

Wednesday—Thursday • January 19-20, 2005
St. Cloud Civic Center • Saint Cloud, Minnesota

Minnesota Fatherhood & Family Services Summit



Strengthening Fathers; S
Families; Strengthening F
Strengthening Families; S
thers; Strengthening Fam
ening Fathers; Strengthe
Strengthening Fathers; S
Families; Strengthening F
Strengthening Families; S
thers; Strengthening Fam
ening Fathers; Strengthe



Thank You

Thank you to the following individuals and organizations who have supported the planning of this conference and the development of the Minnesota Fathers & Families Network.

SUMMIT PRESENTERS, MODERATORS & EXHIBITORS

SUMMIT PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Nancy Norbie, Chair, Nate Knutson, Matt Majeski, Glen Palm, Darlene Reiter, John Titcomb

2005 MFFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rebecca Ahlstrand, Carlton County Child Support, Carlton
Jayne Anderson, Nicollet County Social Services, St. Peter
Paula Baker, Bemidji Area Schools, Bemidji
Jon Harper, Adventures in Fathering, Crystal
R. Clarence Jones, Southside Community Health Services, Minneapolis
Gar Kellom, St. John's University, Collegeville
Nathan Knutson, Minn. Department of Corrections, Moose Lake
Matt Majeski, Olmsted County Community Services, Rochester
Nancy Norbie, Kandiyohi County Family Services, Willmar
Glen Palm, St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud
Velura Peterson, Social Services, Virginia
Darlene Reiter, Fathers' Resource Center, Fergus Falls
Pat Sharbonda, Crow-Wing County Family Services Collaborative, Brainerd
Jack Sharp, St. Cloud
Dwayne Simms, African American Men Project, Minneapolis
Enrique Soto, ConAgra Foods, St. James
John Titcomb, Otter Tail - Wadena CAC Head Start, New York Mills
Glenn Tobey, Carlton Co. Children & Family Service Collaborative, Cloquet
Laura Turner, Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic
Development, St. Paul
Tina Welsh, Women's Health Center, Duluth
Francis Wind, Leech Lake Reservation Head Start

SUMMIT CONTRIBUTORS

Our Members

Initiative Foundation, serving central Minnesota

National Practitioners Network for Fathers and Families (NPNFF)

Northland Foundation

Northwest Minnesota Foundation

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation

Southside Community Health Services

Special thanks to **the McKnight Foundation** and Louis Hohlfeld for leading the development of the Minnesota Fathers & Families Network.



The mission of the Minnesota Fathers & Families Network is to initiate, promote and support effective programs and to educate on public policy to enhance the responsible involvement of fathers in the lives of children, families and the community.



Pre-Conference Sessions • 2:00-5:00 • Wednesday

PROMOTING FATHERHOOD FROM CHILDBIRTH THROUGH THE EARLY YEARS Thielman—Second Floor

Research and practice clearly support the importance of positive parenting on the healthy development of infants and young children. Learn how to talk to fathers about early childhood development and the value of father-child attachment and bonding. Exchange ideas about how to advocate for father involvement from childbirth through pre-school.

Presenters: Vicki Thrasher Cronin, Ready 4 K, St. Paul



THE DYNAMICS OF POVERTY AND FAMILY FORMATION

Mitchell Room—Second Floor

Low-income parents face a multitude of challenges in meeting the needs of their children and families. Participants will discuss options and resources available to address some of the individual, institutional and societal barriers that these parents face. Presenters will encourage attendees to share practices that have proven effective in helping families move toward self-sufficiency, parental stability and financial security.

Presenters: Neil Tift, National Practitioners Network for Fathers and Families; Jay Kieft, Heartland Community Action Agency, Willmar; Phil Nelson, Stearns-Benton Employment & Training Council, St. Cloud



LEGAL ISSUES OF PARENTING AND PATERNITY: WHAT EVERYONE WHO WORKS WITH NON-CUSTODIAL DADS NEEDS TO KNOW

First American—Second Floor

From the Recognition of Parentage and the Fathers' Adoption Registry to Child Support, Custody and Parenting Time – the legal documents and issues for non-custodial parents can be daunting and tiresome. In this session, fatherhood advocates will explain how the laws affect fathers and how family services workers can be resources for fathers.

Presenters: Melissa Froehle, Central MN Legal Services / FATHER Project, Minneapolis; Helen Bassett, Fathers' Adoption Registry, Minneapolis; Bill Thompson, Attorney, Duluth

Networking Reception • 7:00—8:30 pm • Wednesday

Join us in the **Swisshelm Room** at 7:00 for dessert and networking. At 7:30, Dr. Pearlstein will engage us in a conversation, **FROM MOYNIHAN TO 'MY GOODNESS' TO MUCH MORE.**

Mitchell B. Pearlstein, Ph.D., President, Center of the American Experiment, Minneapolis

“Propelled and emboldened in significant measure by Daniel Patrick Moynihan's brave scholarship in the mid-1960s on family breakdown, I've long devoted much of my own writing and speaking to the many destructive effects of widespread fatherlessness. I would like to think that my scholarly and policy work in this area has been helpful. I am very proud of my collaboration with terrific colleagues such as Wade Horn, David Blankenhorn, and others in giving birth and shape to a real fatherhood movement for our nation. But if truth be known, my own grasp of being a good father remained insufficiently personal -- too analytic and not nearly sacred enough, if you will -- until I became a stepfather myself to three teenage boys in 1991, and then an adoptive father to a five-year old girl in 1996. All of which is to say, we all have much to talk about.”



Mitch Pearlstein is founding president of Center of the American Experiment, a nonpartisan, tax-exempt, public policy and educational institution that brings conservative and free-market ideas to bear on the hardest problems facing Minnesota and the nation. Dr. Pearlstein is editor of *American Experiment Quarterly* and *Certain Truths: Essays About Our Families, Children and Culture From American Experiment's First Five Years* (1995). Before his 1990 return to the Twin Cities, Dr. Pearlstein served in the U.S. Dept. of Education during the Reagan and (first) Bush administrations. Dr. Pearlstein spent four years as an editorial writer and columnist for the St. Paul Pioneer Press. He has been employed by Gov. Albert Quie of Minnesota; the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the Univ. of Minnesota; Univ. of Minnesota President C. Peter Magrath; the State Univ. of New York at Binghamton; among others. Dr. Pearlstein earned his Ph.D. in educational administration at the Univ. of Minnesota and did undergraduate work in political science at SUNY-Binghamton. He is married to the Rev. Diane Darby McGowan. They have three sons and a daughter ranging in age from 32 to 14.

Thank you to **Southside Community Health Services** for partially sponsoring this reception.

Continental Breakfast • 8:00-9:00 am • Thursday

Stockinger Suite

Plan to arrive early to have time to register, enjoy breakfast, and browse the **Fatherhood Services Resource Tables**. These exhibitors offer valuable information for fatherhood and family services practitioners and advocates across Minnesota. The exhibits will be available until 3:00 p.m.

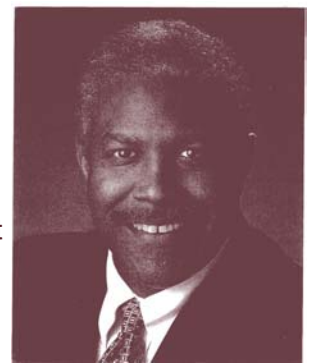
Morning Plenary Session • 9:00-10:00 am • Thursday

HELPING MEN TAKE A RIGHT TURN TOWARD SUCCESS

Herberger Suite

Dwaine R. Simms, Systems Navigator, Right Turn Project, African American Men Project, Minneapolis

Nearly half of the 18-35 year old African American male population of Hennepin County is pulled over by police, booked and jailed each year. The Right Turn Project is a community response to this issue. The initiative is part of the African American Men Project which promotes leadership, policy-making and infrastructure building in areas of education, housing, family structure, health, economic empowerment, criminal justice, community involvement, fundraising and communications. During this session, Mr. Simms will explore the importance of this holistic approach to serving men. Mr. Simms will offer answers to a variety of questions including: What are the project challenges? What has been learned? How is the project making a difference? What implications might there be for this approach in other cultures and other areas of the state?



Dwaine has worked on behalf of communities of youth, families and organizations concerned about people for over thirty years. Through various positions, Dwaine has become a strong advocate and spokesman for fathering issues in Minnesota and nationally. Recently, Dwaine began working at the African American Men Project where he is able to engage in direct service work that allows him to share his experience about the importance of men and fathers in the lives of children. Previously, Dwaine was the Program Replication Manager for MELD, National Coordinator of the Father to Father Initiative, Advisor to the University of Minnesota's Children, Youth and Families Consortium, Governor's Appointee to the State of Minnesota's Children's Trust Fund, a founding director and president of the National Practitioners Network for Fathers and Families. Dwaine holds a bachelor's degree in Secondary Education and completed his graduate course work in Mass Communication. He is an ordained minister and serves in the Glenwood Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses. Dwaine and his wife, Marlene, of nearly 32 years, have one daughter, Christina.

Refreshment Break • 10:00-10:15 am • Thursday

Stockinger Suite: Browse the Exhibit Booths and refresh your coffee before heading to a workshop session.

Have you visited us online?

www.mnfathers.org

Find the latest news and resources for professionals working in fatherhood and family services.

First Round Workshops • 10:15—11:45 am • Thursday

GETTING STARTED: CREATING FATHER-FRIENDLY SOCIAL SERVICES AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Clarke Room—First Floor

Social service agencies and educational programs are in a unique position to support and encourage the involvement of fathers and other men in the lives of children. Participants will discuss their roles in impacting change in behavior, attitudes and values toward creating more father-friendly environments.

Presenters: Jon Harper, Adventures in Fathering, Crystal; Darlene Reiter, Fathers' Resource Program, Fergus Falls



CONNECTING RURAL DADS WITH THE SERVICES THEY NEED

Alexander Room—First Floor

Across Minnesota, fathers in rural counties and tribal communities struggle to find accessible services. And just as frequently, service organizations struggle to find men who will attend their programs. In this session, participants will discuss the difficulties of providing services in a manner that will attract men and meet their broad needs.

Presenters: John Titcomb, Otter Tail Wadena CAC Head Start; Gene Banks, Lakes and Pines Community Action Council, Mora; Glenn Tobey, Carlton County Children and Family Service Collaborative, Cloquet



FATHERS OF TEEN CHILDREN: HOW TO HELP MEN "CONNECT" TO ADOLESCENTS

Bell Room—First Floor

Positive father-child relationships are vital to the wellbeing of children, including teens. Learn how you can support fathers and father-figures to help them maintain positive connections to their kids – even during the challenging years of adolescence.

Presenters: Rose Allen, University of Minnesota Extension Service, Farmington; Pat Sharbonda, Crow Wing County Family Services Collaborative, Brainerd



READY TO ASSESS: USING PROGRAM EVALUATIONS TO CREATE BETTER FATHERS' SERVICES

Weidner Room—First Floor

How well is your organization or agency meeting the needs of local dads? This workshop will help social services practitioners assess their capacity to create father-friendly practices, policies, procedures and case management applications.

Presenters: Neil Tift, National Practitioners Network for Fathers and Families, Stillwater



TRANSITIONING FROM CORRECTIONS: HELPING FATHERS RECONNECT TO FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

First American—Second Floor

Men exiting state and county correctional facilities find a host of barriers to positive reunification with their children. In this session, learn how to help increase the chance of success for fathers and their kids.

Presenters: Tim Lanz, Minnesota Department of Corrections, St. Paul; Andy Doom, Minnesota Department of Corrections, St. Cloud; Paul Lahr & Jeff Pollreis, Stearns County Jail, St. Cloud

Awards Luncheon • 11:45-1:15 pm • Thursday

EXCELLENCE IN FATHERHOOD AWARDS PRESENTATION

Herberger Suite

Join us in recognizing a few of Minnesota's outstanding fatherhood advocates and the programs that are making a difference for fathers and families around the state.

The 2005 Excellence in Fatherhood awardees, nominated by members of the Minnesota Fathers & Families Network, comprise the first group to receive this honor. We anticipate recognizing many more exemplary programs and individuals in the coming years.

Congratulations to each of this year's recipients of the Excellence in Fatherhood award!



Second Round Workshops • 1:15—2:45 pm • Thursday

CO-PARENTING DIALOGUE: THE ISSUES AND CHALLENGES FACED BY UNMARRIED OR DIVORCING PARENTS

Alexander Room—First Floor

What does it take for parents to “keep in mind the best interests of the children” when they are going thru conflict in their relationship? Participants will discuss the key issues and challenges that – when addressed – can keep a healthy focus on the needs of the kids.

Presenters: Clarence Jones, Southside Community Health Services, Minneapolis; Sam Simmons, Sam Simmons Consulting, Minneapolis; Minnell Tralle, Univ. of Minn. Extension, Andover; Jeff Olson, RS Eden Family Program, Minneapolis



DIVERSE DADS: SINGLE FATHERS, GRANDPARENTS, GAY/BI DADS, AND MENTORS

Weidner Room—First Floor

Oftentimes, “fatherhood” advocates tend to focus either on traditional two-parent households or on non-custodial dads. In this session, participants will talk about the importance of recognizing the diversity of fathers and father-figures who are helping to raise healthy kids.

Presenters: Don Schmitz, Grandkidsandme, St. Paul ; Travis Gransee, Rochester Area Family Y, Rochester; Steve Onell, Fathers FIRST!, Vadnais Heights; Perry Rollings, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Minnesota, St. Cloud



RECRUITING RELUCTANT FATHERS: OUTREACH THAT WORKS

Bell Room—First Floor

Are you having trouble finding fathers who need (and want) the services you offer? Sometimes, the hardest part is getting men to enter the door of your organization. Learn how successful programs are pounding the pavement and recruiting fathers in nontraditional ways.

Presenters: V. J. Smith, MAD DADS, Minneapolis; John Turnipseed, Urban Ventures Center for Fathering, Minneapolis; Zachary Tift, St. Paul

Additional workshops listed on next page.



DADS AND EARLY LITERACY

Clarke Room—First Floor

This interactive workshop will examine research on fathers and early literacy and present resources and strategies for encouraging father involvement. These will include a revised Reading with Dad booklist and descriptions of Dads and Kids Book Clubs and Fathers Reading Every Day (FRED) programs.

Presenters: Tom Fitzpatrick, Minnesota Humanities Commission, St. Paul; Glen Palm, St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud



YOUNG MOTHERS SPEAK OUT ABOUT FATHER-INVOLVEMENT

First American—Second Floor

For a young unmarried father, a healthy father-child relationship is often contingent on maintaining a healthy relationship with the mother of his child. In this session, mothers will talk about what it takes for a young father to become a caring dad.

Presenters: Paula Baker, Kim Moses & Stephanie Bowstring, Bemidji Area Schools, Bemidji; Freddie Davis-English, Hennepin County Corrections, Plymouth; Rebecca Gerhardson, Fergus Falls

Refreshment Break • 2:45—3:00 pm • Stockinger Suite

Closing Plenary Session • 3:00—4:00 pm • Thursday

UNITED WE STAND:

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN ADVANCING THE FATHERHOOD MOVEMENT

Herberger Suite

Martha Farrell Erickson, Ph.D., Senior Fellow & Co-Chair, Presidential Initiative on Children, Youth & Families; Children, Youth & Family Consortium, University of Minnesota



Research on fatherhood points to a wide range of factors that support or hinder fathers' commitment to — and positive engagement with — their children. Many of those factors involve women. In the home, workplace, school, faith community, and other institutions that touch the lives of families and children, women play important roles in shaping attitudes and expectations about fatherhood and facilitating positive relationships between fathers and their children. Drawing on research and over 35 years of experience working with fathers, mothers and the professionals who serve them, Marti Erickson calls women to action on behalf of fatherhood, addressing the following questions: How can women be more intentional about advancing the fatherhood movement? What's in it for women? Why should men welcome women as partners in this work? What are potential pitfalls or red flags? For both women and men who work in the broad arena of family support, what specific steps can we take to help fathers recognize and live up to their full potential to support, guide and nurture their children from conception to adulthood? And particularly for parents saddled with a troubled history in their own childhood, how can we help both mothers and fathers come to grips with their history and move toward more positive ways of parenting the next generation?

Dr. Erickson is a developmental psychologist specializing in parent-child attachment, child abuse prevention, and community-based approaches to strengthening families. She developed STEEP (Steps Toward Effective, Enjoyable Parenting), a preventive intervention program for parents and infants and continues to do related training with professionals in the U.S. and abroad. Marti is the author of many journal articles and book chapters, as well as the weekly parenting column "Growing Concerns," which appears in newspapers and magazines around the country. Marti appears regularly as the child and family expert on the KARE 11 television station. With a special interest in using the arts to educate and inspire, Marti writes music and is lead vocalist with "Free Spirit," performing to raise awareness about child and family issues. Marti has worked with former Vice President Al Gore as co-sponsor of his annual family policy conference, (1994-2001) and a partner in developing a university curriculum on family-centered community building.

Please help us to meet your needs! Complete the Overall Conference Evaluation (in your registration packet) and leave it at the Registration Table. Thank you.



AGENDA-AT-A-GLANCE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2005

2:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Pre-Conference Sessions

7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Networking Reception and Keynote,
Dr. Mitch Pearlstein

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2005

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
Registration / Continental Breakfast /
Exhibit Tables

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Morning Keynote, Dwaine Simms

10:00 – 10:15 a.m.
Refreshment Break and Exhibits

10:15 – 11:45 a.m.
First Round Workshops

11:45 – 1:15 p.m.
Awards Luncheon

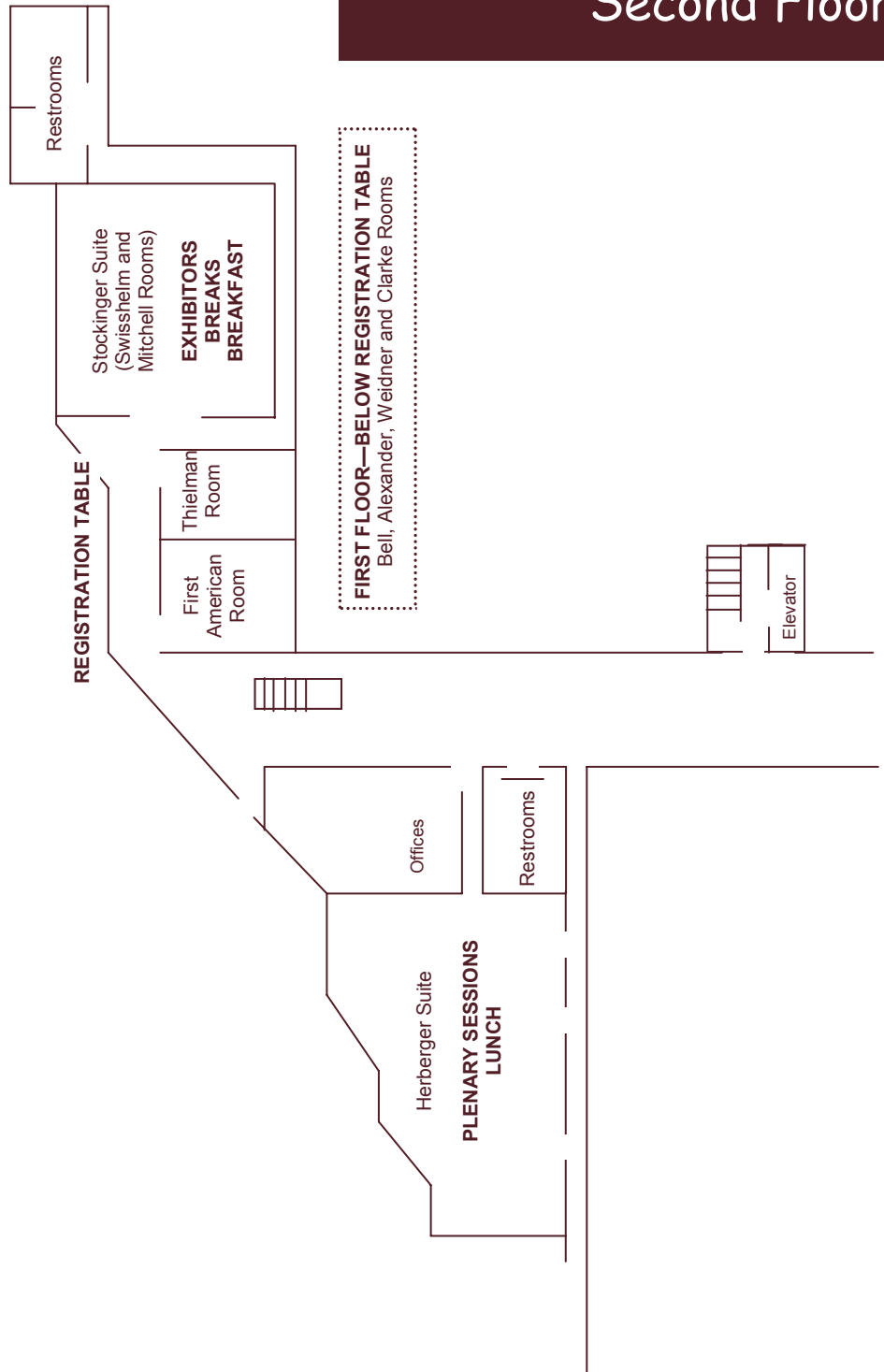
1:15 – 2:45 p.m.
Second Round Workshops

2:45 – 3:00 p.m.
Refreshment Break and Exhibits

3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Closing Keynote, Dr. Marti Erickson



St. Cloud Civic Center Second Floor



Contact MFFN

Paul Masiarchin, State Coordinator
1700 Second Street, NE / Minneapolis, MN 55413
(612) 787-4091 Tel. / (612) 787-4002 Fax
pmasiarchin@mnfathers.org

www.mnfathers.org