As many of you know through workshops and information that MFFN has offered in recent years, many families are affected by incarceration. In fact, incarceration separates many children from their fathers across Minnesota. A new resource kit is available that MFFN members might find helpful and interesting:

Nearly 2.7 million children have an incarcerated parent, yet few resources exist to help the youngest of these children. To meet this need, Sesame Street recently launched its “Little Children, Big Challenges: Incarceration” Initiative, which includes multimedia, bilingual (English/Spanish) materials targeting young children (ages 3-8) of incarcerated parents, their families and caregivers, and the range of other professionals who touch these children.

These FREE materials include:

- A multimedia resource kit with a Sesame Street DVD, a Guide for Parents and Caregivers, and a Children’s Storybook, available at [www.sesamestreet.org/incarceration](http://www.sesamestreet.org/incarceration)
- Sesame Street: Incarceration app for adults to use on tablets and phones, available on [Google Play](https://play.google.com), the [App Store](https://itunes.apple.com) and the [Amazon Appstore for Android](https://appstore.amazon.com).
- [Youtube.com/user/SesameStreetInCommunities](https://www.youtube.com/user/SesameStreetInCommunities) featuring playlists of videos related to the initiative

Minnesota has been selected as one of ten pilot states for this Initiative. Over the course of the next few months, one of our goals is to get the resource kits into the hands of as many children, caregivers, and service providers working with families affected by incarceration as we can. If you're interested in using the kits in your agency or organization, or learning more about the project, please contact Dr. Rebecca Shlafer ([shlaf002@umn.edu](mailto:shlaf002@umn.edu) or [612-625-9907](tel:612-625-9907)).

You can also put in a request for kits [here](#).

Please pass this along to agencies and organizations you work with that serve youth affected by incarceration. Thank you.

**MFFN Strategic Plan**
The MFFN Board of Directors recently completed and approved a three year planning process for 2014-2016.
**Save the Date - MFFN Annual Summit**
Minnesota Father's and Families Network is planning its 2014 Annual Summit to be held January 27-28, 2014 in St. Cloud. Watch for further information about this event.

**Resources of Interest**

**MOFAS Men's Morning Coffee Groups**
Support groups for men who have a family member affected by an FASD (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders). Could be an actual diagnosis, or maybe you suspect and are working toward a diagnosis. 3 meetings each month: Southwest Metro - 1st Saturday of the month; North Metro Dads Coffee Group - 2nd Saturday of the month; Metro Dads Coffee Group - 3rd Saturday of the month.

**PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder)** symptoms are associated with a higher risk of divorce. Therefore, family support agencies should enhance their services for returning soldiers that screen positive for PTSD, according to a recent report titled: "Home Front, Post-Deployment Mental Health and Divorces.” It was prepared for the Department of Defense by the RAND Center for Military Health Policy Research.

**Circle of Parents** - Sharing Ideas. Sharing Support
Men's breakout group meets 2 times per month in St. Cloud

Minnesota Fathers & Families Network would like to help promote your event or conference by sending it in our monthly e-newsletter. Send information to mailto:info@mnfathers.org. We will make every effort to include the information and apologize in advance if your event or conference is missed.