Best Practices in Supporting Dads Virtually

DDG TRAINING & CONSULTING

November 20, 2020 • Dara Griffin
Set-up

Click Unmute and Start Video to say hello

Click Participants and Chat
Be present!

▸ Remove distractions
▸ Get a beverage
▸ Get note-taking stuff
▸ Center yourself
Raise your hand

▸ Use the participants menu tool

--or--

▸ Type * in chat
Welcome and set-up
Introductions
Goals and Agenda Review
Preparation, Recruitment & Outreach
Facilitation Tips
Strategies for engaging virtual meetups and groups
Materials and next steps
Who’s Here?

- Name
- Position
- Where you work
- 1 thing you love about your job!

- Dara Griffin
- Family and Community Engagement Consultant/Trainer.
- Connecting and Designing experiences for parents/caregivers and service providers to make genuine sincere connections! 😊
Why are you here?
Goals: What are your goals for our time together?

- Learning more skills to support more parents
- Learn how to engage fathers
- New tools
- To be more supportive and keep dad engaged
- How to involve dads in our work
- Learn from the experts
- Get more creative ideas
- Ideas and information
- Learn how to engage fathers
- How to involve dads in our work
- Learn how to best support Fathers from panelists are doing it already
- Learning how to address father’s reservations engaging in a virtual platform
- Recognizing the digital divide that exists with the families we serve
- How to better assist fathers
- Best practices

Template by Training for Change
Phase 1
Preparation
Preparation

- Identify a **male facilitator or co-facilitator**

- Prepare **staff/co-workers** for welcoming and greeting Fathers in your space

- Operationalize the **Father-Friendly Principles** in your program

- Identify how you can **provide incentives** to participants (e.g. gift cards, baby items, door dash, etc.)
Phase 2
Outreach & Recruitment
Outreach & Recruitment

▸ **Identify** the target audience
▸ **Develop** an outreach plan
▸ **Promote** fatherhood groups and plans internally
▸ **Recruit** new fathers and those with different life experiences.
▸ **Reach out** where the Men/Fathers are (e.g. youth sports teams, barbershops, GameStop, Labor and Delivery etc.)
▸ **Partner** with organizations that serve men (e.g. manhood development programs, workforce development, Child Support, Probation)
Outreach & Recruitment

- Highlight the **incentives** being offered
- **Identify** Fathers who can **support** outreach
- **Ask Moms** to invite their co-parent
- Have a **compelling reason** for why Fathers/Father-Figures should attend
Providing Services
“I’m [name] . One quality I like to bring as a service provider is [one word].”

Please explain why this quality is important especially now.
Welcome back!

Mute yourself again

Click Participants and Chat again.
Chat!

“What’s one new idea/insight/question from your breakout discussion?”
Providing Services

▸ Learn and use a **variety** of techniques.

▸ **Give specific effective feedback** using two way communication to enable participants to identify behaviors and situations to be prepared for.

▸ **Create an emotionally safe** environment for optimal participation.

▸ **Be flexible** and allow fathers to discuss what is happening with them.
Facilitating Groups

▸ Work with participants to **establish group agreements** (e.g. respect, confidentiality, one mic, etc.)

▸ Build in **opportunities** for Fathers to contribute to the development of the group (e.g. name, days, topics etc.)

▸ **Ensure** everyone's **voice** is heard while allowing participants to do what they are comfortable with.

▸ **Be flexible** and allow the group to discuss what is important to them.
Providing Services

▸ Learn and use a **variety** of techniques to keep group participation robust.

▸ **Recognize** and **deal** with disruptive behaviors before they interfere with positive group dynamics.

▸ Give **specific** effective **feedback** using two way communication to enable participants to identify behaviors and situations to be prepared for.

**Create** an **emotionally safe** environment for optimal group participation.
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- **Be flexible** and allow the group to discuss what is important to them.
Benefits/Opportunities of Virtual Groups

- Resources are accessible
  - Able to reach more Dads
  - Maintaining Employment
  - Able to record our sessions and post them on our webpage
  - Saving money on food and able to put savings into programs
  - Record trainings and meetings

- Can call in from anywhere
  - Reach dads with different needs
  - No transportation issues
  - Don’t have to provide food
  - Invited into people’s homes
  - Can connect more
  - Easier as a facilitator
  - No traffic
  - More relaxed more flows
  - Dial from the comfort of home
  - People can choose their own temperature
Choose an icon and drag and drop it to mark where you are on the spectrum:
Work From Home Fails
What’s working for VIRTUALLY?
▸ Technology
▸ Zoom Etiquette
▸ Breakout Rooms
▸ Various ways to engage
  ▶ Video,
  ▶ Polls
  ▶ Word Clouds
  ▶ Guest Speakers/Content Area Experts
  ▶ Open Ended Question Prompts
- Having a back-up plan
- Humor
- Fun - trivia maker, netflix party,
- Stories
- Inviting people to speak /contribute “IPhone - Are you there?”
- Not being boring
What to look out for when hosting Dads virtually?
Participation
- Are people really paying attention
- Comfortable? No trust yet? Kids around?
- Removing people/placing in Waiting Room

Respect
- Checking in making a phone call

Becoming a caseworker

Technological Literacy

Being boring

Language diversity bilingual groups

Chats are NOT private
Experiential Training Always Begins with a Shared Experience
Closing

“What’s one idea you got from this gathering that you could use in the next two months?”

You choose who answers next.
THANKS!

- Presentation style template by SlidesCarnival
- Free stock photos from unsplash.com