick	National Healthy Marriage Resource Center
75	Julian T.	Nettles Bey	CCOWI
76	B.	Nichols	
77	Teresa	Nieves	Confederation of Spanish American Families
78	Kena	Noland	Demoiselle 2 Femme, NFP
79	Josh	Nova	El Valor
80	Barb	Olenski	thinkmarriage.org
81	Debbie	Olson	St. Elizabeth St. Mary's Hospital
82	Jorge	Ortiz	19th Judicial Circuit, Lake County, IL
83	Patrick	Patterson	National Healthy Marriage Resource Center
84	Pastor Kevin	Perry	Alpha Foundation for Youth, Inc
85	Rayford J.	Pointer	CEDA
86	Abraham	Ramus	Safer Foundation
87	Terrance	Reese	
88	Jerome	Richardson	IDPH
89	Lauren	Richardson	Chapin Hall at University of Chicago
90	Monica	Richardson	Evaluator
91	James	Riddle	Bethel New Hope
92	Bob	Ripperger	Fathers and Families Center, Indianapolis, IN
93	Rene	Rogers	
94	Deborah	Rogers-Jaye	Harold Washington College

95	Vanessa	Roskosch	thinkmarriage.org
96	Dr. Ulysses	Ruff, Sr	AGAPE Family Life Center
97	Kevin Curtis	Russell	Safer Foundation
98	Brittani	Saafir	Office of Minority Health, OPHS, US Dept of Health & Human Services
99	Esperanza	Salgado	Corazon Community Services
100	Darius	Shealey	Safer Foundation
101	Verlinda	Sims	CEDA
102	Tatiana	Sims	YMCA
103	Edward	Smith	HFS-Child Support Enforcement
104	Craig	Spivey, MSN	Project Brotherhood
105	Margaret	Stapleton	Shriver Center on Poverty Law
106	Jordan	Stewart	KLEO
107	Desiree	Tate	Tate Associates
108	Liddell	Taylor	CEDA
109	Maria R.	Teran	HBS
110	Felipe	Teran	HBS
111	Catalina	Torres	CEDA
112	LaNissa	Trice	Community Economic Development Asosociation
113	Johnnie	Tschoe	CEDA
114	Beverly	Tyree	CMS
115	Roberto	Vargas	Hispanic Bible
116	Apostle Carolyn L.	Vessey	I Am Able Center for Family Development
117	Andre	Wakefield	Ounce of Prevention
118	Bruce	Walker	Blackstar Project
119	Prof John	Wash	I Am Able Center for Family Development

120	Brenda	Watermolen	thinkmarriage.org
121	Maurice	Weaver	The Global Food Banking Network
122	Tim	White	CeaseFire
123	Mariana	Williams	Chicago Freedom School
124	Joseph K.	Williams	CEDA
125	Calvin L.	Williams	Lighthouse Youth Services, Real DADS program
126	Joyce	Wilson	Keys to the Kingdom
127	Amber	Wolfe	The Villages - Healthy Families
128	Michael B.	Woods	Project Brotherhood
129	Tron	Woods	The Northern Trust Co
130	Dixie	Zittlow	thinkmarriage.org

## **Program Profile**

**The White House Community Roundtable on Responsible  
Fatherhood and Healthy Families**

**Program Profile**

Chicago, Illinois  
August 5, 2009

**Organization Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Demographic Background:**

**Key Contact Person:**

**Contact Information:**

**Web site:**

**Population Served:** (i.e. incarcerated, teens, ex-offenders, disabilities, African-American, Asian, Hispanic, Native American, low-income, etc.)

**Fatherhood Program Overview**

Please provide a brief narrative of your program services including key community partnership (2 pages or less).

**Please provide a recent success story:**

**Curriculum Used:** (if applicable)