

National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse Resources for Fathers, Children & Families – Transcript of audio

I think you for reading that incredible bio and introduction but the reality is that one thing that I am proud of is that I am the dad of Jaelyn, Donovan, and Demario. 21 years old, doing phenomenal. My youngest son is finishing the 10th grade. That drives me to do the work that I do. I'm a believer that families get stronger, families get better with the entire unit working together. One of the units of that family is fathers. We want to make sure that the imaging and the resources, the information, the research. My goal is to make sure we can present resources from the clearinghouse for you to use and share with people that come to you for information. Want to get some tips on engaging and strengthening families and how to use the resources that we provide for child well-being and provide may be some takeaways so that we can implement promising practices to share those practices with people around the country. I know that many of you are the keepers of the information, the keeper of ways that people can access information. That is what the clearinghouse is really all about. We have definitely put ourselves -- let me make sure that I can remove that. The clearinghouse is actually funded by the health and human services office of family assistance. It is funded to be able to provide resources, whether it is forefathers, practitioners, practitioners, policymakers and the public at large. All who are interested in supporting strong fathers and families. The greatest thing we have is for people to stay abreast of what we are all about. That is when we put out announcements, information, all of the different things that go on in the realm of responsible fatherhood. Everything starts, if you are taking notes, here is where you start taking notes. Everything starts at our website. That website is fatherhood.gov. This is the repository of all of the different information and resources that we have and it has been a labor of love for now almost 18 years. Making sure that the most up-to-date information, resources, training, you name it, all are hosted and located here. I want to demonstrate how to get involved with what we just launched called the virtual collaborative community. Let me give a quick demonstration of what it is. This is the governments way to keep the conversation going. You may hear something that you really like but you know how conferences and webinars are. You hear it and you want to connect with the person that you heard from or the person that you are connected with and often times you don't have the space to keep up a dialogue. Social media meets social impact. It is a password-protected arena where now we have group discussions going on, we have internal webinars going on, community reaching out to each other. It is where we can all come together and talk about how to best serve the family we care most about. I want to take a few minutes and make sure that each and every one of you on the line can take part of the collaborative. Not only do we want you to come in and share but you have a lot of information, you come across things whether it is webinar or information. We would like you to share that information with the collaborative. Everyone can get the right information at the right time. If you are in a position, go to fatherhood.gov. At the top of the right-hand, you will see the toolbar across the top. You can see the little arrow, go to programs and when you click programs, I want you to come down to where it says virtual collaborative community. If you have questions, I can answer them. Go down to earth says virtual collaborative community. It is going to ask you to register. You will put your name, your email, the organization you are with. We will make sure that we reach back out to you to verify the information. We want this to be a safe and protected space. You know what happens on social media and everybody. You may not get the right people and the different profiles. We want to make sure that everything is right, we want to reach out to you to verify that. Once you verify that, you are inside of the community. You will see discussion groups, blogs, information. We've got a few of them highlighted. There are discussion groups that you may be interested in. You may have information to share and you may have some newest latest research about technology. We can share that information, join those groups and start those conversations. You can

reach back out to me. I am in the virtual collaborative community. You can see, you can find different members and you can direct message them and talk to them. You will find webinars from different things we have done. We will show you some in a few minutes. You can go right back into our resources that are available at fatherhood.gov. So many different things you can do in the collaborative so that you can keep a real live chat going forward. I will talk about the Headstart conference I listened to back maybe a month ago. We have a lot of people in our session, talked to a lot of people and amazingly enough we are still keeping the conversation going. We are talking about people who found the resources. They are sharing it back and forth. This is where it takes life to keep the process going. I love that because now people can get to know those people that they work with, colleagues around the country that they can interact with and get a better relationship. You have got to see some of our resources. I want to go to one of the most resources we have put out which is our PSA. The national responsible fathering clearinghouse starts a campaign around fathers. This year it is called dedication. I will ask you to go to YouTube and go to fatherhood golf. You can look at these. This is one of the most successful campaigns. You can see the top one there where you see the dad and the daughter here together. That was one of our most successful campaigns. What these campaigns are doing, whether it is the videos you see on TV, the billboards you see on the side of the road or maybe at the bus stop. The bus stop advertisement. You will see these. These are ways that we help to shape the voice of what fathers can really be. In our world today, it seems that fathers have taken a backseat to family and we are hoping to change that paradigm and now I hope you take a minute to watch some of them. They are just 52nd commercials, PSA's to talk about the importance and impact of dance in children's lives. This has been a major undertaking, we are very proud of it. Let me tell you how that works. Any organization in school and in church, anybody who wants to share a little bit about their thoughts around fatherhood can actually reach out to us. The PSA is already done. It is all part of the Department of Health and Human Services. You can brand them with your information so that you can run them at your schools, run them at your church, run them in your lobby, my son went to a public high school in the Baltimore metropolitan area and they had this whole thing about dads being involved. A big screen TV that announcements all of the time. Why don't you run some of these? They took all of these and they ran them for almost 3 months. They saw more people stopping, what are they doing around? People started a conversation and then they went out to start their own program. They got a national program, most of them have graduated and moved on to college. The program teaches us. This is a way you can use these, you can share these people and teach them how they can use them. It truly does help people to share the message of fatherhood. Here are a couple of videos, I love this, you can see him on -- is an actual spoken word artist. You can see them all and use them whenever you want. I absolutely think that this is a way that we start to change the narrative. As we change that narrative, we've got to train people about to work with dads, how to involve dads and everyday life. I'm about family strengthening and we do a number of webinars. When you're doing with organizations that want to serve families, dealing with churches that want to do work, work and they go to find the information? I grew up going to the library. Now we want to make sure that this information, you can share the people, you can get trained. If I'm a professional trying to get better, I want to know where this information is. You did before the pandemic. We did one on the importance of coparenting, working with parents. Talking with fathers about early childhood development. Every areas, there have been so many webinars we have done. This was one of the biggest ones we did back on April 22nd 2020. That is the one thing I like about our resources, we knew. A family going through some difficulties and they are looking for something. We do these virtual webinars to teach technology with your family. How programs can use technology to help fathers to engage their families. This is where the biggest pieces of our program. I will just talk to about the pandemic because I like to give some real-life examples of what we have been able to do. Many program when they've got shutdown, they could not get to see the families. They want to be involved. One of the biggest things is we started working with organizations

around the country to think about this. You are looking for ways to serve the communities that are ways to get information out to their communities. We actually talk programs how to set up their funds. Now the flexibility of being able to use zoom and all of the different platforms, we have fatherhood groups. I am a facilitator for. This is an North Carolina. I live in Maryland. We have different gentlemen coming in, we work around things like child issues. It is amazing that we get more fathers involved. We can do it at different times. You will see them getting off work. They are communicating, telling us what is going on, sharing resources. They take an an hour break lunch and they come joining the group. This is help the dads around this country continue to get the services, the resources they need to be better fathers to their children. One of the biggest resources that we are working with in North Carolina is around child support. We are experts from the community so that they can talk about how to get orders taking care of, what it means, how to deal with it. How to navigate the system. They have a place to go to get what they need and that is what our webinars do. It opens up the doors to teach people how to give the services directly to their clients. We are very excited about our webinar series and the training it does not just for dads and their families but for their staff. Register today, we would like to see each and every one of you here, and you are scheduled to come join us at, we are doing a an event hosted by the clearinghouse which is hosted by the federal government. This focuses on leading the drive. A fatherhood summit. This is supposed to be June. This is a 2 1/2 days on June 15th. Come be a part of it. We want you to be there. I put it in the chat. Register. If you can spend an hour, spend an hour, if you can spend two half days, focus on the platforms to get information on. Make sure that you have got families and friends and colleagues there because this will be an opportunity for people to take away the information to best serve others. That is what we are all here for. Being a father, I did not have all of the different know high but I have examples. My great-grandfather was there. I had these examples of what I could to and people I could refer back to. When we start looking at statistics, a number of men growing up. They may become fathers and they don't have examples. It shouldn't be that they don't have the resources. The researchers are here. We get to be the keeper of the resources, to share it with people who get to promote the resources. Please, share this with everyone. This can be or somebody you know gets information and can change the life of a dad in your community and that is the work we do, making sure that we have enough information, enough resources for people to be able to use the resources and make a difference on their children's lives. Again to, go to fatherhood.gov, register for the summit. Register for the summit so that you can be there and help us move the needle. The next thing I want to talk about, for those of you in a position to help fathers who may need help, being clear that at fatherhood.gov, I like to call it the GPS, we are the Google maps of fatherhood. If someone needs help, if they need help with education, if they need help with child support, custody, visitation, getting a job, any of those things, and there are programs around the country that serve them, he needs to know where they are. This is the best thing I can talk about. You can go here and you can put in a ZIP Code and you can find the closest fatherhood program to that. That is amazing to see here. We did a search in five locations near the ZIP Code. We can ask them to get the call. I do this even in my capacity as a football coach. I coached kids all the time. Where do you live? I put it up and we have a fatherhood program. Do you know the Center for urban families? We don't, we have never heard of it. We are able to make it the services they need because we as people in the community, that people come to for information, we have the information. This is another piece of fatherhood.gov that you can share with everyone you come in contact with. Also, sometimes people need to see it in writing. They need to read stories, they need to read a blog. Well, we have a whole series which is a blog series. Parents post topics, helping your children. I remember writing one of the blogs when the pandemic first happened. How to balance working from home and still being a dad. It was for me, I got to share with people how will they manage all of the different things that happen when you are trying to work, educating your kids. What about now that we are getting back into the regular world? Now, it gets crazier, time is difficult, people are finding more difficulties with work. We want to make sure that we stay relevant to the things that are

going on and how the tips and resources strategy to help people deal with all of them. Then everything we have, whether it is foundational work to do research, information, tip sheets, journal articles, anything you want is a virtual library. I love it because it is the same concept. They did it virtually and now they can search anything. If you say dealing with opioids, dads and opioids, a list of resources, training, tips to deal with it. If you are dealing with child support, put that in. We have got years of information stored there and we will keep the most cutting edge stuff up there because we log everything by time. The first thing to come up is the most cutting edge, the most recent information. This has been huge. I know when the L.A. fathers program put something together, we immediately put it up. This is throughout cutting across the industry. This is why this has been one of the go to premier websites for people serving families and having the true intent on serving fathers. And then I want to show you our toolkit. Here is where I want to spend a little time because the toolkit has been -- what we have been able to get into the public. We have a grassroots organization and programs on how to set up the run staff and manage fatherhood intent programs. I tell you that this has been awesome, I have used this toolkit for churches. I've used it with organizations that have funding this specific work for dads. This is a living toolkit. It is electronic. You can also print it out. As things evolve, it can evolve with you. If you go to fatherhood.gov and you put in fatherhood toolkit, it will take you right here. You will click under programs and here it is, it breaks everything down bit by bit. I want to go through some of it. With some of the settings service, to serve dads. One of the biggest questions is how do I hire staff and volunteers? What should I be looking for? The first thing that they talk about is how to get people who want to do this work. We will talk about genuinely people that can relate to fatherhood and prevent training to ensure that professionals are responsible to the needs. The resources to do them are right in fatherhood.gov. How to create a friendly environment. When I work with childhood facilities, that has been one of the biggest issues. Most of the places don't look like places that invite dads. If you don't see yourself, you cannot be yourself. We are looking for people to see themselves in that environment. How to establish a referral network. We talk about the how to's and then we talk about the different organizations that you can partner with and we did resources that reach out to those different partners. We also say where to go and find dads. I get people say that dads want,. The reality is that they are out there, go get them, go find them. How do you find where dads are? They talk about recruiting and retention and all of that. I have shown businesses how to use these to go out into the community and bring dads in. That is available when the community knows how to do it. Make sure that all staff and board members understand the program and are on board. One of the biggest issues and why we put out so many resources is that some people have a different idea. They may not have the same passion as I do and we want to make sure that organizations are not shooting themselves in the foot because they have internal biases that keep them from doing the work that they want to do and that work is taking care of children and families. Understand your potential participants, what they want, what is in it for them. We go through these in the toolkit. This is designed on how to set up staff, run, and manage a fatherhood service or intervention. One of the things I've been around the country using as a resource, print one out and put it on your desk. If someone is thinking about it, running or open and try to get better, this is a resource that would love for you to be able to share through the means that you have to communicate with the general public. Jot this down. Everybody, if you get nothing else out of the day. Jot this phone number down. 877-4-dad-411. That is the only hotline in America directly targeting fathers. It is in partnership with parent help. It is the one thing to give to dads to be able to reach out and get the support that they need, even finding resources that they need. Since the data has opened up, the top three things people are calling about, custody, visitation, employment. There are dads out there who want to see their children. There are dads who want to be responsible for their children. There are those that need the financial means to provide for their children. The resources, the information here. If each and every one of you walk out of here and the only thing you can remember, if that is the only thing you put in your phone to jot down then please take that number, share it with

every family. It is good for dads, grandmothers, uncles, brothers call. Absolutely. This is, the reason we focus on it is that we wanted dads to see that this is for them and that is why the number is 877-4 DADS-411 we have had thousands of calls for people looking for some support and resources to be better at taking care of their kids. That I think dispels some of the myth that parents don't want to be there. That is not always true. You can see in all of our resources, you will see me at this desk right here. This is where we come out to see you, we bring resources. This is .2% of our resources. I want to read something, I want to make sure I get to this. This provides reference services to patients who are incarcerated and have no access to the Internet and very limited phone Internet. Is there an address or PO Box where they can write or get information that is available? Absolutely. When you go to fatherhood.gov, you will see our mailing address. You can call and tell them you want different resources. I hope that answers your questions. Bob, I hope that answers your questions, as you can see, it is principled, these things can be mailed out. You can see it on the screen. You can see this square or the rectangle pamphlets. They are for dads by dads on different topics. How to stay in contact when you are away from your kids. Creative way to stay in contact. How to talk to Kit about the other dad in their life. Some people are dealing with this. That is how the services work. Talk to people and then share. This is how you can get this information. Please doing what you are doing. If these resources can help you share with everybody. Also, this can be printed. You know that people are coming through. You can print them off and be able to give it to their family members. At your library, your organization, at your church. If we have enough resources, we will send them. These are resources that can be given to everyone out there. If I was with you in person, Bobby, I will be putting some stuff in your hands. We will know what to go back to the website search. You can go to the website and search any keyword. You can use this as an example, incarcerating, incarcerated. You can find the spotlight, highlight, resources information, webinars. You can search any of our section and find the relevant information for those individuals. One of the big things is that we have resources for families who may be taking care of the children of an incarcerated dad. How do you work with that dad to be able to receive dad, specially if dad has been away through their developmental years. There is a difference when that dad comes home. If my dad went away when I was two and I know 14 or 15, he missed a lot of the raising time. How do we build those relationships and get them back together? I love the fact that we have the ability, all of us have the ability to put resources in front of other people. Just to show you a few of them. This is a virtual field trip. A lot of don't have a lot of money. Now when gas is \$4000 a gallon, you cannot run here, you cannot run there. Most of them are still up and running. With young children, with toddlers, with elementary school kids you can go on virtual field trips with your child. I love this, let me go to the San Diego zoo. I've never been to the San Diego zoo. That is my idea. I went to the San Diego zoo and I was blown away about how interactive the virtual tour was and I got to spend as much time. I get to go back and come back, guess what, it was free. These are things that dad can do for children, even if we don't have the income or money to do the things we want. This was written by good friend of mine, one of the experts in the field of fatherhood. Information, things that we can share with people that would be printed out or they can read it online. All in an effort to help dads get better. Here is a reasonable page. Every webinar we do, every time we do a webinar we set up a reference where you can get the reference and click, we can print them out, we can type this and and this goes over all of the things we may have referenced in the webinar and things you can use so people can click it and it takes them right to it. They can watch the videos, those type of things. We always want resources to be usable, user-friendly resources that people can click or use any time they want to go back and get that information. We have worked very diligently to keep these up to date. We take them down as fast as we can, we have so many resources. When experts finish, we put together a document using virtual technology and fatherhood programs. This is something when we go out to conferences and we talk to companies and we deal with organizations we have a quick card to teach some of the basic reference information to help those programs deal with and implement what they have learned on one of the

webinars, a huge learning piece to continue the movement, to continue what people learned, to continue to put it into action. These are things that may be able to be printed out and kept. I actually had an organization here locally, they wanted to do a lot of groups and they watched as one of our webinars of group facilitation. And then the manager showed the webinar and printed out all of the different resources so we could put it -- they didn't have enough money for training, they had an hour and have training by experts. They watch it the webinar, and then they had all of the reference materials right there. This is how this stuff is built to be used so that they can bring experts into the community, they may not have the wherewithal to take advantage of those different types of resources, here are more tip cards we have front to back and they are usually put together so that they are peeling, people can get them. Now I want to spend a little time and I know my host is Ashley, I don't know how much time we have left but I want to spend a little time here. If I can get a time check I will be able to see that. I want to spend a little time on using social media. You have probably got more up-to-date statistics than I do. The reality is that social media is used and when you start talking about younger populations, this is amazing. Everybody I know has an Instagram account. I call myself a senior. Just don't move quite that fast. Whether you are a material millennial, social media has influenced our lives. For some of us it is one of those things that say, let me tell you guys. Social media is the cutting edge of how to embrace and connect with your audiences. Everything from text messages to apps, we should all be learning how to use this to move our information forward. One of the things I work with, they were getting dads enrolled but they didn't have phone numbers. They had a throwaway phone in the industry. Are you getting people Instagram? The lady said, no. I would stress adding Instagram and Facebook to your enrollment documents. Make sure you get those things because younger people have Instagram handles. Once they get connected to social media, they don't change. No matter what device or computer they are, they are going to be able to access and you can speak to them directly. A whole information on how to use direct messaging and Facebook close groups on how to bring their fathers together, how to keep them together, how to communicate directly with them. They saw an increase in the number of fathers participating in their services. They actually had great services that they want to give people. Even if we have the alumni together, people who have gone on, who might be great mentors to others but also great word-of-mouth advertisement, keep them connected to your programs social media. What we taught people to do is to use social media to reach out and use our resources to share with people. One of the things we did when advertising, I did this with a Headstart program. How do you communicate? They said we have this service that can text people out. I said, why not send one of the PSAs? Send a PSA so that they will see something about being a dad. Sometimes a text just doesn't get it so you can use video, audio, pictures to bring it to life. Use content that has quick and simple messages and information for fathers where they can grab their attention. We have probably one of the largest followings in the fatherhood realm. Right now I think we have 1000 people on Facebook. Now we can continue to keep the right imaging. We can promote what is going on. We can see that in the general public's mind. You can put the most relevant topics up. You can even ask your graduate to like and share. This is how you expand. That is what we are trying to help everyone know that there are resources that teaches people how to do this. Use your power to put this relevant information in the public knowledge. That is what this is all about, making sure that we get this to everybody. I want you to take a few seconds. Maybe you have got your phone, I will ask each and every one of you to do a couple of things. If you are on Facebook, I want you to go to Facebook and I want you to search fatherhood golf. I want you to like it. If you do that for us that means we can keep you in the loop. If you are on twitter, twitter has been a huge way that we stay in touch with the professional ranks. On Twitter, 2 to 4 times a year, we do a chat. That is like having a conference. We take an hour or so and we go over a topic and we have experts that will answer the questions, share information. We have professionals from all over the world plug into a Twitter chat. They can have the conversation and we do it in a moderated situation. We can highlight people and make sure the professionals, the experts can

communicate that. A huge way to do things like this. A great way to do quick conversations. You advertise them and you get some of the best in your community to chat. You can run those things very simple. You can follow us on Twitter. If you are on Twitter, I'm going to ask you to go there right now. Go straight and follow us on Twitter and then finally, we do have a YouTube page. YouTube just got up. You can find us on Instagram. These are all the ways that you can keep in touch. I want everyone to go to fatherhood.gov and search sign-up. You only remembered the 800 number. Please jump on. You can forward that onto your constituents. You can have that information. This is huge for us, the listserv, we want to make sure that all requirements are taken care of so that you can get the most relevant information. This is what I'm going to ask you to do to stay connected to us. The toolkit, you can find it at fatherhood.gov. That is a resource that you can pull down. The archived webinars. We've got over 12 years of webinars you can find. Make sure you use that. For general inquiries and more information, Bobby, you can email help at fatherhood.golf.info. Join our listserv. Join the listserv seeking get the information out to you. Again, the collaborative community. We want to go straight to it. This is all one word. These are all the ways that you asked to stay connected and stay connected to us and then our toll-free number. B all of the things to keep you connected to the information and to keep this as relevant information you can get to your constituents. I wanted to wrap this up by asking in the chat, if there is anything that set up, answer one of these questions. For me, this workshop has been something you learned. Something you learned. If everyone can take a second to answer, just to give me some feedback. I want to ask really quick. If you would answer that the chat, we really appreciate it. Thank you, I'm glad that this was something new for you, resources you can use. Really appreciate your interaction. Skate connected to us. I would love to help in anyway I can to get more tools in your hands. Anybody else? If there's anything you would like to share, drop it in the chat right now. One thing I will do differently as a result of this, love to hear from you. Go ahead and drop it in the chat. If there is no one that wants to share. Okay, we got Carl. There is coaching for dads at all ages and stages. Absolutely. Thank you for that. If you can share it with others, you guys are well in the know. You did not know it was out here. I really appreciate you. Please share these resources with others. We really appreciate you. Thank you, sir. Anyone else? If there are no others, we will take a couple of others. I want to say thank you to each and everyone of you for spending a massive part of your day is. I don't take for granted anyone's time. Today, I'm happy that I give you six minutes of your life. I will turn it over to our host.

I love your enthusiasm about this topic. Thank you so much, James. I would like Ashley to go ahead and share this survey. Please fill out the survey and we will send the results back to James. We have got three more webinars coming up this month. You've got what works in education, the high-quality education research. We also have the national oceanic administration repository and federal communication. Inside the monthly labor review, 107 years of historical data. I would like to think everybody who tuned in today. This one last call for questions.

I want to say thank you to Emily. Thank you for the new information and resources. Absolutely, thank you for that comment.

I just learned something. What it my areas of expertise is on military and veterans issues. The fact that you have information for fathers and parents, that is something I will delve into.

One of our partners is a new horizon. I learned so much from Katrina and she has been a national spokesperson for providing dads, dads who may be dealing with other issues.

It looks like we don't have any other questions. I will think everybody for joining us today. Hopefully we will see you at another webinar. Everybody have a good day.

You too. Goodbye, everybody.[Event concluded] [Event concluded]