



9th Annual Minnesota Fatherhood and Family Services Summit

Presented by the Minnesota Fathers & Families Network

**January 23-24, 2012
Kelly Inn Best Western Hotel
and
St. Cloud River's Edge Convention Center
St. Cloud, MN**

Agenda at a Glance

Monday, January 23, 2012

7:30am-Noon
Registration

8:00am-11:30am
Prison Tour (Pre-Registration required)

8:30am-11:30am
Pre-Conference Institute

12:00pm-1:30pm
Luncheon Keynote

1:45pm-3:15pm
Breakout Sessions—5 options

3:30pm-5:00pm
Breakout Sessions—5 options

5:30pm-7:30pm
Dinner, Keynote, and Awards

12:00pm-4:00pm
Exhibits open

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

7:30am-8:30am
Breakfast, Exhibits, Networking

8:30am-10:00am
General Session, Keynote

10:00am-10:30am
Exhibits, Refreshments, Networking

10:30am-Noon
Breakout Sessions—5 options

12:00pm-1:15pm
Luncheon and Keynote

1:30pm-2:30pm
General Session with Panel

2:30pm-3:00pm
Exhibits, Refreshments, Networking

3:00pm-4:30pm
Breakout Sessions—5 options

7:30am-3:30pm
Exhibits Open

Letter from the MFFN Board Presidents

Dear Friends, Supporters, Stakeholders, Members,

Welcome to the Minnesota Fathers & Families Network's (MFFN) 9th annual Fathers and Family Services Summit! This year's theme, "Fathering Across the Lifespan," continues MFFN's tradition of convening high-quality, evidence-based, and valuable learning opportunities including the addition of a pre-conference institute this year. We're glad that you've joined us and hope that you will continue to support us and take advantage of other MFFN events and activities in the future.

MFFN is in an exciting time of transition and opportunity. Recently, the MFFN Board accepted the resignation of our Executive Director. As the current and past Presidents of the MFFN Board, we want to assure you that MFFN remains strong. Much energy and effort has gone into building MFFN into a respected organization, a statewide network, and a source for educational opportunities and information. We are committed to MFFN, its mission, and future. We are proud of what MFFN has accomplished and we recognize that much work remains.

The MFFN Board supports the ongoing work of MFFN and the commitments that the organization has made. During this period of transition we are fortunate to have Sarah Cheesman, MFFN's Communications Coordinator, and the Executive Board of Directors acting as the interim Executive Director. We have identified key Network and Board members to oversee important functions of the organization and are confident in their abilities to collectively lead the Network until our new director is in place.

Like the fatherhood field, change is certain for MFFN. We are positioned well to manage this change and welcome the opportunities it will bring. MFFN is a unique organization with a history of inclusion and substantial accomplishment. Over the past 10 years, we have made important progress in enhancing healthy father and family relationships by promoting initiatives that inform public policy and further develop the field of fatherhood practitioners statewide.

Thank you for your support of MFFN now and through the years ahead, as we strive together to strengthen health, resiliency, and relationships within Minnesota's families, enjoy the 2012 Minnesota Fatherhood Summit conference.

All the best,



Sam Simmons
2012 Board Chair
simmonsconsulting@comcast.net



Mike Jerpbak
2011 Board Chair
mjerpbak@crossroadscollege.edu



**Monday, January 23, 2012
8:30am-7:30pm**

**Preconference Institute
8:30am-11:30am**

FATHERS IN FAMILIES: DIVERSE PATHWAYS FOR REWORKING FATHERING

Presenters: **Dr. Rob Palkovitz**, Professor of Human Development and Family Studies, University of Delaware and **Dr. Glen Palm**, Professor of Child and Family Studies, St. Cloud State University



The Institute will engage participants in practical and interactive discussions about fathers in diverse family contexts and the developmental task of reworking images and practices of positive fathering. The session will introduce research and theory related to male adult development, positive father-child relationships and opportunities that fatherhood provides for emotional growth and developing relationship skills. Innovative intervention strategies for supporting men in developing their own positive images of fathering and strengthening their parenting skills will be presented. The



presenters bring both practical and research experience and will use case studies and small group activities to assist participants in applying theory and research to practice.

**Luncheon Keynote
Noon – 1:30pm**

STATE OF THE STATE: IMPLICATIONS OF DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE FOR FATHERS AND FAMILIES

Presenter: **Tom Gillaspay**, Minnesota State Demographer, Minnesota Department of Administration



This decade, we will see demographic changes throughout the nation and world that are both unprecedented and profound. Changes will affect families, work-life, health care, financing and economics, and government programs. Tom will discuss these changes, what is driving them, and how they will affect the nation, Minnesota and each one of us personally.

**90 Minute Workshops – 5 options
1:45pm-3:15pm
(break from 3:15pm-3:30pm)**

ETHICAL APPLICATIONS IN FAMILY SERVICE AGENCIES

Presenter: **Neil Tift**, Male Involvement Coordinator, Child Crisis Center, Mesa, AZ

A growing number of family service agency

professionals are being asked to do more with less. As their caseload expands and their resources dwindle, many struggle with complex ethical decisions. This session will help staff address contemporary issues that include client confidentiality, personal safety, staff boundaries, fiscal management, program eligibility and service provision that require informed sound ethical decision-making.

FATHERHOOD 101

Presenters: **R. Clarence Jones**, M.Ed., Outreach Director, Q Health Connections, **Joe Kelly**, Fathering Educator, The Emily Program and **Carmen Otero**, Latino Advocate, FATHER Project/CLUES

Join us for this introductory session for those new to the fatherhood field, the MN Fatherhood Summit, and/or MFFN. Explore the journey of responsible fatherhood, strategies to help the fathers and families you serve, data on Minnesota dads, trends in father involvement, and how you can influence the future of fathering.

BUILDING SUPPORT FROM WITHIN—LEADERSHIP CIRCLES

Presenter: **Pat Krauth**, Consultant, MFFN Leadership Circle Project Manager

For two years MFFN has focused efforts and energy on facilitating and providing technical assistance to foster leadership circles that support the needs of fathers throughout Minnesota. These circles also have developed new and furthered existing collaborative partnerships. Building sustainable services and resources to help fathers and families as well as increasing awareness is key to MFFN's mission. Learn how leadership circles from 2010 and 2011 have put ideas into action. See what they have accomplished using minimal resources and what they have planned next. Learn from them and take away ideas and tips for how you and your organization can build lasting relationships and work together to improve father awareness, father friendliness, and father engagement in your community. Do you want to explore building a Fatherhood Leadership circle in your Community? Come find out what it is all about!

CO-PARENT COURT

Presenters: **Hon. Bruce Peterson**, Judge, Fourth Judicial District, Minnesota and **Christa Anders**, Advanced Consulting LLC, Consultant and Project Manager, Co-Parent Court

Co-Parent Court is a problem-solving court in Hennepin County that works with unmarried parents who are establishing paternity (legal fatherhood) for their child. Co-Parent Court is a non-traditional court that addresses barriers to effective parenting. The mission of the Hennepin County Co-Parent Court is to create a model for paternity establishment that supports co-parenting to improve the social, emotional, and financial outcomes for children, families, and communities. (more information at www.co-parentcourt.org) **CLEs approved for this session.**

URBAN FATHERS BEYOND THE BABY DADDY

Presenter: Sam Simmons, Consultant, Simmons Consulting

Come to this workshop to learn how to engage and involve fathers who are in circumstances that may limit their hands-on parenting role. These fathers may be consciously or unconsciously influenced by the "Baby Daddy" title or syndrome and they may be trapped in hyper-masculine approaches to fatherhood that limits them when seeking help and support. We'll look at the history of the urban African American father and the relationship to current conditions. We'll examine the origins of titles and the influence of titles on fathers, communities, and clinicians. We'll discuss strategies, resources, and approaches to support urban father involvement.

**90 Minute Workshops — 5 options
3:30pm-5:00pm**

FRAMING 'THE ASK', 'THE RESULTS', 'THE OUTCOMES': A STORYTELLING APPROACH TO BUILDING AWARENESS AND GAINING SUPPORT

Presenter: Carlo Cuesta, Consultant, Creation in Common

Within most organizations there are hundreds of stories that highlight the impact of your work and the value it creates for the communities, fathers, and families you serve. The key is using these stories to advance the work you do and to secure your organization's future. This workshop is designed to help you harness the power of your stories as part of an effort to build awareness of issues, communicate results and the difference your organization or services make, and gain support, financial and otherwise, for the work you do. Learn how to identify the best stories to use and shape them into a compelling solicitation and tool to advance your cause.

USING THE LEGAL SYSTEM TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES AND FOSTER FATHER INVOLVEMENT

Presenters: Walter Burk, Attorney, Central MN Legal Services, Anna Andow, Attorney, Legal Aid

The legal system offers an effective means (sometimes the only means) for unmarried parents to establish paternity, custody, and parenting time rights or involuntary adoption. Presenters will introduce family law concepts and court procedures that never married and previously married parents, especially fathers, should understand in order to strengthen their legal standing with their children. Research, tips, and examples will demonstrate the importance of cooperative co-parenting, the benefits of father inclusiveness, and how this strengthens families and improves communities. **CLEs approved for this session.**

EARLY CHILDHOOD SECTOR ANALYSIS AND BEST PRACTICES FOR FATHER ENGAGEMENT

Presenters: Bryan Nelson Founding Director, Men Teach, Tom Fitzpatrick, Consultant and MFFN Sector Analysis Project Manager, and Brad Kramer, Program Specialist, Southwest Initiative Foundation

This session will discuss an overview of MFFN's sector analysis project, the project design, data from the survey, successful stories and strategies, discussion about specific reports from the analysis, and recommendations.

BREAKING NEW GROUND: BUILDING A NETWORK OF INTEGRATED LOCAL SERVICE COLLABORATIVES TO ENGAGE FATHERS THROUGHOUT MINNESOTA

Presenters: Guy Bowling, FATHER Project Manager, Goodwill/Easter Seals Minnesota and Dr. Andrew Freeberg, Director of Quality & Evaluation, Goodwill/Easter Seals Minnesota

The range of services needed to effectively engage fathers is extensive and cuts across many public and private systems. Over the past 5 years, the FATHER Project of Goodwill/Easter Seals Minnesota has created a nationally recognized collaborative service model that has proven effective in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The recent award of a \$1.75 million federal grant (through the Office of Family Assistance) will allow the FATHER Project to take steps toward its vision of establishing an integrated statewide service system for fathers. In 2012, new partners will join the movement by implementing the FATHER Project model in Park Rapids, St. Cloud, and Rochester. Join this interactive session to dialogue about effective strategies in working with fathers and to learn more about how you can begin preparing your community to become part of this movement.

UNDERSTANDING TRAUMA

Presenter: Joanne Mooney, Strengthening Families Coordinator Children's Trust Fund, Minnesota Department of Human Services, and

Carole Claire Wilcox, Supervisor of Prevention and Research, Child Safety and Permanency, Minnesota Department of Human Services

This session will discuss a systems approach of working with families and communities to improve the lives and future health of children exposed to trauma. Trauma informed systems utilize child-specific, and developmentally informed models to guide assessment, intervention, education, therapeutics and policy. Current best practice calls for coordinated services through a system of care. This session will provide an overview of how the Minnesota Department of Human Services, Child Safety and Permanency Division is striving to comprehensively work with traumatized youth and their families to assure child safety, permanency and well-being.

Monday, January 23, 2012—Tuesday, January 24, 2012
8:30am-7:30pm **7:30 AM – 4:30 PM**

Keynote, Dinner and Awards
5:30pm-7:30pm



**ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY TO
SHAPE OUR FUTURE**

Presenter: Susie Brown, Public Policy Director, Minnesota Council of Non-Profits

Join us for a presentation and discussion about opportunities for Minnesota's father and family-serving practitioners to engage our state's social capital and community assets to address the unique political and economic challenges of today.

Immediately following the Keynote Speaker:
**EXCELLENCE IN FATHERHOOD POLICY AND
PRACTICE AWARDS CEREMONY**

Exhibits open from Noon-4:00pm on Monday

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Networking, Breakfast, Exhibits
7:30am-8:30am

Plan to arrive early to have time to enjoy a continental breakfast and browse the Exhibitor Resource Tables. These exhibitors offer valuable information for fatherhood and family service practitioners and advocates across Minnesota.

Morning Keynote
8:30am-10:00am

**FATHERING ACROSS THE LIFESPAN FOR A
LIFETIME**

Presenter: Dr. Rob Palkovitz, Professor of Human Development and Family Studies, University of Delaware

Dr. Palkovitz will discuss fathering, intergenerational relationships, and the relationships between patterns of father involvement and developmental outcomes for men and their children. He is currently studying transitions within fathering and characteristics of resilient fathers in challenging circumstances.

BREAK: Networking and Exhibits
10:00am-10:30am

90 Minute Workshops— 5 options
10:30am-Noon

OPTIMIZING FATHERS

Presenter: Dr. Rob Palkovitz, Professor of Human Development and Family Studies, University of Delaware

A follow up presentation to Dr. Palkovitz's keynote address. Bring your thoughts and questions for discussion.

**HEALTHY HABITS FOR FATHERS, FAMILIES, AND
KIDS**

Presenter: Joyce O'Meara, Early Childhood Specialist, Minnesota Department of Health

All parents want their children to grow and develop into healthy adults but, faced with picky eaters and kids who would rather watch TV or play video games, many don't know where to start. Since attitudes toward food and activity develop at a young age and tend to carry over into adulthood, it is crucial for fathers to use their unique position to promote, support and model healthy eating and physical activity habits. Learn practical strategies and tips that fathers can use to help their children (and themselves!) eat a variety of healthy foods and be more active, even when time, energy, and resources are short. This session complements the later workshop Weighing In: How Father Involvement Fosters Healthier Relationships with Food, Family and Physical Activity.

**WORKING WITH THE SCHOOLS: HOW FATHERS
GET INFORMATION AND PARTICIPATE IN
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING**

Presenter: Laura Tubbs Booth, Attorney, Booth and Lovorato LLC

In this session we will discuss parents'—especially fathers' rights to data and to participate in educational planning for their child. We will learn the basics of the Data Practices Act and address issues such as when may dads receive report cards, when can they attend school meetings, conferences, etc. Participants will gain tips that they can use to help fathers—especially non-resident fathers—work with their children's school (or staff) including information for setting realistic expectations, information about how far the school must (and maybe should) go to include fathers and examples/case studies for schools or districts that are "father friendly". **CLEs approved for this session.**

INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN

Presenter: Sgt. William Haider, Minnesota Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC)

The Minnesota Internet Crimes Against Children (MICAC) Task Force is responsible for the investigation of child pornography offenses and the online solicitation of children. This presentation will outline the objectives of the task force and its investigative functions, as well as the influence of social network sites and technology on today's youth.

MIND THE GAP—CHANGING EX-OFFENDERS' LIVES BY THE WORK WE DO

Presenters: **Cindy Steinberg**, Strategies to Help Low Income Families Coordinator, MN Dept. of Human Services, Child Support Enforcement Division, **Lori Lofrano**, Child Support Liaison, MN Dept. of Corrections, **David Mirambeaux**, Case Manager Goodwill Easter Seals, Father Project

A panel of partners involved in the federal grant for the Mind the Gap project will provide information on this innovative grant initiative and how it is changing the lives of ex-offenders and their roles as fathers. During this session participants will learn how helping ex-offenders with housing, employment, transportation, parenting, child support, and other post-incarceration reintegration challenges can help these men get back on track. Partners will discuss the project; provide information share insightful ideas for replication, and reflections on best practices and inspirational stories. Mind the Gap, a collaborative effort among six community partners, is a pilot program serving Hennepin and Ramsey Counties. The project uses intensive case management services to break down barriers faced by newly released offenders who are fathers.

Keynote Luncheon
Noon-1:15pm
Break: 1:15pm-1:30pm



CHALLENGES AND POSSIBILITIES OF BLACK FATHERHOOD

Presenter: **Dr. Rose Brewer**, Professor of African American Studies, University of Minnesota

Dr. Rose Brewer will present information about challenges and possibilities for Minnesota's black fathers. She has written extensively on black families, race, class and gender, and public policy. Most recently she co-authored, *The Color of Wealth: The Story Behind the U.S. Racial Wealth Divide*, which was recognized as a "best book" on bigotry and human rights in 2006.

Panel Discussion
1:30pm-2:30pm

REFLECTIONS ON FATHERHOOD IN MINNESOTA AND FUTURE DIRECTION

Experts in the field of fatherhood will examine the future of fathering by discussing: what current practices or initiatives they think will have a positive impact on the future; the biggest challenges to fathering in the future; changes needed in social, economic, legal, educational, and correction systems that would enhance fathering in the future; and what makes them feel hopeful about fatherhood in the future.

Facilitator: **Sam Simmons**, Consultant, Simmons Consulting,

Panelists: **Neil Tift**, Male Involvement Coordinator, Child Crisis Center, Mesa, AZ **Dr. Glen Palm**, Professor of Child and Family Studies, St. Cloud State University, **Rose Allen**, Retired Family Development Educator, University of Minnesota Extension, **R. Clarence Jones**, M.Ed., Outreach Director, Q Health Connections,

Break and Exhibits
2:30pm-3:00pm

90 Minute Workshops — 5 options
3:00pm-4:30pm

BUILDING CONSCIOUSNESS, VISION, AND STRATEGY TO WORK EFFECTIVELY WITH BLACK FATHERS"

Presenter: **Dr. Rose Brewer**, Professor of African American Studies, University of Minnesota

Come to this session to discuss: what do we mean by Black fatherhood; the Strengths of Black Fatherhood; the challenges of Black Fatherhood; and how Black fatherhood is shaped by the complexities of gender, race, ethnicity, class, sexuality, age. And then discuss where we go from here.

ENGAGING FATHERS IN HOME VISITS

Presenter: **Neil Tift**, Male Involvement Coordinator, Child Crisis Center, Mesa, AZ

Too often fathers are not involved in home visits, whether that is due to scheduling problems, fathers not living in the same home as the children, lack of interest or effort on the part of home visitors or the father's reluctance itself. But the benefits of significant father involvement in growing healthy children are more than obvious. This workshop will provide a list of over 50 specific suggestions that home visitors might employ to increase and retain male Involvement. It includes strategies for working effectively with fathers, individually and in group settings. We will discuss how visitors might appeal to fathers and to men in families in their role as protector, provider and disciplinarian in the household. The session will explore the impact of language and attitude in establishing rapport with males in the home and discuss the unique parenting approaches that distinguish maternal and paternal instincts.

**Tuesday, January 24, 2012
7:30am-4:30pm**

SUPPORTING MINNESOTA'S 'HIDDEN HEROES'

Presenter: Julie Wasiluk, Project Coordinator, MN Child Care Resource and Referral Network

When asked, "What can I do to support you?" Military Service Members reply, "Take care of my Family". In the state of Minnesota, more than 15,000 children and youth have experienced the deployment of a parent serving in our United States Armed Forces at least once. In this session, participants will learn about the military deployment cycle; the unique needs of the children and youth going through it; and ways to support our Minnesota "Hidden Heroes".

WEIGHING IN: HOW FATHER INVOLVEMENT FOSTERS HEALTHIER RELATIONSHIPS WITH FOOD, FAMILY & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Presenters: Joe Kelly, Father Educator, The Emily Project and **Colleen H. Gengler**, M.Ed. Extension Educator in Family Relations & Extension Professor, University of Minnesota

Drawing on MFFN's popular 2011 fall seminar series, this information-rich session provides strategies to help fathers use their place at the table to improve relationships with activity, food, eating, and self for their children, stepchildren, and families. Gain an understanding of the connection between "father hunger" and other family appetites for healthy relationships, nutrition, and enjoyment of the body. This session compliments the earlier session, Healthy Habits for Fathers, Families, and Kids.

HOW DO I GET MY LICENSE BACK? DEMYSTIFYING CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AND WHAT YOU AS A NON-CHILD SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL CAN DO TO HELP PARENTS AND CARE PROVIDERS

Presenters: Melissa Rossow, Assistant Director - Legal and **Melissa Froehle**, Child Support Supervisor, Ramsey County Attorney's Office, Child Support Section

Are you mystified with how to help parents with the child support issues they face? At this session, you will get a crash course on Minnesota's child support system, with a focus on enforcement activities (what happens if payments aren't timely after paternity or a child support order is established). You will walk away understanding the tools child support workers use, when they use them, and why certain tools, such as driver's license suspension and bank levies, are used. These county professionals will arm you with practical tips for helping custodial and noncustodial parents with such issues as payment agreements (to get a license back, for example), arrears management (including forgiveness), child support order modifications, and also show you how parents can obtain information about their case through Minnesota Child Support Online. **CLEs approved for this session.**

Exhibits Open from 7:30am-3:30pm on Tuesday



2012 FATHERHOOD AWARDS

MFFN annually recognizes programs and individuals who are advancing fatherhood policy and practice throughout Minnesota.

MFFN recognizes the following individuals and organizations this year.

Outstanding Individual

Walter Burk, Central MN Legal Services, Minneapolis, MN

Member of the Year

Molly Crawford, Minnesota Department of Human Services, St. Paul, MN

Michael Jerpbak, Crossroads College, Rochester, MN

Agency of the Year

Wings Family Services, Alexandria, MN

Program of the Year

Fathers' Resource Program, Otter Tail County

Visionary of the Year

RaeAnn Mayer, Community Health Manger, St. Joseph's Area Health Services, Park Rapids, MN

Nominate someone for a 2013 Fatherhood Award. Information can be found on our website at www.mnfathers.org.

Evaluate This Conference

Please help us determine the success of the 2012 Minnesota Father & Families Network Summit. Complete the **conference evaluation** which will be sent to you via email link.

**2012 Summit brought to you by the
Minnesota Fathers & Families Network (MFFN)**

**MFFN:
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Thank You

2012 MFFN Board of Directors

Rebecca Ahlstrand, Carlton County Human Services, Cloquet (Northeast)
Christian Barnett, Financial Advisor, Mid-Minnesota Federal Credit Union (Central)
Jennifer Barshack, Parents as Teachers, Minneapolis (Metro)
Molly Crawford, Minn. Dept. of Human Services, St. Paul (Metro)
Gil Domally, Family Service Rochester, Rochester (Southeast)
Jennifer Garbow, Univ. of Minn Extension., Family Resource Management, Crookston (Northwest)
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Lynn Nesland, Otter Tail Wadena Community Action, New York Mills (West Central)
Larry Oberg, Otter Tail Wadena Head Start, New York Mills (West Central)
Glen Palm Professor of Child & Family Studies, St. Cloud State University (Central)
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2011 – 2012 MFFN Funders and Supporters:

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Park Rapids Early Childhood Initiative Fund
St. John's University
St. Joseph's Area Health Services - Park Rapids
Southern Initiative Foundation
Southwest Initiative Foundation
The McKnight Foundation
United Way, Douglas and Pope Counties
United Way, Twin Cities
West Central Initiative
Wings Family Support Services, Rochester



Thank you to all MFFN members!

Together we are leading Minnesota's campaign for healthy fatherhood.