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11th Annual New England

Fathering Conference



Stronger
Fathers,
Stronger
Communities:

Supporting Men's
Commitment
to Their Children

Wednesday - Friday
March 17 - 19, 2010

The Newport Marriott
Newport, Rhode Island

Welcome to the 11th Annual New England Fathering Conference!
*Stronger Fathers, Stronger Communities:
Supporting Men's Commitment to Their Children*

This year's conference reflects the national initiative to support men in their commitment to their children. This year's conference, as in the past, includes a talented, diverse array of speakers and presenters who will inspire and challenge each one of us.

Special Conference Features:

➤ Pre-Conference Institute

Learn about the Best Fatherhood Program for Native Americans in the Country. Many topics of great importance to fathers and families will be addressed in this One Day Institute.

To register go to www.nativeamericanfathers.org

➤ Keynote Speakers

Kenneth Braswell, Executive Director, Fathers Inc., and author of *When the Tear Won't Fall* and Neil Tift, Director of Operations, Native American Fatherhood and Families Association

➤ Dads' Stories

On Day One and Day Two, dads from New England will talk about their experiences, including the challenges and joys of their fathering role...it's a great opportunity to hear directly from dads!

➤ The After-Party

On Thursday evening *The Roomful of Blues* will entertain with their fabulous sound, while you relax and get the chance to meet people from across New England and beyond.

➤ **Roundtable Discussions: Child Support, Custody & Advocacy** Providers and parents get state-specific information. Learn about the relevant laws, policies and procedures dads and their families face.

➤ Resource Hall

Agencies will offer free information and materials about their programs. Baystate Professional Svc. will offer books and resources for purchase.

Conference Schedule

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

5:30 pm-7:30 pm Early Registration for NEFC

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

7:30 am Registration / Breakfast
9:00 am Welcome / Acknowledgments
9:30 am Dads' Stories
9:45 am Keynote Speech: Kenneth Braswell, *Fathers Inc.*
10:15 am Questions & Discussions
10:30 am Find Your Workshop!
10:45 am Workshops A
12:45 pm Lunch
2:00 pm Dads' Stories
2:15 pm Break & Networking
2:30 pm Workshops B
4:30 pm Day One Ends

Thursday, March 18, 2010

8:00 am Registration / Breakfast
9:00 am Welcome
9:30 am Dad's Stories
9:45 am Keynote Speech: Neil Tift, Director of Operations NAFFA
10:15 am Questions & Discussion
10:30 am Find Your Workshop!
10:45 am Workshops C
12:45 pm Lunch
1:45 pm Dad's Stories
2:15 pm Break & Networking
2:30 pm Workshops D
4:30 pm Day Two Ends
8:00 - 10:30 pm **The After-Party with Roomful of Blues**

Friday, March 19, 2010

8:00 am Registration / Continental Breakfast
8:30 am Acknowledgments
8:45 am Closing Plenary Session
9:15 am Find Your Workshop
9:30 am State Roundtables: focus on child support, custody & advocacy
11:30 am Conference Ends

March
17th, 18th & 19th
2010

11th Annual New England
Fathering Conference

1210 Pontiac Avenue
Cranston, RI 02920



RIFFIN
RHODE ISLAND PARENT INFORMATION NETWORK

Conference Location: The Newport Marriott

Newport, RI on line reservations - <http://cwp.marriott.com/pvdlw/newenglandfathering> 401-849-1000 or 800-228-9290 or 800-228-9291 Rooms are reserved under "New England Fathering Conference". \$99 per night plus 13% tax. The deadline for conference rate is February 23, 2010.

WEDNESDAY, 10:45 AM - 12:45 PM WORKSHOP SESSION A

- Working with Young Dads in Prison** In this workshop, participants will learn how imprisonment affect the positive development of a father/child relationship.
- Mind, Body & Spirit, A Self-Efficacy Curriculum** MBS is designed to raise the level of participant's coping capabilities, which will enable them to make better choices.
- Hungry for Love: Transforming Your Mealtime Environment to Support Your Child's Healthy Development** Learn easy strategies that work and build your child's eating and life skills.
- Building Your Child's Confidence and Motivation through MegaSkills** This workshop gives practical, simple ideas for developing confidence and motivation in your child. These key skills help children be successful in school and in life.
- Community Partnerships and Outreach Empowering Incarcerated Fathers and Improving Child Outcomes** Attendees will learn ways to open the dialogue with these families in order to provide them the access to tools available to improve familial function and growth.
- Engaging Fathers When You Are Not A Father** This workshop will provide community agency staff with skills and strategies for engaging fathers when you are not a father.
- Strategies for Success: "When Good Stories Aren't Quite Good Enough"** This workshop is designed to identify practical, hands on strategies for developing program services that are measurable, effective and include data.

- Men with History of Substance Abuse and Trauma and Its Effects on the Father-Child Relationship** This interactive workshop will focus on men who have histories of substance abuse and trauma. Participants will receive strategies and interventions to support the rebuilding relationships.
- Fathering A Child With Special Needs** This workshop will assist fathers develop the necessary understanding of health, education and legal systems and the strategies to become more effective advocates for their children.

WEDNESDAY, 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM WORKSHOP SESSION B

- Real Dads Can Stand Up! What Every Single Father & Service Provider Should Know About Child Support, Rights and Custody** This workshop provides an understanding of how to navigate the court system. Learn how to avoid the pitfalls of child support enforcement and stay connected to the children.

- Awakening the Father Within** This workshop is designed to for those who facilitate support groups or work individually with men through exercises focused on the four categories: processes, beliefs systems, optimizing resources, and planning.

- Engagement of Non-Resident Fathers: Strategies to Involve Non-Resident Fathers through Effective Social Work Practice and Legal Representation** Learn the value of father involvement for caseworkers and attorneys in case practice. Understand the culture of manhood on perceptions and behaviors of fathers.

- The Nurturing Fathers' Program: Nuts & Bolts** A look at the Nurturing Fathers' Program. Learn the "nuts & bolts" of running a successful program.

- Helping Dads Tell Their Story** Participants will learn the narrative approach to fatherhood. The group will participate allowing participants to paint a favorite activity to do with their children.

- Men are a Danger to Children: Reality or Image Problem?** Workshop with fathers/practitioners sharing ways which this can be addressed, so men can better integrate into families

- Understanding Maternal & Paternal Parenting Styles** This workshop will present a summary of results of research on maternal and paternal parenting approaches, comparing and contrasting the two.

- Understanding and Responding to Incarcerated Adolescent and Adult Fathers** This workshop uses narratives of incarcerated males to frame their challenges. Explore the roots and consequences of these fathers' exclusion and strategies to improve work with these fathers.

- Addressing Addictive Behaviors** This session will examine addictive and compulsive behaviors such as drugs, alcohol, gambling and pornography.

- Safe Engagement: Navigating The Intersection of Fatherhood and Domestic Violence** Supporting fathers sometimes means confronting them on destructive behaviors. This workshop will explore the intersection of fatherhood, violence, co-parenting, and children.

THURSDAY, 10:45 - 11:45 PM WORKSHOP SESSION C

- Child Play - Maximizing Learning Opportunities** Learn the basics of brain development and explore the opportunities for play for parents and their children.
- Promoting Positive Mental Health in Young Fathers** Through exercises, case discussion, and lecture, learn to address depression in young fathers.
- Preparing Teen Fathers for the Present and the Future** This workshop will help agencies understand the effectiveness of investing in teen father programming.
- Making A Difference With Fathers: Engaging and Retaining Fathers in Home Visitation** Participants will discuss strategies to engage fathers in home visiting and keep them invested.

- Approach To Treatment: Clinician's Responses And The Needs Of Fathers In Treatment** Discussed will include language in referrals and symptoms in males and potential barriers for women treating men.

- RI Department of Corrections Presents: Levels of Response to Traumatic Events** The workshop will address and illustrate the specific stages through which children of incarcerated parents' journey.

- Fathers Count! The Massachusetts Child Welfare Initiative to Engage Fathers** Participants in the MA DCF Fatherhood Engagement Initiative will talk about their successes and challenges. Also, tools that help workers engage with fathers in positive ways.

- Stories are a Fathers Legacy: Storytelling and Book Activities for Dads and Children** A model method of storytelling for dads to share with their children. Participants receive a bag with a children's books.

- Watch D.O.G.S (Dads Of Great Students)** An innovative program focusing on education and safety in our children's schools by using the positive influence of fathers and father figures

THURSDAY, 2:30 - 4:30 PM WORKSHOP SESSION D

- CT Pardon Team, Inc. - Providing Information & tools to Help Change Lives** An overview of the CT Expungement Process, Eligibility and History and some Ideas on how to begin a "Grassroots" program.

- The 3 P's to Parenting** Participants to look at the parenting role from a new perspective regarding children's needs.

- The Anatomy of the Absent Father and The Search for Daddy - Healing the Past** This workshop explores what drives men to become absent and the psychological price they often pay for their choice to abandon their offspring.

- Father Motivation - Empowering Fathers To Be Advocates For Their Children, Families And Communities** This workshop will examine factors that motivate fathers to become advocates and champions for their children, their families and their communities.

- Fatherhood: Exploring Our Professional Responsibility** This workshop uses the voices of fathers to explore the opportunities and barriers regarding father engagement in the child welfare system.

- Supporting Men and Dads In Couple Relationships: A Review of Research and Resources** A hands-on review of effective methods and conversation topics in relationship curricula to help couples and parents reduce conflict, avoid escalation and communicate better.

- Dads and Books** This interactive presentation will cover how fathers can engage with their children to foster both an appreciation of books and literature.

- Raise Your Family Not Your Fist** This workshop will examine the impact that fathers have upon their children and what fathers contribute to their children's emotional expressiveness and how effective discipline techniques promote a wide range of healthy behavioral responses.

REGISTRATION FORM

- **Deadline for Registration is March 1, 2010**
- **Registration fee is \$200 (for one, two or three days)**
- **Dads who are participants in a Fatherhood Program only pay a \$25 fee toward the cost of meals.** (Please note that payments need to come from the sponsoring agency).
- **Application for CEUs has been submitted to NASW, please include a \$20 fee with your registration.**

An agency may write one check for all staff who register (including payment for CEUs) and/or for all dads participating in their program who register, **but** you must submit a completed registration form for each attendee).

Name: _____

I am : agency /staff presenter program dad

Agency: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I will attend : Wed, 3/17 Thurs, 3/18 Fri, 3/19

check here for a vegetarian meal

Accommodations: Please note individual needs (accessibility requirements, etc.) If you require an interpreter for the hearing impaired, call (401) 458-4425 or (401) 458-4429 by 2/20/10

**All checks must be made payable to:
RIPIN c/o NEFC
(This fee is nonrefundable)**

**Mail registration form & payment to:
New England Fathering Conference
c/o Rhode Island Parent Information Network
1210 Pontiac Avenue
Cranston, RI 02920**

You can also fill out a registration form at www.ripin.org
(Click on Fatherhood Conf. 2010, registration form, fill out,
and then mail to **RI Parent Information Network**)

Please complete a separate registration form for each conference attendee.

If you require a W-9, enclose it with your registration.