



Fatherhood
Research
& Practice
Network

Architects of
Father Policies
and Programs
Discuss How it is
Done

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Rachel Wildfeuer, Ph.D.

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Fatherhood Research & Practice Network (FRPN)

- Founded and funded 2013-2019 by OPRE
- Currently directed and funded by CPR
- Goals: promoting rigorous evaluation, disseminating information, improving policy for father engagement
- Funded 20 evaluations of fatherhood programs (\$1 million)
- Funded pilot projects on father engagement in 11 states
- Conducted 25 webinars for audiences of 100-300
- Created and maintain comprehensive website (www.frpn.org)
- Published 15 articles and a book: *New Research on Parenting Programs for Low-Income Fathers* (Routledge Press, 2021)
- Researched and wrote: *Policies and Programs Affecting Fathers: A State-by-State Report*

Policies and Programs Affecting Fathers: A State-by-State Report

- Policies and programs that support the engagement of fathers, especially low-income and nonresident fathers, with their children in the 50 states and the District of Columbia
- Ten areas of public life:
 - Child support
 - Child welfare
 - Criminal justice
 - Early childhood
 - Education
 - Employment
 - Family law
 - Food and housing
 - Health and mental health
 - Responsible fatherhood
- Objectives:
 - Establish a baseline
 - Highlight barriers
 - Provide a “roadmap”
 - Stimulate better measurement
 - Inspire research
 - Identify supportive state policies

Panelists

- Larry Desbien
 - Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Child Support Services, Director
- Kimberly Dent
 - Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio Commission on Fatherhood, Executive Director
- Patricia Littlejohn
 - South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families, Former President
- Brooke Vice
 - Oregon Department of Corrections, Community Corrections Administrator

Questions for Panelists

- Briefly describe your policy/program, including:
 - Who and/or what made it happen?
 - What were helpful factors and/or strategies?
 - What were the biggest challenges?
 - What is a key lesson learned from the process?

Passing Through Child Support to Families Receiving TANF Colorado's Experience

Larry Desbien, Director of the
Child Support Services Division

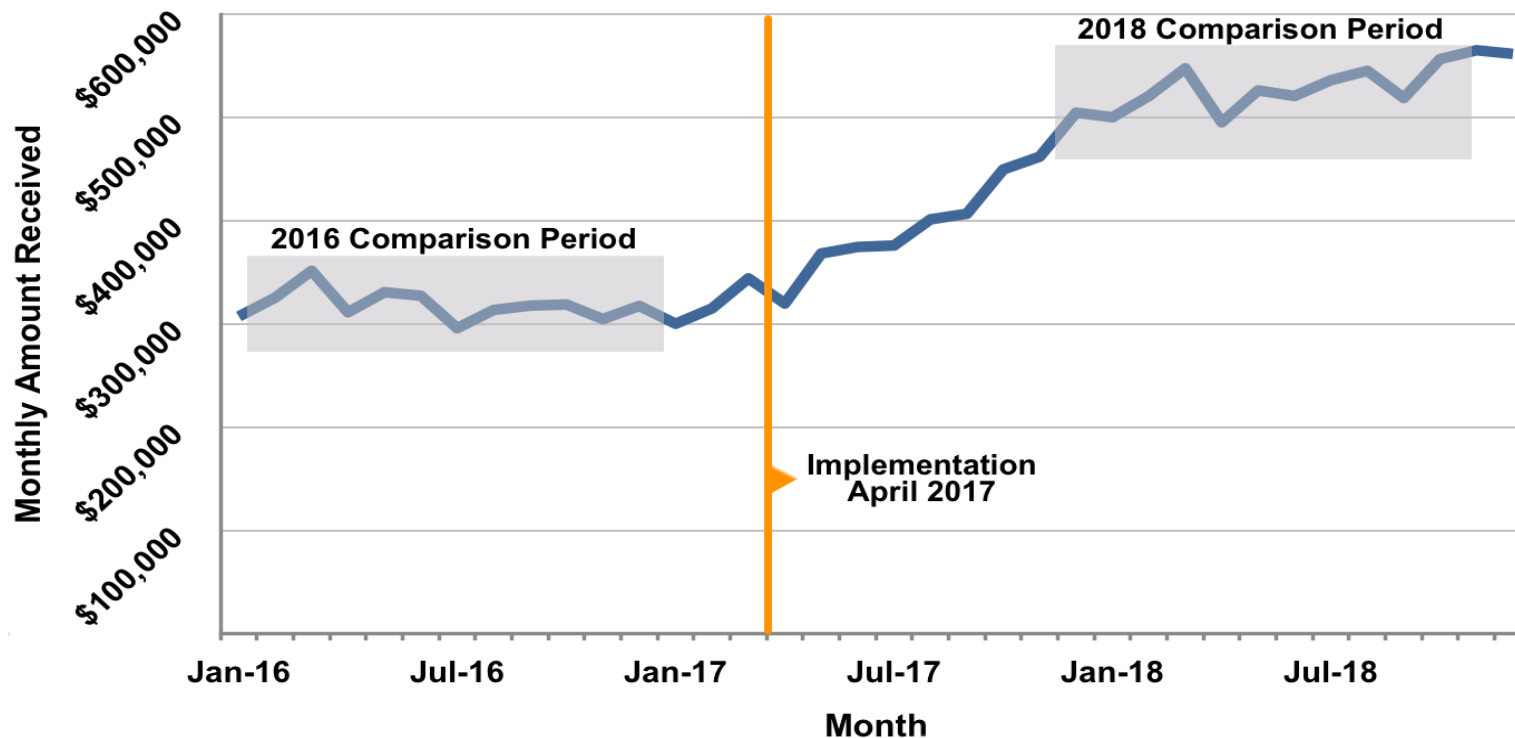
Larry.desbien@state.co.us



COLORADO
Department of Human Services

- In April 2017 Colorado became the first state to pass through the full amount of monthly child support paid to families receiving TANF (Senate Bill 15-12 passed by the Colorado General Assembly)
- Key facilitators of Success
- Challenges and Barriers
- Lessons Learned

Total Current Support Received for Families receiving TANF



Every month families receive an average of \$215 in child support.

Why the Increase?

Panelist Presentation

- Kimberly Dent
 - Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio Commission on Fatherhood, Executive Director
 - kimberly.dent@jfs.ohio.gov
 - Using TANF funding for father engagement at the state and local level

A photograph of a man with short dark hair, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt, holding a baby. The baby is wearing a blue and white striped shirt. The man is looking down at the baby with a gentle expression. The background is softly blurred, showing what appears to be an indoor setting with light-colored walls and a window.

Ohio Commission on Fatherhood – \$11 Million Biennial Budget

Funds Primarily Under TANF Purposes 3 and 4

3 – Prevent and Reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies:

***No Kidding Ohio (NKO) Pilot Project – Pregnancy Prevention (2 counties)**

***Dads2B Pilot Project – Early Intervention (expectant and new fathers) Purposes 3 and 4**

4 – Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families

SEE (Serving, Educating, and Empowering) Fathers Grant Program

Various Other Pilot Projects:

***EPIC (Engaging Practices to Inspire Change) – Fatherhood Practitioner inside of Children Services Agency**

***Fathers at the Education Table – kiddos on IEPs (Individualized Education Plans) and 504 Plans**

***Families Read – fathers and their elementary/middle school students bonding through reading**

***CLEAN – Character and confidence building curriculum for justice-involved fathers (entrepreneurship, financial and business education, credit repair, etc.)**

***Community Legal Aid Services – Parenthood Project promotes equal opportunities for non-custodial parents to develop, maintain, and nurture relationships with their children**

A man and a woman are smiling and talking to each other. The man is wearing glasses and a brown sweater, and the woman is wearing a green sweater. The man is holding a child in his arms. The background is a bright, indoor setting with a window.

Ohio Commission on Fatherhood – \$11 Million Biennial Budget

- **Local County Ohio County Fatherhood Mobilization Initiative:**

At least five of the following seven entities:

1. County Commissioner or State Representative or designee
2. Juvenile or Domestic Relations Judge or designee
3. Director of Child Support or designee
4. Director of Child Welfare or designee
5. Leader of a local faith-based entity or business
6. Community father
7. Corrections representative from jail or community corrections located in the county

Deliverables:

- County Assessment
- Community Conversation
- Action Plan

\$10,000 Seed Funding to mobilize Fatherhood in the respective county

Panelist Presentation

- Patricia Littlejohn
 - South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families, Former President
 - 1985littlejohn@gmail.com
 - Jobs not Jail Program in South Carolina



OREGON'S FAMILY SENTENCING ALTERNATIVE PILOT PROGRAM (FSAPP)

MAY 16, 2023

BROOKE VICE, MSW, (SHE/HER)

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR, OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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OREGON'S FAMILY SENTENCING ALTERNATIVE PILOT PROGRAM (FSAPP)

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OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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- ❖ FSAPP beginnings
- ❖ Program challenges
- ❖ Successes & strategies
- ❖ Lessons learned



 Oregon Department of Human Services
CHILD WELFARE



Audience Q&A

- Questions?



Resources

- Pearson, J., & Wildfeuer, R. (2022). *Policies and programs affecting fathers: A state-by-state report*. Center for Policy Research and Fatherhood Research & Practice Network.
<https://www.frpn.org/asset/policies-and-programs-affecting-fathers-state-state-report-combined-pdf>.
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