



6th Annual Dads Matter Too! Virtual Fatherhood Conference
"Reshaping Fatherhood: Striving for Equality and Equity When Engaging Fathers of Color"
September 16, 2020

HARTFORD: A two-day virtual conference is taking place focusing on the roles and contributions of fathers - especially fathers of color.

Department of Children and Families Commissioner Vanessa Dorantes stated, "It is clear that children substantially benefit emotionally, socially, psychologically and educationally when they establish a relationship, throughout their lives, with an actively engaged father."



In the past, public dialogue has centered on fatherhood in the African American/Latino communities with much of the discussion emphasizing the impacts of father absence. This has projected an overwhelmingly negative image and often does not discuss the positive impacts they play on the lives of their children.

"The role of a father within the life of their child is unique. This conference is another opportunity for each of us to look hard at our expectations and beliefs about fathers and their impact on children." Dorantes added.

Keynote speeches are being provided by Dr. Reginald J. Eadie, President and CEO of Trinity Healthcare of New England, and Dr. Wizdom Powell, Director of the Health Disparities Institute and Associate Professor of Psychiatry at UConn Health.

Dorantes further stated, "I am proud of Connecticut's work with fathers, which should not be viewed as an initiative. Embedded in our values is the fundamental belief that fathers should be empowered with the same efforts as we engage with maternal family members. These efforts are the greatest resources to support children living safely with their families. This conference will call out barriers to fully embracing father-focused interventions. The program also highlights the supports and values necessary for children to thrive."

The full conference brochure is below.

[The 6th Annual Dads Matter Too! Virtual Fatherhood Conference Brochure](#)

Dates: September 17, 2020 9:00-1:00pm (4 Hours)
September 18, 2020 12:00-4:00pm (4 Hours)
Location: Virtual Platform provided by the Hispanic Coalition: ZOOM
Registration: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0vfuCspzoiE9UIyCfY0fpssujY2Zfi--Sk>

This event is being hosted by the CT DCF Fatherhood Engagement Leadership Team in collaboration with: My People Clinical Services LLC, Central Connecticut State University HEALTHYfellows / Man Enough Support Initiative and The Connecticut Fatherhood Initiative.