

# **CALLED**

**FINDING A CAUSE BIGGER THAN SELF**

THE 25TH ANNUAL FAMILIES AND FATHERS NATIONAL-INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

## **OFFICIAL CONFERENCE** *Program*

**25TH INTERNATIONAL FAMILIES AND FATHERS CONFERENCE  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA  
APRIL 22-25, 2024  
A HYBRID CONFERENCE**

- JOIN PRESENTERS FROM -

 AUSTRALIA  
 BOLIVIA  
 CANADA  
 KENYA  
 SCOTLAND

 SOUTH AFRICA  
 UGANDA  
 UNITED KINGDOM  
 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**OVER SIXTY WORKSHOPS LED BY THE BEST**

- Child Welfare Experts
- Early Childhood Education Educators
- Executive Leadership Development Experts
- Family Service Professionals
- Fatherhood Practitioners
- Head Start Professionals
- K-12 Educators
- Marriage and Family Therapists
- Psychologists
- Social Work

**FIVE OUTSTANDING ADVANCED  
CURRICULUM AND SPECIALTY TRAINING  
TREMENDOUS KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

**NETWORKING  
GALA AND AWARDS  
EXHIBITORS**



[www.fathersandfamiliescoalition.org](http://www.fathersandfamiliescoalition.org)

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Dear Colleagues

Welcome to the 25<sup>th</sup> International Families and Fathers Conference hosted by the Fathers and Families Coalition of America, April 22-24, 2024. I want to start with appreciation to all of the talented individuals over twenty-five years supporting this event. We have had the pleasure of hosting many exceptional presenters, exhibitors, and wonderful volunteers. To express our gratitude to every member of the Board of Directors, FFCA Affiliate, every volunteer, and everyone who has contributed their time, talent, and treasure, no words can do justice except for one - 'love.' The intention of the conference really was professional development experience to support staff with outstanding challenge to be the model and mentor for those who do not have a dad, mom, or someone to mirror so they can achieve their dreams. Moreover, our original attendees primarily worked in Head Start figuring it out how to provide programs for fathers. Fast forward twenty-five years, this conference has given to tens of thousands more than "how-to" provide services for fathers with an abundance of cutting-edge and empirical models

I have witnessed forty-eight individuals who never met each other until this conference and married (for a few the next year). Robin Wright-King, Author of "Papa Was A Rolling Stone, A Daughter's Story of Forgiveness," provided the last keynote of our tenth and final conference in Phoenix. As the doors opened to the west, a wonderful attendee walked to Robin and, to the east, her dad walked to greet Ms. Wright-King. The daughter and dad became estranged and met in this provisional moment. What happened next was a generational shift. They reconciled, and he met for the first time his grandson. The next day, several of the ecumenical attendees christened in a workshop room and, I just witnessed in amazement how this fragmented family through the inspiration of Robin bonded. The annual conference has created aspects of touching the lives of others unlike professional association events that I truly believe is based on the diversity of the planning members, presenters, sponsors, attendees, and a global body of stakeholders.

We have hosted entertainers, Gladys Knight, Cedric the Entertainer, Governors, U.S. Senators, Members of Congress, and one lady who was homeless somehow found her way to the conference's gala. The hotel security wanted to escort this young lady from the event. I recall Mrs. Carol Osborne touching my shoulder as I went to serve this young lady a plated dinner and dinner cake. Later, one of the founding FFCA Affiliate CEOs, Dr. Carolyn Curtis danced the night away with this young lady who is someone's daughter. I hope we gave her inspiration and hope. The modeling by Dr. Curtis is an example of our group and spirit of inclusion, where we all are someone's daughter or son with the opportunity to use this event to go to the next level of continuous transformation.

The conference program is based on inclusion and diversity with the intention of bringing diverse attendees a conference to support parents, educators, early childhood professionals, social workers, marriage and family therapists, child support service staff, child welfare peers, and more to have tremendous take-away. One attendee reminded me prior to writing this welcome letter, "James, this is a true family conference, it is like a family reunion." I welcome you to this Families and Fathers Conference.

Sincerely,

Dr. James C. Rodríguez, MSW  
President and Chief Executive Officer



Clinical & Executive Office  
8929 S. Sepulveda, Suite 207  
Los Angeles, 90045



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**INVITED  
 GENERAL SESSION SPEAKERS**

**25<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL FAMILIES AND FATHERS CONFERENCE**



**April 22 -25  
 2024**



**Hilton Los Angeles Airport Hotel**  
 5711 W. Century Blvd. Los Angeles, California 90045



**Commissioner Tanguler Gray**  
 Office of Child Support Services Commissioner  
 Administration for Children and Families  
 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
 Washington, D.C.



**Dr. Rachel Birnbaum, PhD, RSW, LL.M.**  
 Distinguished University Professor Emerita  
 School of Social Work  
 King's University College at Western  
 London, Ontario, Canada



**Mr. Joseph T. Jones, Jr.**  
 Founder and Chief Executive Officer  
 Center for Urban Families  
 Baltimore, Maryland



**Mr. Antrell Tyson**  
 Regional Director, Region 4  
 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
 Atlanta, Georgia



**Mr. Seth Chamberlain**  
 Division Director in the Department of  
 Health and Human Services  
 Administration for Children and Families  
 Office of Family Assistance Washington, D.C.



**Dr. Joshua Coleman, PhD**  
 Psychologist, Senior Fellow  
 Council on Contemporary Families  
 San Francisco, California



**Dr. Phillip Cowan, PhD**  
 Professor of Psychology, Emeritus  
 University of California, Berkeley  
 Berkeley, California



**Dr. Carolyn Cowan, PhD**  
 Professor of Psychology, Emerita  
 University of California, Berkeley  
 Berkeley, California



**Dr. James C. Rodríguez, MSW**  
 President and Chief Executive Officer  
 Fathers and Families Coalition of America  
 Los Angeles, California



**Director for the Conference Ceremonies**  
**Mr. Andre Harrison, M.A., M.S.T.**  
 Marriage & Family Counselor and Educator  
 Fathers and Families Coalition of America  
 Los Angeles, California



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THE 25TH ANNUAL FAMILIES AND FATHERS NATIONAL-INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

## 25<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL FAMILIES AND FATHERS CONFERENCE

Credential & Curriculum Training Programs  
All Programs Offered Virtually and In-Person



April 22 -25  
2024



Hilton Los Angeles Airport Hotel  
5711 W. Century Blvd. Los Angeles, California 90045



Monday, April 22, 2024  
*Advanced Practitioner Credential Course, instructed by  
Dr. James C. Rodriguez, MSW  
Fathers and Families Coalition of America, Los Angeles, California*

*Preparing An Immigration Psychological Evaluation instructed by  
Cio Hernández, PhD, MFT, LPCC  
Got This, Inc. Berkely, California*



*Nurturing Fathers Curriculum Facilitator Training instructed by  
Mark Perlman, MA and Corey Perlman  
Nurturing Fathers Program, Sarasota, Florida*

*One Heart Two Homes CoParenting Strategist Training instructed by  
Tammy Daughtry, MMFT  
CoParenting International, Nashville, Tennessee*



Tuesday, April 23, 2024  
*Spelman College Certificate in Trauma & Resilience: Level One instructed by  
Dr. Narviar Barker Browne, MSW, Ph.D., LCCP  
Spelman College, Atlanta, Georgia*



Register for the conference and add these dynamic programs to enhance skills, receive continuing education units, credentials from internationally recognized programs of excellence.



# 25TH INTERNATIONAL FAMILIES & FATHERS Conference

**SPECIAL ADVANCED  
TRAINING PROGRAM**

**MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2024**

*REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE AND ADD THIS PROGRAM  
ENROLLMENT TO YOUR REGISTRATION.*

## ADVANCED PRACTITIONER CREDENTIAL PROGRAM

THE FIRST PART IS SCHEDULED FOR  
**MONDAY, APRIL 22,**  
AND COMPRISES THREE MODULES:

- Impacts of Relationships,
- DiSC Personality Profile Training and
- Goal Setting with Purpose.

THE SECOND PART IS INSTRUCTED VIRTUALLY ON  
**WEDNESDAYS,**  
AND IT COVERS EIGHT MODULES:

- Frameworks of Advanced Practices,
- Emotional Intelligence (EQ) Training,
- Introduction to Motivational Interviewing Integrated with Building Blocks of Advanced Practices,
- Building Blocks of Advanced Practices II,
- Engaging Individuals & Families Using Mindfulness,
- Cultural Competencies and Evaluation, and
- Practicum & Case Scenario.



**INTERNATIONAL  
BALLROOM**



**SCAN CODE  
FOR WEBSITE**

# NURTURING FATHERS PROGRAM

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## 25TH INTERNATIONAL FAMILIES AND FATHERS CONFERENCE

Special Academies Offered for Virtual and In-Person Attendees

MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2024  
HILTON LOS ANGELES AIRPORT HOTEL  
5711 W. CENTURY BLVD., LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90045



**Nurturing Fathers Facilitator Training Program**



**La Jolla A – Second Floor**

*Don't miss out on the opportunity to implement an evidence-based fatherhood curriculum. The Nurturing Fathers Program is a 13-week training course that teaches parenting and nurturing skills to men.*

*The Nurturing Fathers Program has been successfully implemented in various settings such as schools, Head Start, churches, state DSS, prisons, halfway houses, Prevent Child Abuse, parenting and counseling centers, military, community action agencies, and many others.*

*The program is also available in Spanish.*



Mark Perlman, MA and Corey Perlman



The Nurturing Fathers Program



Sarasota, Florida



Register for the conference and add this program enrollment to your registration.

[fathersandfamiliescoalition.org/conferences/conference-credential-and-curriculum-academies.html](https://fathersandfamiliescoalition.org/conferences/conference-credential-and-curriculum-academies.html)

**FFCA**  
**FATHERS AND FAMILIES**  
Coalition of America  
*Finding A Cause Bigger Than Self*

# 25TH INTERNATIONAL FAMILIES & FATHERS CONFERENCE

## ONE HEART, TWO HOMES CO-PARENTING COURSE

**ONE HEART TWO HOMES  
CO-PARENTING  
COURSE PROGRAM**



**CARMEL  
- SECOND FLOOR**

SPECIAL ACADEMIES OFFERED  
FOR VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON ATTENDEES

**MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2024**

**HILTON LOS ANGELES AIRPORT HOTEL  
5711 W. CENTURY BLVD., LOS ANGELES,  
CALIFORNIA 90045**

Don't miss out on the opportunity to implement an evidence-based co-parenting curriculum training program.

One Heart Two Homes Co-Parenting Course, you'll get equipped with practical tools, assessments, and facilitator training that will help you assist single and step-parents raising children in complex family situations. This program will enable you to conduct an effective, ongoing program for parents raising children between two households.

### **WHAT YOU WILL GET:**

- A 39-page Leader's Guide that allows you to use it with clients and small groups
- A 30-minute leader overview video
- One copy of Co-Parenting Works! Helping Your Children Thrive after Divorce book
- One copy of the One Heart Two Homes workbook (96 pages)
- Marketing flier and two promo videos
- Two-year use with renewable option

Additional workbook bundles are available as needed. Also, the second part of the program will be determined for the virtual sessions post-conference.

The program is also available in Spanish.



**TAMMY DAUGHTRY, MMFT**  
CoParenting International  
Nashville, Tennessee



**SCAN FOR  
WEBSITE**

**REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE AND ADD THIS PROGRAM  
ENROLLMENT TO YOUR REGISTRATION.**





# PREPARING AN IMMIGRATION PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION

## 25<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL FAMILIES AND FATHERS CONFERENCE

### Special Academies Offered for Virtual and In-Person Attendees



April 22  
2024



Hilton Los Angeles Airport Hotel  
5711 W. Century Blvd. Los Angeles, California 90045



**PREPARING AN IMMIGRATION PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION TRAINING PROGRAM**



**LA JOLLA B – SECOND FLOOR**

Don't miss out on the opportunity to implement an evidence-based specialized training working with immigrants!

The course will provide practical applications to standardize evaluation processes, address diversity, and manage clinical practice. The training is for 7 hours and C.E.U.'s are available

#### Benefits of taking This Specialized Course Include:



1. Receive A Comprehensive Checklist for Effective Individualized Assessments
2. All Participants will have access to tools to support the needs of immigrants in this process
3. Interactive class with practicum and vignettes



The P.I.P.E. Certificate is a specialized academy session and certificate program aimed at professionals who work with parents facing challenges in the immigration process. It is designed for clinicians, attorneys, and practitioners, with the added opportunity for those who provide wrap-around services in early childhood education, family services, and other child-family programs to increase their skills and provide effective support to parents and individuals in an immigration status.

**THE PROGRAM IS ALSO AVAILABLE IN SPANISH.**



**CIO HERNÁNDEZ,  
PHD, MFT, LPCC**



**THE HERNANDEZ FAMILY  
THERAPY, INC.**



**BERKELY, CALIFORNIA**



**REGISTER FOR THE  
CONFERENCE AND ADD  
THIS PROGRAM  
ENROLLMENT TO YOUR  
REGISTRATION.**



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## **25TH INTERNATIONAL FAMILIES AND FATHERS CONFERENCE SPECIAL ADVANCED TRAINING PROGRAM INTRODUCTION CLASS IS ON TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2024**

 REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE AND ADD THIS PROGRAM ENROLLMENT TO YOUR REGISTRATION

 INTERNATIONAL BALLROOM

### **SPELMAN COLLEGE CERTIFICATE IN TRAUMA AND RESILIENCY LEVEL ONE**

Don't miss out on the opportunity to elevate your skills and knowledge!  
15-hour training program designed to provide professionals from diverse fields.  
15-hour in-person and online learning experience to earn a.

It is based on the renowned texts, *Coping with Trauma* and *Trauma and Recovery*, which equip practitioners with the necessary knowledge and skills to work with both adults and children who have experienced trauma. The program aims to instill hope and resilience in trauma clients. \*The course will offer 15 hours of CEUs by FFCA.

Through evidence-based course content, case scenarios, multimedia materials, community assignments, and quizzes, participants learn about the fundamentals of trauma, its effects, psychiatric disorders related to trauma, and how to help trauma clients establish a sense of safety and adaptive resolution.

 Dr. Narviar Barker Browne, MSW, Ph.D., LCCP

 Spelman College

 Atlanta, Georgia

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## **25<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL FAMILIES AND FATHERS CONFERENCE**

**SPECIAL NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY**

**MONDAY EVENING BUS TOUR**

**Leaving Hilton LAX Hotel**

**4:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. | Long Beach Shoreline Tour**

Don't miss out on the opportunity to create beautiful memories, new friends, and a fantastic time to start this internationally attended conference!

Opportunities to put your feet in the sand and the Pacific Ocean, shopping, visiting the lighthouse and area restaurants. Conference attendees and guest can join our team for a special experience at the Parker Lighthouse Restaurant.



Register for the conference and add this tour to the Pacific Ocean as part of the enrollment to your registration.



## OPENING DAY SCHEDULE

**APRIL 23, 2024**  
**OPENING GENERAL SESSION**  
**8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.**

**APRIL 23, 2024**  
**MORNING WORKSHOP SESSIONS**  
**10:35 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

**Workshop Title: Just Because It Is Not Wrong Doesn't Make It Right: Teaching Children to Think and Act Ethically**

\*This is a scheduled hybrid session for virtual and in-person attendees

**Description:** Barbara Coloroso offers a comprehensive workshop that provides practical advice on using everyday life experiences to teach children values such as integrity, civility, and compassion. She emphasizes that compassion is innate in all of us and shows parents, educators, and professionals how to cultivate and guide children's ethical development from early childhood through adolescence using situations that occur in daily life. The workshop covers home, school, social settings, and the world.

Presenter: Barbara Coloroso, MEd  
International Bestselling Author/Educator  
Littleton, Colorado

**Workshop Title: Sexual Behavior in Children & Teens: When to Really Worry!**

\*This is a scheduled hybrid session for virtual and in-person attendees

**Description:** Understanding sexual development in children and teens is crucial to ensure their safety and well-being. As a caregiver, it is important to recognize distinct phases of sexual development, common and uncommon behaviors, and how to approach conversations effectively. This session offers valuable insights and learning opportunities such as typical and sexualized behavior, childhood psychological and social sexual development, age-appropriate behaviors, and tips for interacting with children and teens engaging in such behavior. Participants will also learn reporting and documenting behavior, along with a quick assessment tool staff can use to ensure the safety of the children in their care.

Presenter: Amy Lang, MA  
Birds and Bees and Kids  
Seattle, Washington



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**Workshop Title: Breaking Barriers: Incarcerated Fathers' Journey to Sustain Parental Engagement**

\*This is a scheduled hybrid session for virtual and in-person attendees

**Description:** This workshop delves into the findings of a qualitative study that involved interviewing twenty-four fathers who had been incarcerated in the past and had received services from a fatherhood program in Long Island, New York. The fathers discussed their experiences and challenges in maintaining relationships with their children during their incarceration. The obstacles they faced in engaging with their children were categorized into three types: structural (such as prison rules, lack of freedom, and visitation restrictions), relational (such as conflicts with their children's mother(s) or other family members), and personal (such as feelings of shame, embarrassment, or the reluctance to expose their children to their circumstances). The workshop focuses on amplifying the fathers' voices and concerns while also providing specific interventions that fatherhood programs can implement to overcome these barriers and ensure that all fathers and children can build sustainable and meaningful relationships, regardless of their incarceration status.

Presenter: Dr. R. Anna Hayward, PhD, MSW  
Associate Professor,  
School of Social Welfare  
Stony Brook University  
New York City, New York

**Workshop Title: Certificate in Trauma & Resilience: Level One**

\*This is a scheduled hybrid session for virtual and in-person attendees

**Description:** This 15-hour combination of in-person and online curriculum leads to a Certificate in Trauma & Resilience: Level One. This curriculum is based on the texts, Coping with Trauma and Trauma and Recovery, which allows practitioners to develop the knowledge and skills required to work with adults and children experiencing trauma, instilling hope, and resilience.

Participants learn from evidence-based course content, case scenarios, multi-media materials, community assignments, and quizzes on the foundation of trauma, the effects of trauma, trauma-related psychiatric disorders, and how to help trauma clients establish a sense of safety and adaptive resolution.

\*This is a fee-based session for the full certificate program.

Presenter: Dr. Narviar Barker Browne, MSW, PhD, LCCP, LSW  
Lecturer, Spelman College  
Atlanta, Georgia



### **Workshop Title: Unpacking Special Education: Beyond LRE, FAPE, & Inclusion**

**Description:** Join this enlightening session that will empower you to catalyze meaningful change in your personal and professional arenas. The presenter will lead a high-impact session to demystify foundational yet often misunderstood special education terms. The session is designed for educators, therapists, policymakers, and parents who seek practical applications of these terms in real-world scenarios. You will be engaged in participatory polling and group analysis of cases to move past academic definitions and gain a deeper understanding of the subject. By the end of the session, you will be empowered to catalyze meaningful change in your professional and personal arenas.

Presenter: Dr. Ovetta Chapman, PhD  
School Psychologist,  
Pendergast Elementary School  
Phoenix, Arizona

### **Workshop Title: Barbershop Talk: Grief and Bereavement in Black Fathers After the Loss of a Spouse/Partner**

**Description:** Were you aware that a barbershop can provide more than just a haircut and friendly conversation? In this workshop, we will gain insights into the challenges faced by Black fathers after losing their spouse or partner, the process of grief and bereavement in Black fathers, and the importance of self-care. Additionally, we will discuss the role of barbershops as environments for health promotion education and the available resources. The strategies will include an interactive discussion of the history of Black barbershops, Black grief, and useful information for barbers when engaging with Black fathers who have lost a spouse or partner.

Presenter: Dr. Yvette M. Rose, DNP, RN  
Professor of Nursing  
Olivet Nazarene University  
Bourbonnais, Illinois

### **Workshop Title: Redefining & Resetting Fatherhood and Family Units**

**Description:** Fathers play a crucial role in their children's lives. Their active involvement is necessary for stable and healthy families. Positive male role models offer love, support, guidance, and stability, which are essential for children. Studies have shown that children without active father figures face behavioral, academic, and emotional challenges. We must redefine fatherhood and family units within the justice system to ensure strong relationships between fathers and their children. This will help our families thrive

and children succeed. This workshop explores trauma, inspires personal growth, and helps develop strategies to overcome societal pressures.

Presenter: Dr. Jesse Sanders  
Mental Health Therapist, Redefined LLC  
Columbus, Ohio

### **Workshop Title: 15 Characteristics of the 21st-Century Man**

**Description:** In today's world, there is a growing need for a practical guide to help fathers become better role models for their families. Although several guidelines are available in the form of publications and white papers, it is still unclear what qualities a father should possess to exceed expectations. The 100 Fathers, Inc. approached some of the best role models from different walks of life to create a toolkit that every father, mother, wife, son, and daughter would find useful. However, it is important to remember that no father is perfect, and this toolkit is designed to offer practical advice rather than a set of rules to follow.

Presenter: Dr. Franklyn Malone  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
100 Fathers Inc.  
Washington, D.C.

### **Workshop Title: How to Use Your Phone as a Tool, not a Trap**

**Description:** In this session, parents and professionals will discuss the impact of mental health and technology on families and children in today's connected society. Drawing from firsthand experiences, as well as an industry leader with Ditox - a digital well-being community - we will explore ways to help adolescents and younger children navigate issues such as cyberbullying, online anxiety, depression, body image, and mental illness. We aim to promote active digital well-being and encourage families, companies, and brands to work together towards this goal. Educating, empowering, and inspiring the next generation can create a future where technology is used to enhance our lives, not detract from them.

Presenter: Thao V. Tran  
Founder @ Ditox  
Melbourne, Victoria, Australia



**APRIL 23, 2024**  
**LUNCH GENERAL SESSION**  
**12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

**APRIL 23, 2024**  
**AFTERNOON WORKSHOP SESSIONS – PART ONE**  
**1:35 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**Workshop Title: Preventing and Healing Estranged Family Relationships: Supporting Fathers in Meaningful Ways**

\*This is a scheduled hybrid session for virtual and in-person attendees

**Description:** It has become a growing problem in Western communities, such as Canada and the United States, that parents and their adult children (as well as their grandchildren) lose contact with each other. This trend is partially due to the transformation of families due to union breakdowns. For example, in Canada, 1 in 5 children will have minimal to no contact with their fathers two years after the divorce. This rate increases to 4 in 10 children by the 10th year. The program uses interactive activities to help individuals: (1) Understand the factors that contribute to the loss of family contact. (2) Discuss how estrangement affects fathers in particular. (3) Offer useful tips and strategies for supporting estranged fathers and their families. The presenters will also discuss cultural practices and strategies, especially for "collectivistic" cultures that tend to be closed systems. It is crucial to work collectively and find meaningful ways to help and advocate for fathers experiencing estrangement, whether short-term or long-term. This workshop is geared for all interested parties!

Presenter: Dr. Susan Chuang, PhD  
Professor  
Department of Family Relations & Applied Nutrition  
University of Guelph  
Guelph, Ontario, Canada

Presenter: Dr. Joshua Coleman, PhD  
Psychologist, Senior Fellow  
Council on Contemporary Families  
Oakland, California

Presenter: Dr. Kristina Scharp, PhD  
Associate Professor of Communication Studies  
Director of the Family Communication and Relationships Lab  
Rutgers The State University of New Jersey  
New Brunswick, New Jersey





**Workshop Title: Finding Our Way Back: The Journey of Disconnected African-American Fathers**

\*This is a scheduled hybrid session for virtual and in-person attendees

**Description:** This workshop will address the challenges African-American fathers who are not involved with their children face. We will explore absenteeism, parental conflict, mental health concerns, legal issues, and discuss strategies for better outcomes.

Presenter: Chester Marshall MSW, LICSW  
Founder/Chief Executive Officer, Institute for African Man Development Inc.  
Washington, D.C.

**Workshop Title: Family Resource Centers Embedded in Schools: A Collaborative Model of Support for Children and Families**

\*This is a scheduled hybrid session for virtual and in-person attendees

**Description:** In this session, we will go into detail about how to create a support system for homeless children and youth in schools that is centered around the community and informed by trauma. We will share an innovative practice model that helps identify and support homeless youth, including a needs assessment, an identification and referral process, staff training materials and tools, parent engagement strategies, collaboration with community partners, and establishing a family resource center on campus as the hub. We will also provide an outline for a sustainability plan.

Presenter: Dr. Elizabeth Vermilyea, PhD  
Deputy Director  
Child Parent Institute  
Santa Rosa, California

Dr. Debra Sanders, EdD  
Foster and Homeless Youth Education Services Coordinator  
Sonoma County Office of Education  
Santa Rosa, California

**Workshop Title: Establishing and Maintaining Mental Wellness**

\*This is a scheduled hybrid session for virtual and in-person attendees

**Description:** This dynamic and interactive workshop explores factors that impact men's mental wellness and strategies designed to establish, empower, and maintain mental wellness.

Presenter: Dr. Charles W. Woodard  
Chief Executive Officer  
Seed Consultation Services, LLC  
Boynton Beach, Florida

### **Workshop Title: Mentors and Therapeutic Mentors: Preparation and Practices to Promote Mentors Resiliency**

**Description:** This session is a unique family violence prevention model using integrated trauma-informed/healing-centered principles to support therapeutic mentors across practice settings. Participants will learn strategies to promote self-care and skill-building with mentors as paraprofessionals.

Presenter: Steven E. Browning, MEd  
Sr. Program Coordinator  
Family Violence Center  
The Arizona Child and Adolescent Survivor Initiative  
Arizona State University  
Phoenix, Arizona

### **Workshop Title: Strengthening Family Communication**

**Description:** According to Maslow's hierarchy of needs, providing our children with necessities, such as food, water, and shelter, can help create a psychologically secure environment. However, many schoolchildren need clarification on what constitutes safety and with whom they can confide. Attend this workshop to discover how to foster a sense of safety and connection in your home, learn methods for diffusing difficult conversations, and develop resilience by setting a positive example.

Presenter: Tiffany Akai M.Ed., ED Candidate  
Business Owner  
Above the Grade, LLC  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

### **Workshop Title: Brain Spa**

**Description:** Dr. Cio Hernández is the Chief Executive Officer and Founder of Got This! Inc. and The Be It! Foundation. In her practice, she offers EMDR and other modalities to replace haunting memories with a new outlook on life or to help people reach any goal. Her "Got This! App" is used to lower stress and boost confidence using EMDR elements. For over 20 years, she has worked on policy, philanthropy, public information, the Kaiser research board, teaches continuing education, and serves on the First 5 Children and Families Commission. Her goal is to diversify access to EMDR and mental health care.

Presenter: Dr. Cio Hernández, PhD, MFT, LPCC  
Chief Executive Officer and Founder  
The Hernández Family Therapy, Inc.  
Berkeley, California

### **Workshop Title: Showing Up for Young Fathers**

**Description:** Learn from our ten years of experience working with teens and young fathers. We have developed effective strategies, support systems, and plans to engage, empower, and promote their growth as responsible young parents through both our successes and failures. By attending this session, participants can expect to better understand how to engage with young fathers and leave with practical tools to empower them.

Presenter: Shanne Sowards  
Founder and Director  
Squires, Inc.  
Portland, Oregon

### **Workshop Title: Field and Forest to Table: Food That Can Help Change Your Mood**

**Description:** During this session, participants will learn about cultivating herbs and plants found in the wild. These plants can be used as food and nourish your loved ones. Growing and harvesting these plants can also help improve your mood, as it is believed that working with the soil is a way to connect with the earth. Collecting plants in nature can also ground participants and improve overall well-being. The presenter will provide examples of seasonal harvests and share recipes for teas, foods, salves, and balms.

Presenter: Melanee Stevens, MEd  
Program Manager  
Chehalis Native Connections  
Oakville, Washington

**APRIL 23, 2024**  
**NETWORKING BREAK**  
**3:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.**

**APRIL 23, 2024**  
**AFTERNOON WORKSHOP SESSIONS – PART TWO**  
**3:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

### **Workshop Title: How to Build the Five Protective Factors in Fathers**

\*This is a scheduled hybrid session for virtual and in-person attendees

**Description:** Melissa Byers, Chief Marketing Officer of National Fatherhood Initiative®, will share insights on developing the five protective factors in fathers. The five protective factors are the characteristics that increase the likelihood of positive outcomes for young children and their families and decrease the

chances of child abuse and neglect. She will discuss the key elements needed to develop these factors in fathers and how they differ from building them into mothers. Additionally, she will highlight some effective case studies, NFI programs, and resources that can help build these factors in fathers.

Presenter: Melissa Byers, UXC  
Chief Marketing Officer  
National Fatherhood Initiative®  
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

**Workshop Title: Do You Want to Improve Recruitment and Retention of Black Americans in Your Programs?**

\*This is a scheduled hybrid session for virtual and in-person attendees

**Description:** This presentation highlights Black participants' various challenges and how focusing on their resilience can help increase retention rates. Attendees will discover at least three practices from the Pee Dee Healthy Start FRAMEWorks model, which the Administration supports for the Children and Families (ACF) Office of Family Assistance (OFA). These practices will help them integrate cultural sensitivity and responsiveness into their workshop delivery. The session will also shed light on the potential biases that exist within our own culture, particularly towards Black men and women in America. Interactive storytelling techniques will be employed to encourage positive goal achievement. The presenter will share her life's adversity and how it led her to find a cause that was "bigger than self," incorporating videos to support her message. Participants will leave with a better understanding that our similarities should bring us together and that what prevents us from engaging with people from diverse backgrounds is our lack of understanding of historical trauma. This session is ideal for everyone, including parents, teachers, educators, leaders, healthcare, and social workers.

Presenter: Leerenee Brown  
Project Director  
Pee Dee Healthy Start Inc.  
Florence County, South Carolina

**Workshop Title: MoveON: Understanding Anger and Anxiety**

\*This is a scheduled hybrid session for virtual and in-person attendees

**Description:** Rational decisions can be challenging when we are in fight-flight-fight mode. Our neurochemistry is wired to keep us focused on solving the problem that is causing stress, which is great if the problem is a physical threat, like almost getting hit by a truck. However, it becomes more difficult to resolve if the problem is related to our work environment or negative relationships. Thankfully, there are specific ways, backed by research, to increase serotonin in our system, which can help us think more

clearly. If you are a parent, advocate, or educator, this workshop is designed for all conference participants.

Presenter: Karen Tompkins  
Speaker, Author, and Educator  
Essex, Ontario, Canada

### **Breaking The Stigma Around LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC Fathers**

**Description:** This presentation aims to raise awareness about the various stigmas encountered by LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC fathers in our country. By bringing attention to these stigmas, we can start supporting each other and work towards breaking down these barriers.

Presenter: Paul Brown  
Certified Peer Counselor and Trainer  
Dads M.O.V.E.

Nelson Rascon  
Chief Executive Officer  
Dads M.O.V.E.  
Tacoma, Washington

### **Workshop Title: To Judge a Book: Stereotype and Bias of Fatherhood**

**Description:** Welcome to the session aimed primarily at fatherhood practitioners, parents, and individuals collaborating with dads. Throughout the session, we will explore various strategies that can enhance healthy outcomes for fathers. As part of this experience, participants can put themselves in the shoes of a 365DAD with the Nurturing Fathers Program as the foundation and participate in a fun brainstorming activity. Additionally, participants will learn how to read a Massachusetts Criminal Offense Record History. This session aims to help attendees work across broad systems established to help parents, children, and families. Our presenters are fathers who have overcome adversity and turned it into self-transcendent opportunities to help thousands of men.

Presenter: Xavier Cardona  
Vice President  
365DAD  
New Bedford, Massachusetts

Presenter: Marv Neal  
President  
365DAD  
Boston, Massachusetts

### **Workshop Title: Using Higher Order Thinking and Fatherhood to Reduce Gang Activity**

**Description:** Having a healthy and engaged father can play a crucial role in ending gang violence. According to research, between 50-85% of gang members come from single-parent households or those in which no parent is present.

We must implement an approach that empowers the father and child to aim higher to address this issue. Teaching higher-order thinking skills can help build stronger relationships that support positive choices and behaviors in children, thereby reducing their involvement in gangs. By doing so, we can contribute to the reduction or even the end of gang violence in our communities. The session is intended for all levels of participants.

Presenter: Thomas C. Cotton  
Chief Executive Officer  
Building People to Innovate Change  
Atlanta, Georgia

### **Workshop Title: Early Childhood Education Parent Engagement**

**Description:** Engaging parents in your program is key to building better relationships with children, teachers, and parents, leading to a stronger community. Participants can achieve this by providing ideas, promoting diversity, and creating classroom interaction opportunities. As a leader, it is important to guide parents to develop trust in themselves and advocate for their children. You can utilize your knowledge of child development to provide the necessary motivation to foster a love of learning and help children develop effective communication skills for a successful school experience and beyond.

This session is designed primarily for parents of young children in Early Head Start and Head Start. Participants will learn activities to help their children learn positively, use language effectively, and better understand their needs to improve their behavior.

Presenter: Guadalupe Moctezuma, MA  
Pre-school Teacher  
Head Start Preschool  
San Jose, California

Presenter: Jessica Moctezuma  
Early Learning Childcare Specialist  
SOMOS Mayfair  
San Jose, California

## Father Inclusion: VITAL for Exceptional Results in Child Support Services

**Description:** Fathers play a crucial role in their children's lives, and our programs should be designed to support them during unexpected difficulties and involve them in all conversations that concern their case decisions. However, our program has ample room for improvement regarding including fathers from all backgrounds. The lack of engagement makes it challenging for fathers to participate and succeed in their cases. This workshop aims to help us understand the challenges that fathers face and develop more inclusive practices that we can implement in our program to support dads' success and benefit their children. The workshop is open to all participants, but we prioritize child support professionals and those working with child support service systems nationally.

Presenter: Andrea Carli, MA  
Manager, Training Delivery Unit  
State of California Department of Child Support Services  
Menifee, California



Clinical & Executive Office  
8929 S. Sepulveda, Suite 207  
Los Angeles, 90045



[www.fathersandfamiliescoalition.org](http://www.fathersandfamiliescoalition.org)



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**FINDING A CAUSE BIGGER THAN SELF**

**THE 25TH ANNUAL FAMILIES AND FATHERS NATIONAL-INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

# 25<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL FAMILIES AND FATHERS CONFERENCE

SPECIAL NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY



**TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2024**



**5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m**

**COMPLIMENTARY OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION  
OPEN BEVERAGE AND RECEPTION**

**INTERNATIONAL BALLROOM | MEET THE AUTHORS | LIVE LATIN JAZZ AND R&B BAND**

Oakland, California native Paris Escovedo with his band will bring Latin jazz. Get ready for fun, dancing, networking and the exceptional sounds of the Escovedo band led Paris playing the timbales.



**FFCA**  
**FATHERS AND FAMILIES**  
Coalition of America  
Finding A Cause Bigger Than Self



**APRIL 24, 2024**  
**OPENING GENERAL SESSION**  
**8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.**

**APRIL 24, 2024**  
**MORNING WORKSHOP SESSIONS**  
**10:35 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

**Workshop Title: Dads Club Edinburgh Lone Fathers Project**

\*This is a scheduled hybrid session for virtual and in-person attendees

**Description:** The idea for the Dads Club originated from observing fathers having fun with their young children at a holiday center swimming pool. Instead of relying on center-based group sessions for parenting support, we developed a program of sports, outdoor activities, and visits where fathers could participate with their children. Parenting support is an additional component provided by the project worker and other families involved in the activities.

The project aimed to engage single fathers with young children, including the primary caregivers and those who contact fathers with shorter durations of care. All fathers were encouraged to give their children the time and space to express themselves and for their opinions to be recognized. In light of this, the group decided that the children should determine the location, time, travel, and financing of Saturday trips, provided that it was feasible. As a result, the children became more expressive, talkative, and self-assured. They feel they are an important part of the project and rely on the Saturday routine, as confirmed by many fathers.

The project is the only one in the United Kingdom that caters to lone and contact fathers. The project follows an activity-based approach to supporting fathers, which facilitates interaction between fathers and their children and between fathers and project workers.

Presenter: Kenny Spence  
Internationally Acknowledged Educator and Presenter  
Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom

Presenter: Jerry Parr  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Willow Tree Early Education Team LLC  
Missouri City, Texas

**Workshop Title: Fathers And the Intersection with Human Trafficking**

\*This is a scheduled hybrid session for virtual and in-person attendees

**Description:** Fathers play a crucial role in creating a safe and nurturing environment for their children. However, they can unknowingly create conditions that make children vulnerable to exploitation. Being engaged, aware, and inspired fathers can prevent these conditions and protect their children from predators. Unfortunately, there is a common misconception that fathers do not matter, which can hinder their understanding of their unique contribution to their children's health and well-being. It is important to raise awareness among fathers of their vital role in creating safe homes where children can thrive.

Presenter: Patrick Erlandson  
Founder and Executive Director  
Father-Con  
Los Angeles, California

**Workshop Title: Managing Kids Screen Time: Strategies for Safe Technology Use**

\*This is a scheduled hybrid session for virtual and in-person attendees

**Description:** By attending this session, educators, family professionals, parents, and caregivers can deepen their understanding of the potential physical, psychological, social, and emotional risks of excessive or inappropriate screen time. Additionally, they will learn how to use technology to benefit all family members, including children from infancy to 18+ years.

Presenter: Dr. Rosina McAlpine, M Com Hons, MHed, PhD, FCPA  
Chief Executive Officer  
Win Win Parenting  
Sydney, Australia

**Workshop Title: Aces (Adverse Childhood Experiences) How to Make Them Work for Good**

**Description:** This session offers a hands-on learning experience for participants to understand the impact of a parent's behavior and actions on their child's development. The presentation will draw upon the speaker's experiences as a social worker, former correctional officer, parent, and author to help parents and professionals understand the effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences on children's emotional, mental, and physical well-being.

The workshop takes parents on a journey into the speaker's history, as well as their own, enabling them to reframe their parenting skills and perceptions of being a parent. In this session, learning outcomes will promote healthy and productive children as they grow into adulthood.

While the session is intended primarily for parents, practitioners are welcome to attend. By the end of the workshop, participants will gain an awareness of intergenerational patterns, behavioral patterns in children, self-care tools, and

Presenter: Essence Vance  
Author/Motivational Speaker/Facilitator  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Workshop Title: Involvement Vs. Engagement: Family Matters**

**Description:** Families play a crucial role in determining the well-being of children and youth. The quality of relationships among family members significantly impacts students' academic performance and success. Studies suggest that establishing strong and healthy connections between schools and families can enhance student motivation, leading to better learning outcomes and overall development. This workshop aims to help attendees comprehend the needs of families while distinguishing between involvement and engagement. We will provide the necessary tools to define the concept of engagement in your current setting and engage families effectively on campus.

Presenter: Eric Phillips, MEd  
Family Engagement Specialist  
Arlington Independent School District  
Mansfield, Texas

**Workshop Title: Effects Of Racial Discrimination on the Mental Health of African-American Fathers**

**Description:** Discrimination refers to unjust and unfavorable treatment of individuals or groups based on sex, disability, or ethnicity (Dovidio et al., 2010). Race is a social construct that categorizes people based on physical appearance, while ethnicity refers to a shared culture and identity derived from common heritage, ancestry, or nationality. Racism, which stems from hostility towards individuals based on their race and ethnicity (Lee et al., 2019), is widespread in society and can cause stress and harm mental health (Carter, 2007; de Freitas et al., 2018; Ruggiero & Taylor, 1995). Racial discrimination can inflict emotional distress with severe and long-term psychological consequences. This workshop aims to explore the impact of racial discrimination on the mental health of African-American fathers.

Presenter: Dontae' Roberts, LCISW  
Visiting Professor and Quality Management Consultant  
Winston-Salem State University  
Greensboro, North Carolina

### **Workshop Title: Going Off to Greatness: How to Support a New College Student**

**Description:** Going to college is an amazing experience where one can learn and make lifelong friends. Although amazing, college students may face many difficulties such as adjustment, fitting in, academic issues, etc. These difficulties become exacerbated when that student has a mental health disorder. In this presentation the attendee will learn how to support a student going off to college socially and emotionally. They will learn how to help them prepare mentally for the challenges they may face in college. Attendees will also learn how support a student who has a mental illness and learn various resources that are available to help a college student matriculate successfully through college.

Presenter: Dr. Alicia Jackson, PhD  
Coordinator of Clinical Programs  
Florida A&M University  
Tallahassee, Florida

### **Workshop Title: Out Of The Shadows: Fathers Speak Up About Victimization and Abuse**

**Description:** Divorce and union breakdowns have become common in today's society, leaving children in a difficult position. Families have undergone significant transformation due to this trend. However, what remains unnoticed is the high percentage of children growing up without their fathers or having very limited contact with them. Shockingly, after two years of divorce, one in five children and youth have less than one week of contact with their fathers. This number increases to four in ten children by the ten-year mark.

Unfortunately, many fathers experience various forms of abuse during these relationships, including administrative or legal abuse, false allegations, and parental alienation. Our presentation will discuss strategies to help fathers going through union breakdowns. We will also identify fathers who are at risk of abuse and co-create ways forward with them. Additionally, we will develop effective strategies to promote self-care and well-being.

Presenter: Dr. Susan Chuang, PhD  
Professor  
Department of Family Relations & Applied Nutrition  
University of Guelph  
Guelph, Ontario, Canada

Presenter: Dr. Brenda Russell, PhD  
Professor of Psychology  
Penn State University Berks  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Workshop Title: Awyken Coaching, Training, And Collaboration**

**Description:** Coaching positively impacts people's lives worldwide, empowering them to achieve their goals. Both for-profit and non-profit organizations, NGOs, ministries, educational institutions, and individuals are embracing the power of clarity that Coaching brings to enable transformation in their lives and organizations. In the upcoming workshop, we will introduce Coaching, explain why it works so well, experience a brief coaching session, and discuss how Awyken provides training and support for individuals and organizations. In particular, we will highlight how we have trained and supported the board and staff of a non-profit organization serving former foster youth. Coaching continues to impact and empower lives around the world positively.

Presenter: David Kobelin  
Director of Training  
Awyken  
Jacksonville, Florida



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8929 S. Sepulveda, Suite 207  
Los Angeles, 90045



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DRS. RAMON AND YOLANDA NIEVES FAMILY AFFAIR

*Red Tie Red Dress Gala*

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2024

**CALLED**  
FINDING A CAUSE BIGGER THAN SELF  
THE 25TH ANNUAL FAMILIES AND FATHERS NATIONAL-INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

# 25TH INTERNATIONAL FAMILIES AND FATHERS CONFERENCE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2024

6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL BALLROOM

6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

A Special Mini-Concert

International Harpist The Amazing Mariea Antoinette

Dinner with Keynote Presentations From Drs. Phillip And Carolyn Cowan

ANNUAL AWARDS  
FATHERS OF THE YEAR  
COUPLES OF EXCELLENCES  
LEADERS OF THE YEAR

ENDING A NIGHT OF MEMORIES WITH DANCE AND NETWORKING  
OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL CONFERENCE ATTENDEES AND GENERAL PUBLIC

 ALL GUESTS MUST BE REGISTERED FOR THIS SPECIAL EVENT.

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FATHERS AND FAMILIES  
Coalition of America  
Finding A Cause Bigger Than Self



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**LUNCH GENERAL SESSION**

**12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

**AFTERNOON WORKSHOP SESSIONS – PART ONE**

**1:35 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**Workshop Title: Engaging African-American Fathers in Maternal Health**

\*This is a scheduled hybrid session for virtual and in-person attendees

**Description:** This session is meant for anyone collaborating with parents, specifically those working with pregnant and parenting parents of children between 0-6 years old. It is important to note that research on maternal health has only focused on the role of African-American mothers, with African-American fathers being excluded from participating in perinatal care. The primary objective of this session is to provide knowledge on the significance of involving African-American fathers in maternal health. The session will summarize research findings and highlight the importance of engaging them in maternal health as a solution to support the Black Maternal Health crisis. Moreover, the session will emphasize the potential for African-American fathers to play a crucial role in improving maternal health and reducing the morbidity and mortality rates that African-American women experience.

Presenter: Dr. Tasha L. Alston, PhD, MSW  
Assistant Professor of Medicine  
Director of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Initiatives General Internal Medicine  
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**Workshop Title: The Bully, The Bullied, And the Not-So-Innocent Bystander**

\*This is a scheduled hybrid session for virtual and in-person attendees

**Description:** The Bully, the Bullied, and the Not-So-Innocent Bystanders is a talk by Barbara Coloroso. She emphasizes that breaking the cycle of violence and creating caring communities requires more than just slogans, posters, and anti-bullying programs. Everyone needs to pitch in to make a positive difference. During the discussion, different forms of bullying, such as verbal, physical, relational, and cyberbullying, will be addressed, along with their effects on the Bully, the Bullied, the Not-So-Innocent Bystanders, and the entire community. Attendees will receive useful tips, strategies, handouts, and tools to return to their homes and communities to help create positive change.

Presenter: Barbara Coloroso, M.Ed.,  
Author, Educator and Founder  
Kids Are Worth It! Inc.  
Littleton, Colorado

**Workshop Title: Housing Is Medicine: Research to Understand Systems of Housing for Fathers Experiencing Homelessness**

\*This is a scheduled hybrid session for virtual and in-person attendees

**Description:** During this session, we will share the results of our study that assesses the feasibility of a multi-sector approach to reducing homelessness among Black fathers in Atlanta. The study is based on the work of an existing multi-sector coalition of leaders, Fathers Matter ATL, which aims to address the unmet health and social needs of fathers, including forms of structural racism that limit housing options for men with dependent children. We will present findings from qualitative interviews with service providers and fathers to identify barriers and opportunities to achieve Functional Zero in homelessness among fathers. Additionally, we will discuss our system alignment approach among medical, social service, and public health partners and share data from a service referral tracking database.

Presenter: Dr. Latrice Rollins, PhD, MSW  
Assistant Professor, Community Health, and Preventive Medicine  
Morehouse School of Medicine  
Morehouse College  
Atlanta, Georgia

Presenter: Thomas C. Cotton  
Chief Executive Officer  
Building People to Innovate Change  
Atlanta, Georgia

**Workshop Title: Royal Restoration for the Family**

**Description:** This session offers a moment of transparency, hope, and restoration to black and brown families in urban communities who have experienced intergenerational trauma. This interactive session will guide parents on how to reframe their lived experiences and become more conscious and effective in parenting. The strategies discussed will support their children in and out of the classroom. Participants will gain psychosocial competencies and interpersonal skills to help them make informed decisions, solve problems, think critically and creatively, communicate effectively, build healthy relationships, empathize with others, and cope with and healthily manage their lives. This workshop aims to equip parents with the tools they need to parent their children beyond their shortcomings and preexisting trauma without internalizing negative experiences or reproducing failed family structures.

Presenter: Dr. Chappelle Washington Freer, EdD, MBA  
Founder and Chief Executive Officer  
Dr. Mommy, LLC  
Atlanta, Georgia



**Workshop Title: Colliding Of Two Worlds: Building Diverse, Engaging and Interactive Fatherhood Curriculum: Using Tech**

**Description:** This workshop is designed to provide valuable insights to fatherhood practitioners on creating an interactive, engaging, and inclusive curriculum for their programs. It is specifically tailored for faith-based and community-based organizations that require access to expensive technology. The workshop will cover practical methods to make the fatherhood training program more engaging and interactive, using easily accessible platforms like social media and Microsoft Teams. Additionally, it will highlight interactive classroom techniques that make learning fun for fathers. Our workshop is designed to cater to the diverse fatherhood community, including urban dads, rural dads, wealthy dads, poor dads, educated dads, and less-educated dads. All techniques can be implemented at various social and economic levels. Moreover, the workshop will include fatherhood engagement training content that is suitable for use in diverse settings.

Presenter: Dr. Kimberly Taylor, MPA, DRS  
Trainer  
The Commonwealth Center for Fathers and Families (CCFF)  
Lexington, Kentucky

**Workshop Title: Room To Heal: An Introduction to Trauma-Informed Care for Fathers**

**Description:** Trauma-informed care can positively impact various fields, including mental health, addiction, child welfare, the justice system, and other systems. It is an essential aspect that requires practitioners to implement it intentionally and with a clear understanding of the needs of diverse groups. This session is designed to help you become an effective practitioner by discussing crucial concepts of TIC. By applying TIC to collaborate with fathers, you can break down barriers to healthy fatherhood and positively impact the lives of those you serve. With learning objectives that aim to define trauma-informed care and encourage you to become more trauma-informed, you will be empowered to make a difference in the lives of fathers and their families.

Presenter: Harrison Crawford, LPC, LISAC  
Director of Father Initiatives  
Griffin Recovery Enterprises  
Gilbert, Arizona

Presenter: Dan Griffin, MA  
Chief Executive Officer  
Griffin Recovery Enterprises  
Author - Helping Men Be Better Men  
Los Angeles, California

### **Workshop Title: Bridging The Behavior Gap: Parental Strategies for School Success**

**Description:** In this transformative workshop, Dr Chapman invites educators, parents, and mental health professionals to tackle behavioral challenges affecting today's youth with a spotlight on children of color. Move from mere problem identification to deploying proactive, individualized interventions. Through real-time polling and interactive dialogues, revolutionize your approach to behavioral management. Leave not just informed but ignited, armed with a multifaceted toolkit, primed to be frontline advocates for equitable, positive change in the lives of all children.

Presenter: Dr. Ovetta Chapman, PhD  
School Psychologist  
Pendergast Elementary School  
Phoenix, Arizona

### **Workshop Title: Changing The Narrative: Engaging Fathers in Their Children's Education**

**Description:** Our schools are facing a CRISIS! Since the COVID-19 outbreak, there has been a significant increase in school violence, and student achievement has severely declined. It is essential to extend help to our schools. The solution we propose is fathers' involvement! This presentation will provide you with valuable strategies to involve fathers in schools and help tackle this crisis, which will eventually yield immediate results.

Presenter: Dr. Deborah R. Higdon  
Leader of Learning; International Speaker; Father Engagement Specialist  
Clarksburg, Maryland

Presenter: Harold Hall  
Motivated Educational Specialist Consultant  
Washington, D.C.

Presenter: Dr. Chacko Abraham  
Adjunct Professor  
University of La Paz  
La Paz, Bolivia

### **Workshop Title: The Birds & Bees Talks for Dads of Daughters**

**Description:** As per studies, fathers must be connected with their daughters as it positively impacts their daughter's life. It is essential to discuss sexuality and relationships with them as they grow up. You can learn about what your daughter needs to know at each age, how to initiate the conversation without

being awkward, and get numerous tips to make these conversations comfortable for both of you. Remember, your girl needs you!

Presenter: Amy Lang, MA  
Sexual Abuse Prevention Expert; Sexuality and Parent Educator  
Seattle, Washington

**APRIL 24, 2024**  
**NETWORKING BREAK**  
**3:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.**

**APRIL 24, 2024**  
**AFTERNOON WORKSHOP SESSIONS – PART TWO**  
**3:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

**Workshop Title: Empowering Resilience: Strategies for Supporting Children of Incarcerated Parents**

\*This is a scheduled hybrid session for virtual and in-person attendees

**Description:** Children with incarcerated parents face unique challenges that can significantly impact their well-being. Nevertheless, by creating a compassionate and non-judgmental community for these children, we can help them cope and thrive. Collectively breaking down barriers and stereotypes, we raise awareness of their specific challenges in schools, organizations, and local communities. Educating teachers and school staff to interact sensitively and non-judgmentally fosters a supportive environment where these children feel valued and understood. Access to resources that enable them to relate to their circumstances and acquire coping strategies is vital in nurturing their self-esteem and fostering positive feelings toward themselves and their families. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of these children and provide them with the support and encouragement they need to succeed.

Presenter: Brigitte Hix  
Early Childhood Professional Development Specialist  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Presenter: Melanee Stevens, M.Ed.  
Program Manager-Chehalis Native Connections  
Oakville, Washington

**Workshop Title: The Unplanned Grandparent: Coming Alongside Families Unplanned Pregnancy with Hope and Wisdom**

\*This is a scheduled hybrid session for virtual and in-person attendees

**Description:** During this workshop, we will discuss effective ways in which organizations can support families impacted by unplanned pregnancies, including teenagers and young adults. The aim is to explore the various dynamics of such an experience and guide individuals toward healthy support and resources. The strategies discussed will include information on nationwide resources, short videos, and handouts. With the right guidance and support, we believe young people can thrive during pregnancy and the first three years following birth, leading to positive outcomes for everyone involved, especially the unborn child.

Presenter: Tammy Daughtry, MMFT  
Founder, CoParenting International  
Nashville, Tennessee

**Workshop Title: Enhancing Fathers' Capacity to Promote Child Well-being**

\*This is a scheduled hybrid session for virtual and in-person attendees

**Description:** This workshop takes an interdisciplinary approach, engaging the community to understand fathers' obstacles while accessing social services and key systems. The goal is to help fathers build the skills to co-parent effectively and create a healthy environment for their children. Facilitators will explore the concept of fatherhood and how it impacts child well-being, identify the structural barriers contributing to father disengagement across different systems, and provide evidence-based recommendations for culturally relevant father-centric healing practices. The content of this workshop draws on insights from a community-engaged, qualitative study that focuses primarily on young fathers of color who are or engaged in systems of care such as the child welfare system, criminal justice system, and probation/parole. These fathers described growing up in father-absent households and having experienced adverse childhood events. The workshop presents a father-centric practice framework based on fathers' lived experiences and the input of providers who represent systems of care.

Presenter: Dr. Antonio Garcia, PhD, MSW  
Associate Professor  
Buckhorn Professor of Social Work  
College of Social Work  
University of Kentucky  
Lexington, Kentucky



**Workshop Title: Helping Fathers Heal: Trauma-Informed Care for Organizations**

\*This is a scheduled hybrid session for virtual and in-person attendees

**Description:** Professionals and individuals collaborating with fathers increasingly recognize the significance of adopting a trauma-informed approach. This approach referred to as TIC, is a crucial aspect of a broader framework known as values-based services (VBS). When organizations integrate VBS into their core approach, it leads to better outcomes for fathers. However, TIC needs to be fully understood and acknowledged by organizations, which can lead to missed opportunities to enhance experiences for fathers, employees, and the organization. In this session, we will discuss the definition of values-based services, the meaning of trauma-informed care in the context of a whole-organizational approach, and how organizations typically miss becoming trauma-informed for the fathers they serve. We will also explore specific ways in which you, as a provider, can use this information to assist your organization in becoming more trauma-informed for the fathers' practitioners work with.

Presenter: Harrison Crawford, LPC, LISAC  
Director of Father Initiatives for Griffin Recovery Enterprises  
Gilbert, Arizona

Presenter: Dan Griffin, MA  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/Lead Consultant, Keynote Speaker, Author - Helping Men Be Better Men  
Los Angeles, California

**Workshop Title: Being The Quarterback Daddy, Winning by Staying in the Pocket**

**Description:** The workshop draws parallels between football quarterbacks and fathers, highlighting how a father's active involvement in their children's lives propels them towards success.

Presenter: Clifford Wright  
Founder & President of Hope 4 Families Ministries  
Newport Beach, California



### **Workshop Title: Family Treatment Courts: Engaging the Whole Family Inclusive of Fathers!**

**Description:** Fathers play a crucial role in promoting their children's well-being. Research shows that children with involved fathers have a solid foundation and are less likely to experience negative outcomes such as poor school performance, criminal activity, substance use, and infant mortality. Despite this, fathers continue to be underrepresented in the services provided to parents involved in the child welfare system. This is due to distinct reasons, including mothers being more likely to be named as the respondent parent, social stigma, family member "gatekeeping," and rigid treatment and drug testing schedules.

Collaborative teams that include professionals from child welfare, substance use disorder treatment, the court system, and other partners have developed innovative strategies to address the unique challenges faced by fathers and to improve father engagement. In this workshop, attendees will learn about the importance of father involvement, discuss the obstacles fathers face, and hear lessons from practitioners who have improved their work with families, including fathers. Attendees will leave with practical strategies to improve father engagement in meaningful services, expand the family support systems for children involved in the child welfare system, and enhance family outcomes.

Presenter: William Blakeley  
Program Associate  
Center for Children and Family Futures  
Billings, Montana

### **Workshop Title: Communicate And Connect: Father-Daughter Communication and Conflict Resolution**

**Description:** The Communicate and Connect session is a group that aims to strengthen father-daughter relationships by enhancing communication skills and fostering effective conflict-resolution strategies. Through interactive exercises and discussions, fathers and daughters will learn to express themselves openly, listen with empathy, and work collaboratively to resolve conflicts. The workshop creates a safe and supportive space for fathers and daughters to deepen their understanding of each other and build a stronger connection. Overall, this transformative program intends to improve communication between fathers and daughters and develop a lasting bond.

Presenter: Aubria Greene  
Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer  
#FatherDaughterGoals  
Atlanta, Georgia

Presenter: Kyle Greene  
Co-Founder  
#FatherDaughterGoals  
Atlanta, Georgia

## **Workshop Title: From Men to Fathers to Families – Building Wholistic Capacity**

**Description:** The promise of children reaching their full potential rests on whether parents – including fathers – can provide all aspects of a child's support by focusing on the things that often get in the way of low-income fathers' support to their children – underemployment, unmanageable child support orders, and fragile relationships with the mother(s) of their child(ren). Using lessons learned and best practices from federal demonstration projects serving fathers, we have created an elevated service model to 1) Increase economic mobility and earning capacity. 2) Increase sustained child support payments. 3) Build capacity for healthy parenting and co-parenting. Our model respects that low-income men need – and access– services differently than traditional programs can deliver. This session shares lessons learned from this Memphis Pilot Project. It highlights the best practice components used in designing the delivery of services and the integrated way we measure results for our government funders and the dads we serve. We will walk attendees through the program model, share early insights, and demonstrate how cross-sector partnerships can deliver the ability to serve a larger, broader section of the community.

Presenter: Meshia Henderson  
Vice President at Maximus  
Goodlettsville, Tennessee

Presenter: Dr. Jeffery M. Johnson  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
NPLC  
Washington, D.C.



**DRS. RAMON AND YOLANDA NIEVES FAMILY AFFAIR  
RED TIE RED DRESS GALA  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2024**

**GALLED**  
**FINDING A CAUSE BIGGER THAN SELF**  
THE 25TH ANNUAL FAMILIES AND FATHERS NATIONAL-INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

# **25TH INTERNATIONAL FAMILIES AND FATHERS CONFERENCE**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2024**

**6:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.**

**INTERNATIONAL BALLROOM**

**6:00 P.M TO 6:30 P.M.**

**A SPECIAL MINI-CONCERT**

**INTERNATIONAL HARPISIT THE AMAZING MARIEA ANTOINETTE**

**DINNER WITH KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS FROM DRS. PHILLIP AND CAROLYN COWAN**

**ANNUAL AWARDS  
FATHERS OF THE YEAR  
COUPLES OF EXCELLENCES  
LEADERS OF THE YEAR**

**ENDING A NIGHT OF MEMORIES WITH DANCE AND NETWORKING  
OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL CONFERENCE ATTENDEES AND GENERAL PUBLIC**

**📅 ALL GUESTS MUST BE REGISTERED FOR THIS SPECIAL EVENT.**

**FFCA**  
**FATHERS AND FAMILIES**  
**Coalition of America**  
*Finding A Cause Bigger Than Self*

**🌐 [FATHERSANDFAMILIESCOALITION.ORG/CONFERENCES/CONFERENCE-AGENDA.HTML](https://FATHERSANDFAMILIESCOALITION.ORG/CONFERENCES/CONFERENCE-AGENDA.HTML)**



**CALLED**  
FINDING A CAUSE BIGGER THAN SELF  
THE 25TH ANNUAL FAMILIES AND FATHERS NATIONAL-INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

# 25<sup>Th</sup> INTERNATIONAL FAMILIES & FATHERS CONFERENCE



Special Networking  
Opportunity



Thursday, April 25th, 2024



7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.



Women2Women  
Café Breakfast  
Power Session  
La Jolla A –  
Second Floor



Register for the conference and add this  
morning breakfast and impact session.



<https://fathersandfamiliescoalition.org/conferences/conference-agenda.html>

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# 25<sup>Th</sup> INTERNATIONAL FAMILIES & FATHERS CONFERENCE



Special Networking  
Opportunity



Thursday, April 25th, 2024



7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.



Men2Men Café  
Breakfast Power  
Session, Carmel  
Room – Second Floor



Register for the conference and add this  
morning breakfast and impact session.



<https://fathersandfamiliescoalition.org/conferences/conference-agenda.html>

**LET'S CELEBRATE OUR END OF THE 25TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TOGETHER**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 24TH**

**CALLED**  
**FINDING A CAUSE BIGGER THAN SELF**  
**THE 25TH ANNUAL FAMILIES AND FATHERS NATIONAL-INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**25TH INTERNATIONAL FAMILIES AND FATHERS CONFERENCE**

**APRIL 22 -25, 2024**

**HILTON LOS ANGELES AIRPORT HOTEL**

**5711 W. CENTURY BLVD. LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90045**

WIN PRIZES AND END WITH INSPIRATIONAL CLOSING REMARKS  
BE PART OF FINDING A CAUSE BIGGER THAN SELF  
BUILD BRIDGES TO SUPPORT THE NEEDS OF OTHERS

**FFCA**  
**FATHERS AND FAMILIES**  
**Coalition of America**  
*Finding A Cause Bigger Than Self*

**THE FATHERS AND FAMILIES COALITION OF AMERICA BUILDING BRIDGES GLOBALLY**

DO NOT MISS THIS CHANCE TO BE A PART OF THIS GROUP OF INTERNATIONAL LEADERS AND COMMITTED ORGANIZATIONS.  
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND REGISTER TODAY AT [HTTPS://FATHERSANDFAMILIESCOALITION.ORG/CONFERENCES.HTML](https://fathersandfamiliescoalition.org/conferences.html)

**APRIL 25, 2024**  
**MORNING BREAKFAST AND CAFÉ SESSIONS**  
**7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.**

**The Men2Men Cafe: Brother to Brother 2024**

**Description:** Six years ago, during an international conference, we established Men2Men, a men-only group for all male attendees. The purpose of this group was to provide a safe space for men to talk and share their experiences. We were amazed by the positive response we received. Many men shared their stories of overcoming their issues, and others learned from them. It became clear that men needed a safe place to discuss their feelings.

In the following year, we received feedback from returning attendees about how their lives had been impacted and changed because of Men2Men. One person even credited the group with saving his marriage. As a result, we created Men2Men Café Chats and expanded the meetings throughout the year.

We invite all attendees to join us for a morning breakfast and networking time during our annual separate Men2Men Cafe program. Attending this program will leave participants feeling better, stronger, and ready to face the upcoming year's challenges. So come with an open mind, ready to chat and have fun.

Master of Ceremonies: Bishop Henry Hearn, MEng  
Member of the Board of Directors  
Fathers and Families Coalition of America  
Little Rock, California



Clinical & Executive Office  
8929 S. Sepulveda, Suite 207  
Los Angeles, 90045



[www.fathersandfamiliescoalition.org](http://www.fathersandfamiliescoalition.org)



+1-424-225-1323

**APRIL 25, 2024**  
**OPENING GENERAL SESSION**  
**8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.**

**APRIL 25, 2024**  
**MORNING WORKSHOP SESSIONS**  
**10:35 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

**Workshop Title: Girl Dad: A Daughter's Perspective on What Gets Remembered**

\*This is a scheduled hybrid session for virtual and in-person attendees

**Description:** As a loving father, a father understands that the bond with a daughter is essential and will want to strengthen it. The "Girl Dad" workshop is the perfect opportunity to learn how to make daughters feel special and appreciated. This interactive session provides actionable steps to becoming an amazing father, even if one has a busy schedule. During the workshop, attendees will explore ways to turn ordinary things into something extraordinary, learn about the trivial things that matter, and optimize the time spent with their daughters each week. By attending this workshop, attendees will become the dads their daughters deserve and create lasting memories that will strengthen their relationships. Take the chance to be the hero in your daughter's life.

The "Girl Dad" workshop is intended for all parents and those collaborating with parents. Our aim is for attendees to leave with three primary takeaways they can use at home or with parents:

- a) How to turn ordinary things into something extraordinary: Discover ways to add a special touch to everyday routines and gifts, making them unforgettable.
- b) The little things that matter: We will delve into all the small things that can make your daughter feel valued, happy, and proud of her dad. This part of the workshop will be interactive and engaging so attendees can share their experiences and learn from others.
- c) Effective time management: This interactive presentation will guide attendees in optimizing the time one spends with their daughters each week. Attendees will learn how to make the most of their time together, creating lasting memories and stronger bonds.

Presenter: Madeline Anderson  
Author of Girl Dad  
Los Angeles, California



**Workshop Title: African-American Fathers' Involvement in Schools**

\*This is a scheduled hybrid session for virtual and in-person attendees

**Description:** Literature indicates that parental involvement benefits students' academic achievement and success. Although the education literature is improving, it remains matri-centric and focuses primarily on mothers. When fathers are included in literature and research, they are usually White middle-class fathers. Although the fatherhood literature is improving, African-American fathers are often silenced, muted, and marginalized. Unfortunately, African-American fathers are often portrayed from a deficient perspective as uninvolved and not engaged in the lives of their children and families. This negative portrayal is a myth. African-American fathers are involved and want to be involved in the lives of their children and families. These fathers are also involved in their children's education. This presentation will guide the African-American fathers' involvement in schools.

Presenter: Dr. Tasha L. Alston, PhD, MSW  
Assistant Professor of Medicine  
Director of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Initiatives General Internal Medicine  
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**Workshop Title: Engaging Male Caregivers in Effective Prevention Programming**

\*This is a scheduled hybrid session for virtual and in-person attendees

**Description:** Male caregivers are crucial in creating a nurturing family environment. However, studies indicate that fathers are more likely to be involved in and responsible for child maltreatment. In this workshop, we will explore how Florida International University and Buffalo Prenatal are partnering to investigate reducing family violence and improving male caregiver competencies. To achieve this goal, the Nurturing Fathers program and the Coaching Our Children: Heightening Essential Skills program will be used in a randomized, controlled trial.

Presenter: Antoine Johnson  
Program Manager  
Buffalo Prenatal Perinatal Network  
Buffalo, New York

**Workshop Title: Transforming Urban & Tribal Fatherless Men Through Values-Based Instruction**

**Description:** Recent research suggests that single fathers may be more effective solo parents than single mothers. As a result, government agencies and family foundations are allocating funding towards programs that focus on training and developing urban and underserved fathers. Participants can learn and replicate the efforts of Core 300 International's values-based, servant-leadership curriculum in

Kenya and Uganda for over 11 years. It has successfully graduated over 37,000 mostly poor men, including ministers, male inmates and ex-cons, and lower-level, male uniformed officers. The program's impact has been measured using Likert Scale Rater Surveys over the last five years. Wives, of course graduates, were asked to compare their husbands' behavioral changes before and after the training. The results showed an average of 94% "Better+ Much Better" scores overall. From 2019-2023, 579 wives will be surveyed to measure the impact of values-based leadership on poor men who grew up fatherless and were toxic actors upon their wives and children. The goal is to empower leading men in tribal communities to become change agents and lead a cultural revolution with constructive, humane, and compassionate core values in their community.

Presenter: Art Hobba  
Founder and Chief Executive Officer  
Transform the Man, Transform the Family  
Los Angeles, California

Presenter: Barack Nyongesa  
Pastor  
Principle-Based Leadership  
Bungoma County, Kenya

### **Workshop Title: Screen Time and Media for Toddlers: A More Mindful Approach**

**Description:** When used mindfully and in moderation, screen time can provide various forms of support for toddlers and their parents. In our digital age, screen time has become an integral part of our lives, including those of infants, toddlers, and their caregivers. This presentation explores the research and realities and the benefits and challenges associated with using screen time and media in the context of early childhood development and parenting.

Presenter: Will Maurer  
Award-winning media and Entertainment Executive and Proud Father  
Top Films Include X-Men: Days of Future Past, Mad Max: Fury Road, and G.I. Joe: Retaliation  
Los Angeles, California

Presenter: Brigitte Hix  
Early Childhood Professional Development Specialist Consultant  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

### **Workshop Title: Engaging Global Majority Men With Virtual Offerings**

**Description:** Strong Beginnings-Healthy Starts, Strong Fathers/Padres Fuertes project has been engaging in a virtual offering called Manhood Monday to connect with the community virtually. Manhood Monday utilizes the Facebook Live platform called Stream Yard for these virtual sessions. They occur on the second Monday every month from 5-6 p.m. During these sessions, we discuss creating a dynamic program for the community and parents we serve. This virtual platform has enabled us to engage with the community innovatively and creatively. The event is open to all practitioners, home visitors, Head Start, Early Head Start, Healthy Start, and parents who want to learn and contribute to the discussion. Learn the approaches to how parents who want to create a dynamic program for the community and parents they serve can replicate our framework.

Presenter: Adnoris "Bo" Torres  
Project Supervisor  
Strong Beginnings  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

### **Workshop Title: Empowering A Standard of Greatness and Excellence For Young Black Men and Women**

**Description:** This session is dedicated to acknowledging and healing the pain caused by hate, violence, systemic racism, and micro and macro-aggressions experienced by people of color. It is a health and mental health program that explores the importance of setting values and living with principles during social change. We will share a roadmap for setting a standard of greatness and excellence to help you become the change you want to see in the world. We will also discuss skills that promote mindfulness, breathing, leadership, and self-care.

Take a stand in greatness by acknowledging the generational and current traumas caused by racial inequity, injustice, oppressive systems, institutions, policies, and practices. By taking responsibility for our internal dialogue, we can create positive change as an impetus for social change. Stand in greatness to maintain clarity of mind, compassion of heart, and strategic action. Finally, stand in greatness to develop a new vision for yourself, your family, and your community.

Presenter: Rev. Carolyn Wilkins  
Chief Executive Officer  
Inspirational Ministries and Consulting  
El Paso, Texas



**Workshop Title: Establishing Partnerships With State Child Support Agencies**

**Description:** This session will discuss effective strategies and collaboration between state child support agencies and fatherhood programs. The Office of Child Support Services at the federal level has been focusing on outreach programs for populations facing systemic barriers in meeting their parental obligations. Child support programs are uniquely equipped to provide services to fathers because caseworkers have direct contact with them, which enables them to connect fathers with responsible fatherhood-related programs and services. The speakers will discuss the successful implementation of this process and partnerships established with fatherhood service providers in Missouri.

Presenter: John Ginwright  
Deputy Division Director  
Missouri Department of Social Services  
Columbia, Missouri

**Workshop Title: D3PTH: Distant Dads Dealing With Emotions, Parenting, Trauma, and Health**

**Description:** This session strives to provide a safe space for fathers, particularly those who co-parent or those who interact with the children at distances, remote, are not the "primary on-duty parent," or those with non-traditional circumstances who are also striving to effectively deal with parenting in the middle of dealing with their emotions, their child(ren)'s emotions, personal traumas, and physical health elements.

Presenter: Dr. Novell E. Tani, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
Florida A&M University  
Tallahassee, Florida

**APRIL 25, 2024**  
**LUNCH OPEN EXPO GIVE-AWAYS NETWORKING**  
**12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

APRIL 25, 2024

AFTERNOON SESSIONS PART ONE

1:00 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.

Workshop Title: Seeing Fathers & Families With 20/20 Vision: Transforming Perspectives and Building Partnerships

Description: During this interactive session, we will explore diverse ways of challenging our perceptions of families and forging stronger connections with fathers and families. We aim to facilitate a shift in how we view families, emphasizing the importance of recognizing and appreciating the diverse strengths and qualities they bring to the table. By broadening our perspectives, we can create more inclusive and supportive environments for all families. Participants will learn practical strategies to engage with families proactively through various discussions and activities.

Moreover, this workshop will equip attendees with the necessary tools and knowledge to build robust relationships with fathers and families. They will discover effective ways to establish trust, enhance communication, and foster genuine partnerships. By understanding fathers' and families' unique needs and experiences, participants will be better equipped to provide meaningful support and create lasting connections. Join us for the "Seeing Fathers & Families with 20/20 Vision" workshop, and leave with a refreshed perspective, practical strategies, and the skills needed to build strong relationships with fathers and families. Together, let us transform our perspectives and forge meaningful connections that positively impact the lives of children and their families.

Presenter: Eric Phillips, MEd  
Family Engagement Specialist  
Arlington Independent School District  
Mansfield, Texas

Workshop Title: Artificial Intelligence in Family Law

Description: AI is increasingly becoming a significant part of every aspect of our lives - and it is now starting to influence how cases are conducted in family court. Is this a force for good or a step in the wrong direction?

Preparing for court and finding the edge in arguing and winning a case involves finding the right case law - an example of a similar previous case with a favorable outcome can be used to argue why a Judge should decide in favor of one particular side of the argument.

Lawyers sometimes find this task too onerous because the excessive caseload they are lumbered with makes it difficult to find the time to put in as much groundwork as they would like. The temptation is too

great for some to use generative artificial intelligence applications such as Chat GPT to do the groundwork. This has already started to have disastrous consequences, and the workshop will examine some of the pitfalls of this rapidly emerging technology whilst looking at ways in which it can not only be used in positive ways but is likely, in due course, to become essential.

Presenter: Alex Borchardt  
Founder and Managing Director  
Family Law Alternatives Ltd.  
Exeter, Devon  
Southwest England, United Kingdom

Workshop Title: TOGETHER: Working With Couples to Build Stronger Families

Description: The TOGETHER Program ([togetherprogram.org](http://togetherprogram.org)) is a University of Maryland research project that offers free workshops on relationship and financial education for couples. Since 2015, over 1,300 couples have enrolled in the program, and it has received \$11.4 million in federal funding from HMRF (Healthy Marriage/Responsible Fatherhood) grants. The workshop covers diverse topics, including how the program was created, its funding, its curriculum development, its growth over the years, and what the workshop curriculum entails. This includes dealing with stress in a relationship, managing money as a couple, and developing skills and tools to improve problem-solving, manage conflicts, and enhance financial well-being.

Presenter: Sarah Marie Fritz  
Program Manager  
TOGETHER  
Department of Family Science,  
School of Public Health  
University of Maryland  
College Park, Maryland

Workshop Title: Facing the Future of Education

Description: In the current season of anti-Blackness, there is a pressing need to act against the removal of Black literature from classrooms and African-American AP courses. Encouraging parents to take charge of their children's education and demand the education they deserve is also important. As someone who feels a sense of responsibility towards this cause, attendees will be a part of a discussion on their role as a parent or community member in the educational system and the consequences of not

fulfilling that role. Attendees will be provided with tools and resources that can help them empower others in their community to make a positive difference in their local schools and school districts.

Presenter: Angela Jackson  
Writer & Producer  
Angela Rena & Co.  
Carson, California

Yolande Beckles,  
Executive Director and Co-Founder  
National Association of African American Parents and Youth  
Los Angeles, California

Workshop Title: Canvas Connections: HeARTful Strategies for Stronger Parent-Child Relationships

Description: Join us for an immersive workshop that aims to demonstrate the transformative potential of arts-integrated strategies for Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) in fostering a more resilient, empathetic, and connected community. Through this interactive session, attendees will witness the immense power of creative SEL approaches and be inspired to incorporate these techniques into their work to make a lasting impact in the lives of children, parents, families, and the communities they serve.

The presenter will share her life's experience of adversity and how she transformed herself into a higher self-transcendent individual, serving as an example of how one can reach the next level of personal growth. This workshop aims to motivate attendees to believe nothing is impossible and encourage them to take their first steps towards self-transformation.

Presenter: Estee Marie  
Building Social-Emotional Capacities Through The Arts  
Houston, Texas

Workshop Title: Digital Literacy Mainstreaming for Low-Income Families in Uganda /Africa

Description: Family Aid Foundation is a humanitarian organization working to help families thrive and the driving factors in this initiative is children and parent's well-being. The agency has taken the initiative to conduct a digital literacy drive that engages Parents and empowers them with digital literacy skills through a local project code-named "LIFE" - Low-Income Families Empowerment Project.



Presenter: Charles Mugasa  
Founder and Chief Executive Officer  
Family Aid Foundation

Solomon Kitembo  
Facilitator  
Family Aid Foundation  
Kampala, Uganda

Workshop Title: The Art of Poetry Healing the Lives of Others

Description: Discover the transformative power of words at POETRI's Poetry Workshop. Led by the renowned TONY AWARD Winner, POETRI, this workshop goes beyond crafting verses – it nurtures your well-being, too. Engage in creative expression that enhances your writing and performance skills and fosters mental health and emotional balance. Through the art of poetry, participants find a unique outlet for self-expression, self-discovery, and catharsis. Unlock the therapeutic benefits of poetic creation, building confidence, resilience, and a deeper connection to your inner thoughts. Join us to Laugh While Learning and embark on a journey that elevates your craft and mental well-being.

Presenter: Poetri Smith  
SPOKEN FUNK  
Where POETRY and COMEDY Meet  
Los Angeles, California

Workshop Title: The African-American Infant & Maternal Mortality Fatherhood Engagement

Description: The African-American Infant and Maternal Mortality Prevention Initiative of Los Angeles established their Fatherhood Program to close the birthing disparity gaps further. In this session, we will share strategies from our countywide coalition dedicated to addressing the disproportionately high rates of Black infant and maternal deaths prevention by including fathers in both prevention and intervention services and led by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health (DPH) in partnership with First 5 LA, AAIMM. The Los Angeles County African-American Infant and Maternal Mortality (AAIMM) Prevention Initiative has invested in programs designed to engage Black fathers, specifically Black Daddy Dialogue and the Expecting Fathers Group for Black Dads, led by and for Black dads. By this approach, we address how to mitigate factors where Black mothers are four times more likely to die from pregnancy complications than their white counterparts, while Black infants are three times more likely to die within their first year of life when compared to white babies. Through a series of comprehensive, coordinated strategies, AAIMM's goal is to reduce the gap in Black/white infant mortality rates by 30 percent by 2023.

Presenter: Davion Mauldin, M.Sc.,  
Fatherhood Coordinator  
African American Infant & Maternal Mortality Initiative  
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health  
Los Angeles, California

BREAK  
2:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.



Clinical & Executive Office  
8929 S. Sepulveda, Suite 207  
Los Angeles, 90045



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**LET'S CELEBRATE OUR END OF THE 25TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TOGETHER**

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APRIL 25, 2024  
AFTERNOON SESSIONS PART TWO  
2:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Workshop Title: Elevating Fathers in Family Mental Health Support

Description: This session will focus on improving the health outcomes of children whose parents are affected by trauma, toxic stress, and other determinants of health. Strategies will be introduced to enhance the well-being of children, families, and community members by promoting healthy relationships that lead to generational wellness. The seminar will use the FFCA DiSC Model to provide evidence-based interventions and evidence-informed services that foster interaction and collaboration. The seminar will cover essential areas from the DiSC training that increase effectiveness for self, understanding others, and relationships. Additionally, new concepts will be introduced that support fathers, attendees, and individuals receiving program services. This approach will help develop a new positive goal-setting story, incorporating Victory Audio Flashcards, Kintsugi, and Ikigai in fostering lifelong wellness.

To ensure maximum interaction and collaboration, participants will use the best practices from FFCA strategies. We encourage participants to bring a laptop or smartphone for a free DiSC assessment and a notepad and pen/pencil for interactive activities. By the end of the session, participants will increase their knowledge and skills around family mental health and be better equipped to promote wellness in their communities.

Presenter: Dr. James C. Rodríguez, MSW  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Fathers and Families Coalition of America  
Los Angeles, California

Workshop Title: Conflict Resolution Role Play Session

Description: This course empowers individuals to manage conflicts confidently and fosters positive relationships through effective communication. Participants will learn active listening, negotiation, empathy, and problem-solving techniques. They will promote constructive dialogue and collaboration by gaining a deeper understanding of the underlying causes of conflicts. Remember to pause, take a deep breath, and ask yourself the question that can prevent conflicts from starting: "Who has the jar?" You have the power to avoid conflicts and cultivate a healthy environment. Let us start building a better tomorrow with SEL and EQ awareness.

Presenter: Drexil Smothers, MBA, PMP, RMP  
TEDx Speaker, Coach, Mentor, Consultant  
Washington, D.C.



Workshop Title: Behind the Silence

Description: Despite the challenges faced by over 500,000 children in foster care who deal with complex physical, mental, and developmental health issues, there is hope. These children can heal and thrive through therapy, behavioral coaches, and the support of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). This presentation will provide valuable insights from two House Parents who have cared for and lived with over one hundred foster children placed by DCS. Their experiences demonstrate that these children can overcome their difficult pasts and build bright futures with love, care, and support.

Presenter: Delvyn Crawford  
Author, Poet, and Responsible Fatherhood Family Life Coach  
Tucson, Arizona

Workshop Title: Father Engagement Changing the Culture Within Systems and Programs

Description: Father absence has become one of the most significant social trends of our time that is affecting children's lives. When a father is absent from a child's life, it increases the likelihood of the child experiencing poor outcomes such as poverty, child abuse and neglect, poor school performance, emotional and behavioral problems, and incarceration.

Although outreach and encouraging fathers is vital, more is needed. We must evaluate our systems and programs to identify how we can intentionally engage fathers and provide them with proper support. In this workshop, you will learn about the Inland Empire Father Involvement Coalition's efforts to change the narrative on fatherhood in the country's biggest county. Their approach looks within systems and programs beyond creating "father-friendly" lobbies and a father-friendly county.

Presenter: Juan Solis  
Father Engagement Coordinator  
Chair of Inland Empire Father Involvement Coalition  
County of San Bernardino Children's Network  
San Bernardino, California

Workshop Title: Trauma-Informed Care Skills to Use with Fathers

Description: If you are wondering how to become more trauma-informed with the fathers you serve, this session is for you! Trauma-informed care is a hot topic; attendees will learn how to apply it to their work with men and dads. During the session, attendees will participate in an activity that lays the foundation for exploring the Man Rules - the rules and assumptions that young boys and men are taught about

masculinity. Attendees will learn the importance of using a TIC approach in any activities or exercises they facilitate with fathers to promote safety and increase engagement. By the end of the session, attendees will have practiced and learned exercises from Amazing Dads, the first trauma-informed curriculum for fathers.

Presenter: Dan Griffin, MA  
Chief Executive Officer/Lead Consultant, Keynote Speaker, Author  
Los Angeles, California

Workshop Title: Creating Paid Family Ambassadors for Fatherhood Engagement

Description: Our organization has recently created five paid positions for Family Ambassadors focusing on Fatherhood Engagement. These positions require a commitment of five to seven hours per month and provide advocacy training for fathers and opportunities to elevate family voices in the community. Ambassadors will also facilitate fatherhood training, group discussions, and have a seat on the OC Fatherhood Coalition Steering Committee. We have spent years developing this program and are eager to share our lessons learned, obstacles faced, and achievements with others. Join us in this session to consider replicating within your program.

Presenter: Andrew Montejo  
Data Analyst  
First 5 Orange County  
Corona, California

Workshop Title: Importance of Addressing Bullying in Schools

Description: This is an essential session from Head Start through high school Parent Engagement programs, and the professionals as educators, family service workers, and Home Visitors, as well as all moms and dads, as we will be addressing bullying in schools is extremely important for assorted reasons. Firstly, bullying can have severe and long-lasting effects on the mental and emotional well-being of students, particularly for those who become victims. It can lead to anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, and even suicidal thoughts. Therefore, creating a safe and supportive school or home environment is crucial for the psychological health of students. Students must learn ways to express the stress caused by bullying, both as the person being bullied and as the individual bullying others.

Secondly, bullying often distracts students from their studies and can lead to poor academic performance. Schools can help students focus on their education and reach their full potential by addressing bullying. It is refreshing for students to understand ways to express the stress caused by bullying, which will help them to concentrate on their studies and achieve academic success.

Presenter: Poetri Smith  
SPOKEN FUNK  
Where POETRY and COMEDY Meet  
Los Angeles, California

Workshop Title: Functional Families - Do They Exist?

Description: My workshop examines how breakdowns in family relations can negatively affect the well-being of children, their parents, and future generations. These breakdowns can impact descendants' lives even long after we are gone. On the other hand, children sometimes use their upbringing as a positive learning experience to inform them how they do not want to raise their children.

As parents, our successes and failures, and the relationships our children have with us, the wider family, and their communities, particularly in the first seven years of life, shape the adults they become, their ability to form happy and loving relationships, and the way they live their lives.

An example of what can go right or wrong is the British Royal Family, the most dysfunctional family on the planet. Do they lead privileged lives or often wish they were born to more conventional parents? What can we learn from the past thousand years of the royal bloodline's history?

Presenter: Alex Borchardt  
Founder and Managing Director  
Family Law Alternatives Ltd.  
Exeter, Devon,  
Southwest England, United Kingdom

Workshop Title: Technology, Teens, and Transitions

Description: This session outlines common parenting practices in surviving and rearing teens in an age where technology (namely smartphones, smart devices, and computers) plays an ever-present role in young children, teens, adolescents, and adults. How do we (parents and families) mitigate our and our children's continual usage of technological devices in an attempt to allow for appropriate development, familial bond building, and communal building as we strive to help rear the next generation of adults in societies where technology plays a persistent role in our lives, for better or for worse?

Presenter: Novell E. Tani, PhD  
Associate Professor  
Florida A&M University  
Tallahassee, Florida

Workshop Title: Discovering Your "Why". The Power of Intention

Description: Are you feeling lost and directionless in life? Do you struggle to find meaning and purpose in what you do? If that's the case, it's time to discover your "why". Knowing your "why" can give you the motivation and intention you need to live your life with purpose and significance. Don't wait any longer to unlock your full potential - start exploring your "why" today. Remember, greatness is not about being perfect - it's about having a purpose. This workshop is designed to help you delve deeper into discovering your "why" and setting intentions to improve yourself every day. During this workshop, you will engage in meaningful discussions and activities that will help you communicate your "why" and provide you with tools to be purpose-driven in your roles as parents, social workers, and more.

Presenter: Erica Anderson, MEd, CDC, CWWC, CMC  
Founder/ Mindset Coach  
Inspiring Greatness  
Kansas City, Missouri

APRIL 25, 2024

3:45 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Closing Keynote & Giveaway General Session



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Distinguished University Professor Emerita  
School of Social Work  
King's University College of Western London  
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**Commissioner Tanguler Gray**  
Office of Child Support Services Commissioner  
Administration for Children and Families  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
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