



Date: 8/14/17

To: Monica Mahoney

From: Columbus Urban League

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Subject: Moms2B Pilot Year Two Progress Report

On June 25, 2015, the Columbus Urban League (CUL) partnered with the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood (OCF) and Moms2B to provide on-site services to fathers and expected fathers at four (4) Moms2B sites. While the mothers received programming from Moms2B staff, CUL staff provided programming to expected fathers. The services provided by the CUL's Responsible Fatherhood Program, Father 2 Father included Responsible Fatherhood programming and mentoring services for the fathers of infants through the infant's first birthday. CUL worked with Alumni Dads to recruit and support expected fathers, implement programming, increase participants understanding of child engagement and parenting skills to ultimately reduce infant mortality.

Impact of the Partnership During Year One

Through the first year of this partnership, the Responsible Fatherhood program served one hundred and five (105) fathers while maintaining an average of fifty-five (55) fathers, who were actively engaged during the entire first year. Through this partnership, we increased the presence of fathers attending the Moms2B program and father involvement during sessions at each of the four (4) Moms2b sites. Prior to this partnership, fathers expressed feeling secluded from conversations regarding pre-and post-parenting planning. More importantly, fathers felt that they did not receive the proper education related to birthing a healthy baby despite the fact that research proves that fathers play an essential role in the successful birth of a healthy baby. It has also been proven that the child has a higher rate of reaching one year of life when fathers are involved during pregnancy.

During the first year of the pilot, countless families were impacted by the programming offered to fathers at Moms2B sites. Through the Responsible Fatherhood program fathers were given the privilege and honor of spending holidays with their children for the first time after several years of failed co-parenting negotiations skills with their parenting partner. Fathers also reported a stronger desire and willingness to participate in programming offered by a community agency. Mothers attending Moms2B reported a new opinion on the role that fathers play in their child's life and more importantly the family. The constant presence of CUL staff and mentors at Moms2B weekly increased the confidence that some mothers had in Responsible Fatherhood.



Through this partnership mothers that were not actively involved with the father of their child(ren) expressed their comfortability approaching CUL staff requesting assistance in contacting the father of their child(ren) in attempt to get him involved with programming offered at Moms2B sites.

The first year of programming came to an end on June 30th 2017. The fatherhood program that was once just an idea sparked by The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center (Moms2B), the Columbus Urban League, and the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood had successfully completed its first year of programming having received an overwhelming response from the community and its partners. Data collection, program marketing, the distribution of mentor stipends and incentives for dads attending Moms2B sites were issues that were identified and worked out during the first year and we were headed in direction to overachieve the expected outcome of the partnership.

Impact of the Partnership During Year Two

On July 1, 2016, the Columbus Urban League began the second-year of the pilot. The Responsible Fatherhood served seventy-seven (77) new fathers. This brought the total number served over the course of the two-year pilot to nearly 200 fathers. During the second year, we successfully documented twenty-eight (28) healthy birth outcomes.

During the second-year, our goals were:

1. Maximize programming offered at Moms2B sites.

Our goal was to provide dads with additional support outside of weekly groups such as workforce development, financial literacy, and assistance with goal setting. We were successful at creating a referral system that allowed us to refer dads to the Columbus Urban workforce development department for workforce training and employment opportunities. Additionally, financial literacy and goal setting were incorporated into the curriculum offered to dads.

2. Certify all mentors to facilitate the Nurturing Fathers Curriculum.

On December 16, 2016 mentors successfully completed the Nurturing Father Curriculum training and became certified to facilitate groups. After receiving certification, mentors began facilitating groups once a month. Certifying the mentors has added value to groups by allowing a one-to-one mentoring component for dads in attendance.

3. Data Collection/Tool.

During the first year, we experienced several challenges with identifying a data collection tool that would properly capture the successes of the programming and the areas that dads require additional support. CUL and OCF staff worked together to create a more effective tool to capture real time data. This tool was rolled out at the beginning of year two and to date we have successfully captured



seventy-six (76) pre-survey responses and twenty-eight (28) post-survey responses.

From the data captured in the survey, it has been concluded that after attending fatherhood programming offered at Moms2B site

1. 100% of dads displayed a higher confidence in their knowledge of how to care for a healthy baby.
2. Over 90% of dads are now currently practicing or plan to practice the ABC's of Safe Sleep by enforcing that their baby sleeps in a crib, without pillows, and on their back.
3. 10% of dads obtained knowledge on how to establish paternity

Upon analyzing the data captured from pre-and post-surveys it was discovered that there were several questions that presented limited to no variation in participant responses from the pre-survey to post-survey. It is my conclusion that this is due to how many of the questions were phrased on the post survey. In the future, it is my suggestion that the post assessment be reshaped to reflect questions that gauge how much progress each participant has made since attending our program. This will assist us with gaining further understanding of the participants increased knowledge of how to become responsible fathers to their child(ren) and give insight to their overall growth and progress in implementing practices taught throughout the program.

For example, instead of asking "Have you ever abused your partner sexually?" the question should be rephrased to ask "Since beginning the program, have you abused your partner sexually?" or "Since beginning the program, how many times have you sexually abused your partner" – providing answers such as none, 1-5 times, 6-10 times, etc. Omitting the term "ever" will allow participants to answer the question honestly, while still accurately representing a change in patterned behaviors that may have presented themselves prior to the dads participating in the program.

Additionally, with the post-survey response rate being so low, many of the participant's feedback is not represented in the data. It is difficult to make valid conclusions based on the successes of the program without the majority of the participant's responses taken into consideration.

4. Develop additional incentive program.

As an additional sign of support and commitment to removing barriers of responsible fatherhood, CUL wanted to provide dads with a tangible take-away from programming. CUL and Moms2B collaborated to provide every actively participating dad with a baby carrier to celebrate their baby's healthy birth outcome. The baby carriers provided to dads included additional items of support such as diapers and baby wipes.



Conclusion

The Responsible Fatherhood Pilot was extremely successful in multiple areas related to family stabilization and reducing infant mortality in Franklin County. Our cutting edge and unique approach to these issues were well received in our community by both participants and community partners. The Responsible Fatherhood Pilot offered an out-of-the-box approach to reducing infant mortality by offering 1. Programming to expected father, young fathers, and first time fathers. 2. Educational sessions to mothers regarding the role and responsibilities of fathers and the significance of involving fathers in the family.

Numerous studies have shown that when fathers are present in their families, the impact can be significant in terms of early development, academic achievement, and the overall well-being of the child. The Responsible Fatherhood pilot offered programming that provided education and support to fathers that increased the number of father's present in their child's life throughout Franklin County.

The Responsible Fatherhood program provided paternal involvement to mothers before their child was born. Data suggests that paternal involvement prior to birth increases the early development, academic achievement, and the overall well-being of the child. The Responsible Fatherhood pilot program was successful in increasing paternal involvement of fathers at all sites.