



**Milwaukee Black Male Achievement Advisory Council
Committee/Workgroup Report-back Form**

Sub-Committee: FAMILY AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (Rob Cherry, Chair)

Meeting Occurrence (Include meeting dates, agenda, and locations)

Month	Date and Agenda	Location
January	No meeting	
February	No meeting	
March	Monday, March 17 th , 2014	United Way GM
April	Thursday, April 24 th , 2014	United Way GM
May	Thursday, May 29 th , 2014	United Way GM
June	*Thursday, June 26 th , 2014	United Way GM

Community Participation (Include name, title and affiliation of community member participation)

Name	Title	Affiliation
1. Wanda Montgomery – CO-CHAIR – LIHF/BMA	Director of Community Partnerships/President	Children’s Hospital; Black Child Development Institute Milwaukee
2. Al Holmes	Executive Director	My Father’s House, Inc.
3. Dell Williams	Program Coordinator	Milwaukee Fatherhood Initiative
4. Curtis Marshall	Public Health Advisor	WI Dept. of Health Services
5. Jetaunne Richards	Milwaukee County Child Support Services Manager	Milwaukee Pathways Program
6. Keith Parris	Program Coordinator	Milwaukee Pathways Program
7. Angela Turner	Executive Director	Center for Self Sufficiency
8. Tristan Gross	Program Coordinator	Alma House



9. Deborah Taylor	Community Member	
10. Dianne Robinson	Director of Community Relations	Social Development Commission
11. David Pate, PhD	Researcher/Professor	UWM – Helen Bader School
12. Tarvus Hawthorne	Community Resource Coordinator	Milwaukee Women's Center/Community Advocates
13. Robert Cherry CO-CHAIR – BMA	Director	CA- Public Policy Institute
14. Jeff Roman CO-CHAIR – LIHF	Benchmark Coordinator	CA-Public Policy Institute
15. Lashawndra Vernon	Director	Milwaukee LIHF/United Way
16. Alphonso Pettis	Fatherhood Specialist	Next Door Foundation
17. Delvyn Crawford	Fatherhood Specialist	Next Door Foundation
18. Jim Addison	Program Coordinator	Black Health Coalition
19. Angela Robbins	Executive Director	COMPEL Milwaukee
20. Aaron Robbins	Fatherhood Services Director	COMPEL Milwaukee
21. Vanessa Johnson	Executive Director	New Concept/Aurora Family Srvs
22. Allison Amphlett	Program Manager	UNCOM
23. Dawn Zak	Director	Mental Health America of WI
24. Terron Edwards	Program Coordinator	Walnut Way
25. Laura Weimer	Program Coordinator	Children's Hospital WCS
26. Malorie Peter	Program Coordinator	Children's Hospital WCS
27. Asha Witherell	Program Coordinator	Catholic Charities
28. Jessica Martin-Trejo	Program Coordinator	Catholic Charities
29. Joyce Felker	Executive Director	The Parenting Network



Meeting Progress (Include key discussion points and 7 P's recommendations)

<p>Problem</p>	<p>Great deal of programming, services and resources in city for fathers, but not often linked or coordinated to maximize impact. Issues of mistrust and lack of communication among providers preventing scaling up of collaboration and resource leveraging. Lack of programs and resources targeting young men and premature fatherhood prevention.</p>
<p>Population</p>	<p>Populations of focus include African American fathers (custodial and non-custodial), men of color and fathers with criminal backgrounds, young men and male youth; African American children and families</p>
<p>Policy</p>	<p>For the purpose of prioritizing policies essential for strengthening Black families and fatherhood involvement in Milwaukee, focused attention on strengthening advocacy and capacity around influencing expansions of, and reforms to existing policies have been identified in the following policy areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Increasing funding for WIC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ to expand access to fathers ○ to support whole family unit ○ to support parent/family transition to self-sufficiency ➔ Increasing funding for Workforce Development/Transitional Jobs Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ to expand and strengthen skill-building and training components to close skills gap ○ to create pipelines and increase exposure to long-term, family supporting employment opportunities ○ to expand focus on fathers and young men with offender backgrounds, high-school drop-outs, non-GED/HSED holders, reentry population, etc. ➔ Increasing funding for birth to three programs and services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ to include and support fatherhood engagement programming-incorporating resources and services that encourage growth and

development of fathers

- to create, expand, evaluate, and replicate best-practices for fatherhood involvement during birth to three and beyond

➔ Increasing funding for education programs (primary, secondary, higher)

- to focus on career skills preparation and workforce readiness
- to focus on improving achievement among young African American men
- to expand opportunities for engaging and providing educational supports to parents (i.e. parent universities providing literacy support, development, skill-building, etc. to parents/guardians)
- to increase and expand non-traditional educational settings and community-based schooling and support outlets
- to target focus on providing expanded access to young fathers and men with offender backgrounds to “pick-up” and continue education (i.e. return to complete high school diploma, obtain GED/HSED, better access post-secondary training and education opportunities, etc.)

For the specific purpose of prioritizing policies that influence increasing involvement of Black fathers in the lives of children in Milwaukee, focused attention on mobilizing action and building capacity to support and strengthen existing advocacy around needed policy inclusions and expansions have been identified as follows:

➔ Advocacy and legislative action to support policies that increase co-custodial guardianship for separated parents

- to include provisions for increasing healthy co-parenting and relationship building between parents for the sake of children (i.e. mediation)
- to emphasize and equal, shared responsibility for care and child rearing – including detailed outline of rights of

	<p>both mother and father</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ to include increasing and maintaining funding and resources for providers to support advocacy and education for both parents longer <p>➔ Advocacy and legislative action to support policies that ensure fathers' rights to their children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ to emphasize increasing education and awareness of rights and existing laws relating to fathers through social marketing and programming ○ to include development and dissemination of educational "Men's Equity" tool-box with information on father's rights, policy changes/updates, accessing legal aid, information on local, state, and federal resources, etc.) ○ to emphasize inclusion of non-custodial fathers' rights to school, medical, and social security records of children ○ to strengthen accountability and enforcement of existing laws/policies <p>➔ Advocacy and legislative action to support policies that expand transitional jobs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ to include expanding length of time in transitional job placements ○ to emphasize increasing recruitment of employers and expanding programs to include placements in emerging job sectors ○ to advocate higher, family supporting wages ○ to expand options and access, and close loopholes for fathers and men with offender backgrounds, criminal justice system connection, high-school drop outs and non-GED/HSED holders, reentry population, etc. <p>➔ Advocacy and legislative action to support policies that creating ability for incarcerated fathers to sustain contact with their children and families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ to include expanding pre-sentencing to incorporate and modify capacity for establishing access of children to
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	<p>incarcerated father/parents in “safe environments”, in and outside of traditional jail setting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ to emphasize increasing and expanding supports (psychological, social, etc.) for children of incarcerated parents <p>➔ Advocacy and legislative action to support policies that increase placement of children with biological father when not with mother</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ to focus on supporting existing advocacy for placement of children with fathers as legal next of kin vs. kinship care from other family members (mandating fathers as first consideration for secondary placement)
<p>Programs and Partners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Milwaukee Fatherhood Initiative - Milwaukee County Pathways to Responsible Fatherhood Program - Black Child Development Institute - Milwaukee Health Department Direct Assistance for Dads (DAD) Program - UNCOM Initiative for Health Families - Walnut Way No Longer An Island Project - MHAW Strong Families Healthy Homes - Black Health Coalition of Wisconsin – PEDIM and Where Dads Matter Male and Fatherhood Involvement Program - New Concept/Aurora Family Services – Expecting Moms Expecting Dads (EMED) - COMPEL Milwaukee - New Concept Self Development Center - Social Development Commission - My Father’s House, Inc. - Community Advocates PPI/MWC - Center for Self Sufficiency - UWM Zilber School of Public Health - UWM Helen Bader School; Alma Center - Mental Health America Wisconsin - Black Health Coalition of Wisconsin - Children’s Hospital - UNCOM and Neighborhood Centers - Walnut Way - Next Door Foundation - WI Dept. of Health Services - WI Dept. of Children and Families - The Parenting Network - Catholic Charities



	<p>Curriculum programs –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inside/Out Dad; Dr. Dad; Nurturing Fathers; 24/7 Dads; The Black Fatherhood Project; Parent Empowerment Project (PEP)
<p>Practice and Priority</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working on trust and improving communication and coordination among providers and initiatives - Strengthen annual Milwaukee Fatherhood Summit and creating follow-up service linkages to provider network and organizations throughout year - Identifying opportunities for collaboration and resources leveraging - Mapping family/fatherhood and black male engagement/achievement resources across city, county, and region

Committee Goals and Aspirations

BMAAC Family and Social Development Committee

Committee Charge: Strengthening families and increasing involvement of men of color and fathers in the lives of children; breaking the cycle of teen pregnancy/premature parenting; fatherlessness, child abuse and abandonment in Black families

Milwaukee LIHF Strengthening AA Families/Fatherhood and Male Engagement

Workgroup Charge: Reducing environmental stressors for African American families and convening existing fatherhood/male engagement efforts in Milwaukee; mapping and supporting male achievement/engagement efforts across city; Supporting BMA effort and work of BMA Family & Social Development Committee.

BMAAC Recommendations

Strengthen Fatherhood Services Sector

Re-define scope and re-institute role of Milwaukee Fatherhood Initiative from direct service provider to capacity building and technical assistance resource to providers

Support Community Resource Mapping

Support development of an accessible, user-friendly resource and clearinghouse that regularly identifies, compiles and disseminates information on community assets and resources for families, fathers and men of color

Encourage Mental Health Inclusion

Increase awareness of mental health issues affecting Black families, fathers and men of color stemming from racism, socio-economic environment, and other factors; Address gaps in services and engage culturally relevant solutions in development and policy and legislation; Identify methods to eliminate the stigma of mental health services and illness; and Assess current mental health services and accessibility to services across city, county, region.