

Promoting Racially and Ethnically Minoritized Father Involvement in the Child Welfare System

Stephanie Miodus, M.A., M.Ed., Audris Jimenez, M.A.,
& Tiffany Rodriguez, B.S.

This training seminar will address barriers to, benefits of, and resources to support father involvement in the child welfare system, particularly for fathers from racially and ethnically minoritized backgrounds.

Abstract

Children in the child welfare system benefit from father involvement with a lower risk of psychosocial problems and less time spent in foster care (Coakley, 2013). However, even with the substantial benefits for children with increased father involvement, fathers are not fully engaged in the child welfare system. Specifically, case workers are less likely to contact fathers for case planning than mothers (Malm, 2006) and fathers report lower levels of satisfaction with the system (Huebner et al., 2008), citing experiencing exclusion from engagement with their children due to biased policies and practices (Coakley, 2013). These biases may be further pronounced for racially and ethnically minoritized fathers who experience other systemic barriers (e.g., mass incarceration) and biases (Miller et al., 2013). Thus, this training seminar seeks to address the need for inclusion of fathers by highlighting research on the benefits of and barriers to racially and ethnically minoritized father involvement in the child welfare system. The seminar will also explore resources, strategies, policies, and structural changes that can support greater engagement of fathers in the child welfare system. Participants will leave prepared to take the skills and resources they acquire to put them into practice through advocacy, practice, or research.

Learning Objectives:

- 1. Explain the benefits of and barriers to father involvement in the child welfare system and the impact on children and families.*
- 2. Identify community and agency resources and strategies that address barriers to racially and ethnically minoritized father involvement in the child welfare system.*
- 3. Generate ideas and future policy and practice avenues to support racially and ethnically minoritized father engagement in the child welfare system.*

Learn more and explore resources/further reading here:

<https://fatherchildwelfare.stephaniemiodus.com/home>

