

FATHER FRIENDLY LONG BEACH

Why Dad Matters

Staff Practices

- 1) Ask about father during all stages of contact with the client/family and ensure that you gather information equally about mother and father.**

Ex: Do the children spend time with their father or a father related figure?

Ex: Is there an opportunity to seek father's input in decisions related to the children?

Ex: Is there a number/address we could use to reach out to father? (Only ask, if the parent or guardian responded positively to any of the first two questions above.)

Ex: Do the intake forms ask questions about father and mother equally? If not, how can I ensure that I am asking about mother and father equally?

- 2) Ensure that all staff members are mindful and welcoming of fathers/men that come into the organization and understand their personal biases about men/fathers.**

Ex: Take extra steps to welcome the fathers that come into your organization. Hello. Welcome to _____ . Thank you for coming in today. How can I help you?

Ex: Praise positive father child interactions; baby is happy and laughing with you Dad.

- 3) Seek training opportunities to better understand the cultural and familial barriers to father involvement in the lives of children.**

Ex: Have you been trained to provide language that is not divisive nor stereotypes men/fathers?

Ex: What are some knowledge gaps you might have in understanding the fathers that you serve?

- 4) Encourage non-custodial parents' participation in the organization's activities.**

Ex: We understand that father is not currently living with you and the child. Is there a way we could involve the father? Whenever possible, our organization seeks to involve fathers because of the significant benefits for the child. Could we reach out to him?

Ex: If we left some information with you about our program/services, could you give this to the father? Or could you leave this with someone that could give this information to the father?

- 5) Identify father specific resources in the community.**

Ex: Do I know of the providers in the community that specialize in direct practice (i.e. counseling and medical care) with fathers?

Ex: How can I build relationships with community partners that provide supportive services (i.e. employment and legal services) to fathers?