



FOCUSING *the*
FATHERHOOD
FLAME
Community Conversations

Hosted by

AGENDA

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8:30 AM **WELCOME: IGNITING THE FATHERHOOD FLAME**

9:00 AM **DADS MATTER**
Campfire Story

Presenters:

Tony Dungy Former NFL Head Coach, Contributor at All Pro Dad

Mark Merrill J.D., President, Family First, Inc.

Touchdown for fatherhood! This session features a compelling interview by Mark Merrill with father and former NFL head coach Tony Dungy about how commitment to fathers is key to keeping us all moving forward. Dungy will share from his experience as a family man, coach, and fatherhood advocate to remind us why fathers matter, how we can personally play a role in the fatherhood movement, and what a “W” for fatherhood looks like.

10:00 AM **BREAK**

10:15 AM **MIX AND MEET**
Creative Sparks

Creative Sparks sessions are high-energy activities designed to ignite ideas and actionable change around fatherhood. The first of these dynamic sessions, Mix and Meet, is focused on sparking connections that will allow us to gain momentum in advancing fatherhood services. Make valuable connections with the other change makers in the room through quick, facilitated interactions about our work with fathers and motivations for joining in this event.



10:45 AM

KINDLE THE FLAME OF FATHER INVOLVEMENT

Community Matchbook

Fathers are vital to child and family well-being. Father involvement is linked to better academic, behavioral, and health outcomes for kids. These positive impacts hold true across various types of father figures, including biological fathers, stepfathers, adoptive fathers, or other men who play a parenting role in children's lives. In this Community Matchbook session, we'll kindle fresh thought about what healthy father involvement looks like—and how our community can best support it.

11:30 AM

LUNCH

12:30 PM

SUCCESS STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Campfire Story

Presenters:

Kimberly Dent MPPA, Executive Director, Ohio Fatherhood Commission

James Murray MPA, Acting Director, Office of Regional Operations,
Administration for Children and Families

Cheri Tillis MS, Executive Vice President, Fathers and Families Support Center

We've seen the power of responsible fatherhood to positively transform families and communities. But how do we work together to ensure effective services to fathers across a range of service providers? This session provides tangible tips from leaders at the federal, state, and local levels who have built strong systems to uplift fathers and families. These leaders will share highs and lows from their combined decades in the fatherhood field as well as stories of the impact of their work in their respective communities.

1:30 PM

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS



1:45 PM **AVALANCHE + 15% SOLUTIONS**
Creative Sparks

We've talked about fire; now it's time to watch for an avalanche! This activity will tap the imagination and know-how of our entire group to snowball ideas and create momentum around creative fatherhood approaches. We've paired Avalanche with a 15% Solutions group activity, which is designed to transform some of our large, complex Avalanche ideas into more concrete and manageable actions. After all, complex, systemic change can be daunting, but we can all take actions today to increase our community's support for fathers and families.

2:15 PM

BREAK

2:30 PM **COMMUNITY FATHERS, COMMUNITY LIVES**
Community Matchbook

Fathers play a crucial role in family and community well-being. During this interactive session, we'll hear about the evolving perceptions of fathers in American society over the decades. As we reflect on our personal perspectives about fatherhood, we'll discuss how fathers are—or sometimes are not—currently supported in their mission. Then we'll identify opportunities, gaps in services, and ways we can collectively advance the well-being of fathers and families in our community.

3:15 PM **FORGE AHEAD AND SUCCEED**
Campfire Story

Presenters:

Cynthia Osborne Ph.D., Director, Child and Family Research Partnership, University of Texas at Austin

Armon Perry Ph.D., Professor and Director of the Bachelor's Degree of Social Work Program, University of Louisville

Learn how to turn small actions into big change in this insightful conversation between two widely respected fatherhood field leaders. In this Campfire Story, Osborne and Perry will share how far the field has come, inspire future leaders, and underscore the value of grassroots action. Their practical, applied wisdom will motivate and empower action on behalf of fathers, families, and children.

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4:15 PM	CLOSING REMARKS: KEEPING THE FIRE GOING
4:30 PM	ADJOURN