

CENTER ON FATHERING

Fathering is for Life.

Protecting + Children =
DADS

Susan Burt

Social Services Supervisor

El Paso County Department of Human Services



The Challenge to all of Us

- ❖ El Paso County has highest concentration of children ages 0-5 in the state of Colorado
- ❖ Divorce rate in El Paso County rose 233% between 1970-2010
- ❖ 60% of children born today will live part of childhood in a single parent home
- ❖ 90% of dads become non-residential parents and 50% of them become disengaged

Barriers to Father Involvement

- Lack of awareness of the importance of dads
- Attitudes & Policies of professionals
- Conditioned beliefs of dads themselves
- Prior lack of coordinated effort

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FATHERING



Some facts about Child Abuse....

Children in fatherless homes had:

- a 77% greater risk of being **physically abused**
- a 165% greater risk of experiencing notable **physical neglect**
- a 74% greater risk of suffering from **emotional neglect**
- an 80% greater risk of suffering **serious injury** as a result of abuse
- overall, a 120% greater risk of being **endangered** by some type of child abuse.

Sedlak and Broadhurst. The 3rd National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect: Final Report. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect. Washington, D.C.

Father Absence

- ▣ <https://vimeo.com/53523218>

Each child has a Question that
only their Father can answer ?



The Child Wound Created by Fatherlessness

- ❑ Girls 5 x's more likely to get pregnant during adolescence
- ❑ More likely to have issues with truancy
- ❑ More likely to have concerns with mental health
- ❑ More likely to be targeted as victims of sexual assault and abuse
- ❑ More likely to end up in the criminal system
- ❑ More likely to commit suicide
- ❑ More likely to run away

Gifts of Fathers

1. Goal setting and academic achievement
2. Problem Solving
3. Risk Taking



Research Observations about Parenting Styles

Maternal

- Physical care
- Holds baby close to chest facing herself
- Play is more conventional



Paternal

- Holds baby facing away from themselves
- Spends more time with infant in play
- Stresses physical risk taking
- Play is less predictable

Paternal Play- teaches children ...



- ▣ to regulate their feelings and behavior as they interact with others
- ▣ how to deal with aggressive impulses and physical contact without losing control of their emotions
- ▣ quickly learn that biting, kicking and other forms of physical violence are not acceptable
- ▣ These lessons, prepare children for the **GAME OF LIFE**

Paternal Play Promotes...

- Social Skills
- Intellectual Development
- Self-Control



Skills that Fathers teach their Children

- ▣ Verbal Skills
- ▣ Motor Skills
- ▣ Problem Solving
- ▣ Interacting with the outside world
- ▣ Negotiation
- ▣ Empathy
- ▣ Cultural heritage and tradition



Discipline from Fathers

- ▣ Have greater physical strength and size a factor
- ▣ Tend to be more firm; less likely to bend family rules or principles
- ▣ Fathers feel freer to be firm and challenging with their children



Discipline from Fathers

Dads are more involved in setting limits for their children

For dads
it's the societal
bottom line

For moms
it's the impact on
relationships



The Elephant Story

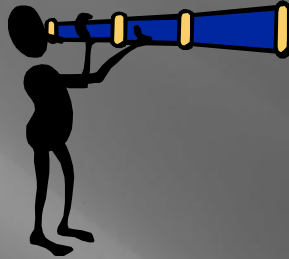


South Africa's Pilanesberg Park

A Dad Is...



Coach and Mentor



Leader



Disciplinarian



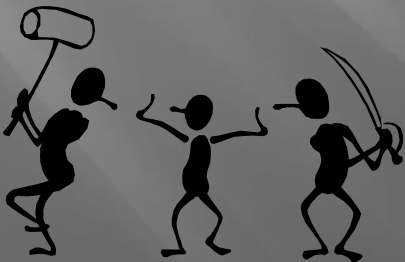
Protector



Entertainer



Winner



Mediator



Provider



Nurturer

Myths and Bias about Fathers

- ❑ Father are more likely the perpetrators of child abuse
- ❑ Fathers need to be the primary bread winner and don't have time to parent
- ❑ Women are naturally more domestic and instinctual nurturers
- ❑ If children do not have an established bond with father, they will be emotionally damaged by being placed with him
- ❑ Men and women can't raise children together if they are not living in the same household. The job should go to the mother

Studies Show Judicial Bias Against Dads

- ▣ "Overall, the judges and the laypeople both saw the woman's case as having more merit than the man's," Miller said.
- ▣ Judges in the shared-custody case were more likely than laypeople to give a mother more time with a child than a father.

Date: April 19, 2018

Source: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Studies Show Judicial Bias Against Dads

Another survey, this one commissioned by the Minnesota Supreme Court, found that a majority (56%) of the state's judges, both male and female, agreed with the statement, "I believe young children belong with their mother." "A woman's makeup is better tuned to caring for small children."

July 16, 2015 by Robert Franklin, Esq, Member,
National Board of Directors, National Parents Organization

Child Welfare Case Practice

- ▣ Workers demonstrated that they felt more ambivalence than benevolence for fathers, and more benevolence than ambivalence with mothers.

Child Welfare Caseworker Bias Toward Mothers

A study has shown gender bias surveys of caseworkers in Florida “endorsed more negative attitudes about father involvement and indicated a greater preference for working with mothers.”

What about the Dads?

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 2006

88% father's name is in the case file

55% child welfare agency has contacted the father at least once

30% father has visited the child since placement

28% father expressed an interest in custody

4% goal is live with father

What about the Dads?

Rate of Contact with Father During Child Welfare Assessments, Rate of Listing Father as a Participant in the Trails System, and Rate of Including Fathers in the Social History (14 Questions).

<i>Groups</i>	<u>Participated</u>		<u>Did Not Participate</u>	
	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
<u>Outcome</u>				
Rate of Social History Inclusion	5	85.7	5	14.3
Rate of Assessment Contact	5	58.3	5	41.7
Rate of Father Listed in Trails	5	75.0	5	25.0

What about the Dads ?

(in El Paso County Colorado)

The Type of Contact with Fathers During Child Welfare Assessments Based Upon the Collective Number of Attempted Contacts (N = 18).

<i>Group</i>	<u>Intake Workers Contact Attempts</u>	
	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
<u>Outcome</u>		
Telephone Contact	18	38.9
Face to Face Contact	18	22.2
Voicemail	18	5.6
No Contact Made	18	33.3

Colorado 2017 CFSR Final Report

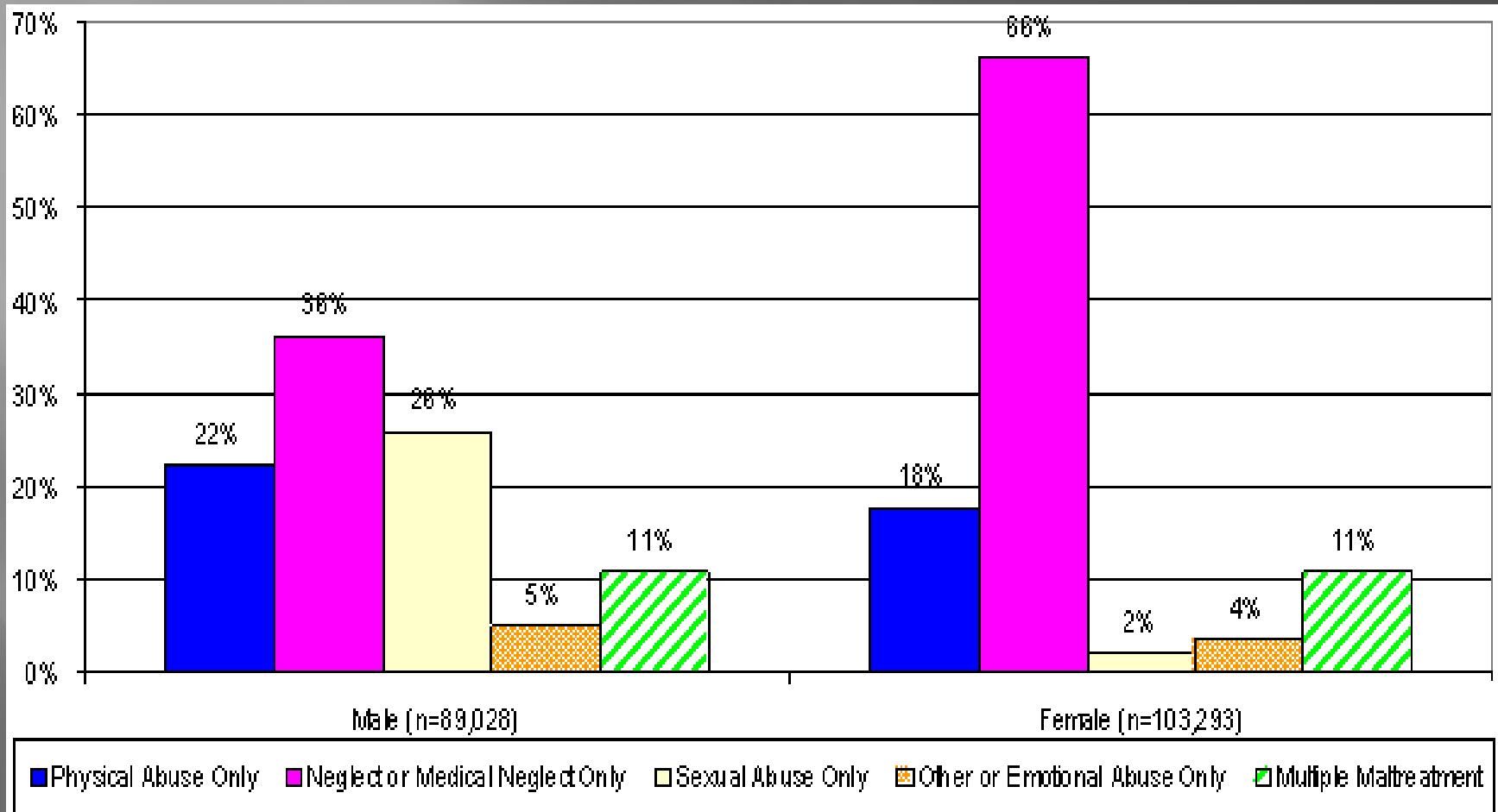
- ▣ Item 15. Caseworker Visits with Parents
 - In 74% of the 37 applicable cases, the agency make concerted efforts to ensure that the frequency and quality of caseworker visitation with mothers were sufficient.
 - In 54% of the 37 applicable cases, the agency make concerted efforts to ensure that the frequency and quality of caseworker visitation with fathers were sufficient.

Colorado 2017 CFSR Final Report

- ▣ Item 12 B. Needs Assessments and Services to Parents
 - In 73% of the 55 applicable cases, the agency make concerted efforts to assess and address the needs of mothers.
 - In 47% of the 55 applicable cases, the agency make concerted efforts to assess and address the needs of fathers.

Perpetrator Statistics

- Maltreatment by Male and Female Perpetrators⁽¹²⁾
(n = 192,321)



Strategies for Effective Father Engagement

- Assume he wants to be involved
- Restore him in the child's life
- Individualize each case
- Make room for expressions of anger
- Provide direct feedback & action-oriented steps
- Make problems concrete and relatable



Changing the Story

Building the Relationship

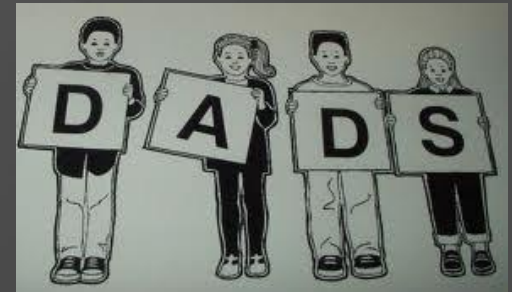
- *Principles of Partnership*
 - Everyone desires respect
 - Partners share power
 - Everyone has strengths
 - Everyone needs to be heard
 - Judgments can wait
 - Partnership is a process



Appalachian Family Innovations. (2003). Partners in change: A new perspective on child protective services (curriculum). Morganton, NC

Father's Experience

- ▣ What should professionals Stop Doing?
- ▣ What should professionals Keep Doing?
- ▣ What should professionals Start Doing?



Questions?



How to Refer a Dad

- Download a referral form from <http://dhs.elpasoco.com>
Center on Fathering
- E-mail a referral form to dhscenteronfathering@elpasoco.com
- Fax a referral form to 444-5987