



Menahem Herman, Ph.D.
Staff Coordinator

Partnership for Family Involvement in Education
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Washington, DC 20202-3571 menahem_herman@ed.gov

10:15
Conference Call

Amy Theobald
Family involvement in
learning
- Amy Theobald
- Menahem Herman

Mary Jane [unclear]

P6/(b)(6)

P6/(b)(6)

Fatherhood Conf call 11/01

- Ken C doesn't view this as a contract rel. w/ the govt or Dept.
- dropping cities & govt which were too broad for this
- Use tips as launch
- AFT in late January/Integrate this then?
- Comber's project (Education Extension Series) (already has grant from Ed?) pilot project. Lois Wrenberg Team Leader for this.

→ Clarify what the challenges are doesn't have much political punch.

Fatherhood
either 11 or 3
writing for HHS



PARTNERSHIP FOR FAMILY INVOLVEMENT IN EDUCATION
400 INDEPENDENCE AVE., SW
WASHINGTON, DC 20202-8173



PARTNERSHIP
for Family
Involvement
in Education

VOICE: 202-401-0056

FAX: 202-205-9133

TO: Kendra Brooks

FAX NO.: 456 5581

TOTAL NUMBER PAGES INCLUDING THIS COVER: 3

FROM: M Herman

MESSAGE: today's date show
2 PM - don't
info -

Fathers Matter!
Strategies for Engaging Fathers in Children's Learning
A live, interactive teleconference for educators and family service providers
produced by the U.S. Departments of Education & Health and Human Services
Thursday, October 28, 1999 2-4 p.m. Eastern

How can I participate?

This live, interactive teleconference will be available free. All you need is access to a satellite dish to create your own event with other parents, students, educators and community leaders. Many schools, churches, businesses and municipal buildings have satellite dishes available for community events for a free or nominal charge. Or, call your local cable access station or school board channel and request that they "downlink" the program.

Can I watch this program on television?

Many local cable access stations TV channels broadcast programs such as this. Call your local cable television provider and ask for the school board channel, the government access channel, or the community channel and ask for **Fathers Matter!** to be broadcast as a service to your community.

Please Register Your Participation!

Satellite coordinates are subject to change. It is critical that each downlink site register to ensure that you will be notified (by e-mail or fax) in case of changes in satellite coordinates or any other critical information regarding the event. And, with your permission, we can share information about your downlink to others who might care to join your event. **Register online at www.ed.gov/registerevent/ or by calling 1-800-USA-LEARN.**

Satellite Coordinates

C-Band Galaxy 6; Transponder 20;
 Orbital Location: 99 degrees West
 Downlink Frequency: 4100 MHz
 Polarity: Vertical
 Audio: 6.2 and 6.8

KU-Band: Telstar 5; Transponder 11
 Orbital Location: 97 degrees West
 Downlink Frequency: 11929 MHz
 Polarity: Vertical
 Audio: 6.2 and 6.8

For the most up-to-date technical and program information, visit www.ed.gov/registerevent/ or call 1-800 USA-LEARN.

For questions about parent involvement in learning, visit the Partnership for Family Involvement in Education website at <http://pfie.ed.gov/>

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Fathers – all fathers, no matter what their income or cultural background – can play a critical role in their children's education. Research shows that when fathers are involved, their children learn more, perform better in school, and exhibit healthier behavior. Even when fathers do not share a home with their children, their active involvement can have a lasting and positive impact.

Fathers Matter!, a two-hour, national satellite event, will offer ideas and strategies for teachers, school principals, child care providers and others – giving them the tools they need to successfully involve fathers in children's learning, including readiness to learn at school, at home, and in the community.

Hosted by U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley and U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna E. Shalala, **Fathers Matter!** will offer strategies for making schools more welcoming to parents, developing family-friendly policies at work, encouraging support for fathers' roles in education, and providing professional development for those who work with children and families.

Featuring live panel discussions with local experts, videotaped reports on innovative programs, and viewer call-ins, **Fathers Matter!** will examine:

- * benefits of fathers' involvement in children's learning
- * ways for fathers to be involved, from the prenatal stage through high school and beyond
- * challenges to fathers' involvement, including work demands, cultural barriers, literacy needs, etc.
- * best practices in schools, early learning environments, universities, and communities

This live, interactive, national satellite event will feature vital information for teachers, school officials, college and university faculty, child care providers, medical and health professionals, employers, religious and civic leaders, and others.

[Find out how you can participate – next page]

Andrea Wolff
Nancy Hoyt
Policy Advisor

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Kevin & Terry @ where are you on this.

Nancy & Andrea

we are inclined to defer to ed. with
October 21, 1999

I want to propose something that I believe will help move the fathering effort into a broader cultural framework. Over the next 12 months we need to promote a progressive commitment which can be monitored nationally and will enhance your efforts in the fathering arena. The scheme I am proposing is the result of a brainstorming session which Andrea, Lisa Gilmore, Menahem Herman, and myself were a part of about three weeks ago. It involves the collection of commitments over the next nine months--between now and Father's Day 2000--from 100 Cities, 1,000 Businesses, 10,000 Schools, and 100,000 Fathers.

The National Center can provide tracking for all who would sign on as a partner in reestablishing the practice of responsible fatherhood. Tracking the commitment of cities, businesses, schools, and fathers in their efforts to involve fathers more noticeably in community change creates a win-win situation by providing proof of the growing trend toward engaged fathers in America.

Below are the specifics to which each group would commit. The challenge could be made this fall, perhaps next week at the teleconference. The National Center would provide sign up and monitoring for each category. Each group would commit to the following:

Cities Pledge

Fathers play a unique and irreplaceable role in the lives of children. As a community, we recognize the need to encourage men to be engaged in the lives of their own children, and then to reach out to the fatherless children in our community. We are committed to inspiring men to be better fathers and father-figures and will implement three of the following actions in the next six months:

1. Issue a public proclamation honoring and affirming responsible fatherhood as an essential ingredient to community health, and petitioning fathers to commit to increased participation in the lives of children.
2. Encourage civic, service, and charitable groups, and faith communities to promote involved fatherhood in their programs and among their membership.
3. Institute and support father-friendly work place practices such as flex-time and leave banks for public employees.
4. Create an event/celebration around Father's Day to honor model fathers in our community.
5. Examine public programs and policies to ensure that they are father-friendly.
6. Support educational efforts to equip men to become better fathers.
7. Implement and champion efforts which encourage men to reach out to fatherless children.

See Riley
hasnt

The Vice President could announce or affirm the pledge initiative at the AFT meeting in January. It could also be reinforced in the *Tips for Dads Guide* we are developing with Lisa Gilmore at HHS, to be released in March 2000. The results would be announced at a major national event near Father's Day with a concluding event the week of October 2, 2000.

We are proposing an event for the week of October 2, 2000 where dads and kids would have breakfast together on school campuses. This activity would make a collective statement to the world that fathers matter to America's children. Site activities could include father/child discovery activities and bonding exercises.

We have begun discussions with a major corporate sponsor who will likely provide breakfast for the first million participants in the event.

Please, think through and critique this idea. I believe it is a valuable undertaking, and that this is the prime time for such a venture.

Respectfully,

Ken

October 21, 1999

Nancy & Andrea

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Business Pledge

Fathers today face increasing pressures between work and family. As an employer of fathers we realize that good fathers make good employees. We are committed to providing a father-friendly work environment, and to encouraging and equipping the men of our organization to reach out to children. Over the next six months we will implement three of the following practices:

1. Institute flex-time and flexible work hours.
2. Initiate fatherhood education seminars for interested dads.
3. Implement a "Bring Your Child to Work Day."
4. Permit shift-swapping.
5. Encourage tele-commuting.
6. Provide comprehensive health benefit programs.
7. Initiate mentoring programs for fatherless children in our community.

Schools Pledge

Educational outcomes for children with involved fathers are far better than for those with distant or no fathers. Recognizing this, we are committed to engage fathers in the education of their children. Over the next six months we will achieve three of the following:

1. Participate in the "Breakfast for Dads" program on our school campus in October 2000.
2. Serve as a host site for father-training classes for dads.
3. Include specific father training in health or other classes that cover family life.
4. Initiate "Bring your Dad to School" day.
5. Provide flexible parent-teacher conferences scheduling to allow both moms and dads to attend.
6. Send progress reports to non-resident fathers.
7. Publicize opportunities for dads to volunteer for school activities with their children.

Father's Pledge

I recognize that I have a critical role to play in the life of my child. Because I am committed to becoming a responsible and engaged father, over the next six months, I am committed to putting three of the following activities into practice in my relationship with my child:

1. Read to or with my children weekly.
2. Spend time one-on-one with each of my children bi-weekly.
3. Visit my child's school classroom twice.
4. Make contact and communicate with my child's teacher.
5. Help with or monitor my child's homework.
6. Volunteer at my child's school or extra-curricular activities.
7. Meet with other dads for support and encouragement.
8. Reward or praise my children for their progress weekly.
9. Cultivate a team relationship with my child's mother.

PAK

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Respectfully,

Ken



Bethany Little
11/01/99 11:01:41 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Kendra L. Brooks/OPD/EOP@EOP
cc:
Subject: Challenges on father involvement in children's learning

----- Forwarded by Bethany Little/OPD/EOP on 11/01/99 12:01 PM -----

Andrea Kane 11/01/99 10:10:20 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Bethany Little/OPD/EOP@EOP
cc:
Subject: Challenges on father involvement in children's learning

----- Forwarded by Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP on 11/01/99 10:10 AM -----

Andrea Kane 10/21/99 01:46:14 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
cc: Eugenia Chough/OPD/EOP@EOP
Subject: Challenges on father involvement in children's learning

As most of you know, ED and HHS are hosting a nationwide teleconference Oct. 28 to promote father involvement in children's learning. There will be several hundred downlink sites to several thousand educators, early childhood practitioners and others. Shalala and Riley are participating, along with several panels of experts and community leaders. Ken Canfield from the National Center on Fathering is under contract to ED and HHS to produce materials including a best practices guide, discussion guide, and tips for dads.

In planning for this teleconference, I had thrown out the idea of making some measurable challenges at the teleconference. Among other things, this would produce quantifiable results for our 1995 executive memorandum urging agencies to incorporate fathers in their programs, policies and research. Ken has proposed a specific set of challenges involving getting commitments from 100 cities, 1,000 businesses, 10,000 schools, and 100,000 fathers to pledge to take several concrete steps that help promote fathers involvement in children's learning. He says his organization is willing to manage and track the commitments. His proposal is attached.



Proposal91021.do

If everyone agrees these challenges are generally worth making, next set of issues is:

1. who makes them? Secretary Riley is likely candidate. The challenges closely relate to the Department's work with the Partnership for Family Involvement in Education. Menahem Herman at ED has been involved in the this, but I have not yet confirmed the Secretary's level of interest in making specific challenges.
2. how detailed should the challenges be? Ken has proposed pretty specific things that schools, communities, businesses, fathers would all commit to do over the next 6 months (in time for a Fathers Day announcement that challenges had been made -- which would be nice for the VP).
3. are we comfortable with the 7 - 9 steps Ken has proposed for each commitment? For example, the business pledge includes a "Bring your child to work day" -- is this duplicative of bring your daughters to work day? It also include providing comprehensive health coverage and implementing flex time policies. The health care one may be a bit of a stretch here. We could certainly revise the specific steps.
4. are we comfortable with Ken's group in the lead role? need to make sure this doesn't alienate other groups (there are some politics and turf issues among the fathers groups we need to be aware of).

I'll set up a conference call for 11:00 Monday to discuss this, but if you have any thoughts in the meantime, let me know.

Message Sent To:

Bethany Little/OPD/EOP@EOP
Andy Rotherham/OPD/EOP@EOP
John B. Buxton/OPD/EOP@EOP
Trooper Sanders/OVP@OVP
Nancy.Hoit@npr.gov @ inet
Lee Ann Brackett/OVP@OVP
Nicole R. Rabner/WHO/EOP@EOP
Devorah R. Adler/OPD/EOP@EOP

Angela Kaur

- What type of event
- What were looking for?
- Specifically w/ fathers in learning
- Reasonable goals

● Eugenia Chough

10/22/99 06:05:01 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: MTG REMINDER: Challenges on father involvement in children's learning

Please join us on Monday 10/25 at 11am to discuss these proposals. Please call into x62565, code 1225.
Thanks.

----- Forwarded by Eugenia Chough/OPD/EOP on 10/22/99 06:02 PM -----

Andrea Kane

10/21/99 07:46:14 PM

Record Type: Record

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Nicole R. Rabner/WHO/EOP@EOP
Devorah R. Adler/OPD/EOP@EOP

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Bethany Little/OPD/EOP@EOP
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