

17th Annual New England Fathering Conference

***Journey to
Excellence:***

***Strengthening
a Father's
Legacy***



**Wednesday – Friday
March 16, 17 & 18, 2016
Mystic Marriott Hotel & Spa
Groton, Connecticut**

Welcome!

Welcome to the seventeenth annual New England Fathering Conference, ***Journey To Excellence: Strengthening a Father's Legacy***. We are proud to once again invite dads, family service providers, social workers, health professionals, educators, program directors, state and federal representatives, and father advocates to participate in two and a half days of learning and sharing. The title of this year's conference reflects our understanding that every father leaves an indelible mark on his child's life. Involved fathers positively affect their significant others, spouses, co-parents, and family members as much as they do their children. The best formula for raising healthy, happy children is men and women working together to meet their needs. As in the past, the conference features a talented, diverse array of speakers and presenters who will inspire and challenge us.

We encourage you to share this brochure with colleagues and friends. We look forward to seeing you in March!

SPECIAL CONFERENCE FEATURES

Keynote Speakers

Wednesday, March 16, 2016

Josh Levs

Josh Levs is an investigative journalist, expert on issues facing modern families and author of the new book *All In: How Our Work-First Culture Fails Dads, Families, Businesses--And How We Can Fix It Together*. After 20 years of reporting for NPR and CNN, Levs -- a father of three -- focuses his book on dispelling myths about today's dads and moms, and explaining the necessity of new policies such as paid family leave. *All In* shows that men and women gain from these changes. Levs follows the money, detailing how and why the best family-friendly programs benefit businesses and the economy. Levs tells his own story of taking on a policy at Time Warner that prevented him from being able to care for his newborn, preemie daughter and sick wife. As a result of his legal action and the publicity surrounding them, the company revolutionized its policy, making it much better for dads and moms. The change made the company better and stronger.

Levs has received many of the highest honors in journalism, including six Peabody Awards and two Edward R. Murrow Awards. A scholarship was awarded in his name at his alma mater, Yale University, and he was named a Journalist of the Year by the Atlanta Press Club. Levs lives in Atlanta with his wife and children.



Keynote Speakers

Thursday, March 17, 2016

Jeanine Fitzgerald

Jeanine draws on more than 35 years of professional experience to empower teachers and parents to achieve more with children “at risk.” With experience as a certified teacher, mental health professional and mother of three grown children, she understands the promise of every child, as well as the diversity of their needs. As a certified Human Behavior Consultant and Specialist, and Owner of The Fitzgerald Institute of Lifelong Learning, Jeanine specializes in research-based strategies in relationship-building, preventing the factors that compromise the fulfillment of a child’s maximum potential and implementing positive interventions in “real life” settings. Jeanine has worked with thousands of children, professionals and parents across the country. She is recognized on the federal level as an approved trainer in the fields of education, disabilities and mental health.

Jeanine is author of *The Dance of Interaction* and a national training program entitled *Education with Insight*. She is currently putting the finishing touches on her second and third books, *Educating the Heart* and *Through the Eyes of A Child*.



Friday, March 18, 2016

Joseph D. Feaster, Jr.

Joseph Feaster, Jr., an attorney for nearly 40 years and a community leader, has always been engaged in public and community service. He is a graduate of Northeastern University and Northeastern School of Law. Feaster’s advocacy for those afflicted with mental illness began over 10 years ago when he participated in a Congressional Black Caucus panel on the subject, but intensified with the passing of his son Joseph III in August 2010. Educating and advocating on the subject became his “ministry”. He helped plan two community conferences on mental health, and in 2012 funded a health and nutrition initiative. He is an active participant with National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and the Feaster Family team raised more than \$13,000 for the 2015 NAMI Walk. He was the recipient of NAMI’s 2015 Volunteer of the Year Award. Feaster is a board member with the MA Association For Mental Health, Inc., and the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts. He previously served as President of the Boston Branch NAACP, has chaired numerous boards, and served as Speaker of the House of the National Association of Community Health Centers. Feaster has been married for over 25 years, and enjoys time with his daughter and grandson. Feaster says, “We must confront the stigma of mental illness head on. We must educate, advocate, and agitate. This is my ministry...this is my mission.”



SPECIAL CONFERENCE FEATURES

Dads' Stories

Each day dads from New England will talk about the legacy they hope to leave for their children...a wonderful opportunity to hear directly from dads!

Raffle Prizes

Throughout the two and a half days, cool stuff will be raffled off – will you have the winning ticket?!

After-Party!

We are pleased to offer the opportunity for conference attendees to continue networking in a comfortable and fun atmosphere. **DJ Ricky Roberts** will entertain with his diverse collection of music, while you enjoy dancing (or watching others dance!) and get the chance to connect with others from across New England.

Resources

Bank Square Books, a locally owned and operated independent bookstore in the heart of downtown Mystic, will have a varied collection of books & resources available for purchase. Further, various agencies will offer free information and materials about their programs and services in the **NEFC Resource Hall**.

State Roundtables

During the afternoon of Day One, representatives from the various systems that interact with dads and their families will provide state-specific information about topics such as child support, custody and child welfare. Come learn about the relevant laws, policies and procedures for your state.

Hotel Room Reservations

The Conference will take place at the **Mystic Marriott Hotel & Spa**, conveniently located at 625 North Road (Route 117), Groton, Connecticut. **A block of rooms has been reserved for March 15 - 18 under the name "New England Fathering Conference."**

Please contact the Mystic Marriott directly at **1-860-446-2600** for reservations or use the link provided on the NEFC website. **Be sure to mention that you would like a room under the "New England Fathering Conference" block.**

Group rates are \$99.00/night + 15% hotel tax for a single or double. **The deadline for reservations at the conference rate is February 22, 2016.**

To book online, click on the Marriott logo on the NEFC website at www.nefatheringconference.org



SPECIAL CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Fatherhood
Research
& Practice
Network

Program Evaluation 101: Designing, Implementing and Sustaining Your Work

Tuesday, March 15, 2016
12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Mystic Marriott Hotel and Spa
Groton, Connecticut



The Fatherhood Research & Practice Network is partnering with the New England Fathering Conference this year! A **Special Certificate Program** is being offered **the day before the Conference**, where attendees can **earn a Certificate in Evaluation Practice from Temple University**.

Designed for practitioners, program managers and researchers, this workshop will help you strengthen your fatherhood program and boost its potential for future funding. **Licensed social workers will also receive 5 social work Continuing Education Units (CEU)**. Breakout sessions include:

- **Establishing partnerships with programs and researchers**
- **Recruitment and retention for effective fatherhood evaluation**
- **Selecting outcome measures**
- **Proposals and logic models**
- **Types of evaluations: What is your program ready for?**
- **Data: Collecting, managing and presenting results**

Program Evaluation 101 is sponsored by the Fatherhood Research & Practice Network (FRPN). The FRPN is a five-year, federally funded project working to expand the number of researchers and fatherhood practitioners collaborating to evaluate fatherhood programs and communicate new evaluation findings that lead to more effective fatherhood research and practice. There is a \$25 fee for this 6-hour workshop, which includes lunch and a snack.

Visit www.nefatheringconference.org to register for the New England Fathering Conference and add Program Evaluation 101 to your schedule.

Questions?

Contact Rebecca Kaufman, MSW, FRPN senior research coordinator, at rebecca.kaufman@temple.edu for more information on this workshop.

Conference Registration

PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.NEFATHERINGCONFERENCE.ORG

**ALL ATTENDEES MUST REGISTER ONLINE.
WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT MAIL-IN OR FAXED REGISTRATION FORMS.**

Payment Options:

Once you have registered online you will have the option to pay by credit card or to print your registration receipt and mail-in with your check (If you require a W-9, please enclose it with your registration).

- **Registration fee is \$200. THIS FEE IS NON-REFUNDABLE.**
- **Dads who are participants in a Fatherhood Program only pay a \$25 fee toward the cost of meals. NOTE: PAYMENTS NEED TO COME FROM THE SPONSORING AGENCY**
- An agency may write one check for all registered staff (including payment for CECs if applicable) and/or program dads, but you must submit a registration for each attendee when you are online at: www.nefatheringconference.org
- Licensed social workers: an Application for Continuing Education Credits has been submitted to NASW, please include a \$25 fee with your registration if you are requesting CECs

Deadline for Registration is February 19, 2016.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Please note individual needs (accessibility requirements, etc.) when you register. **If you require an interpreter for the hearing impaired, please send email to anthony.judkins@ct.gov by Friday, January 28, 2016.**

If paying by check:

**Check must be payable to:
NEW ENGLAND FATHERING CONFERENCE
Please note on check: NEFC: 845-01-99**

After registering online, please print and mail copy of completed registration form and payment to:

New England Fathering Conference
c/o Rhonda Evans
CAFCA, Inc.
144 Clinton Street
New Britain, CT 06053-3512

Questions?

Call Rhonda Evans at (860) 832-9438 ext. 2203 or Tony Judkins at (860) 424-5696

Conference Schedule

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

5:00 – 7:00pm Early Registration

Wednesday, March 16, 2016

| | |
|---------|--|
| 7:30am | Registration/Breakfast |
| 8:15am | Welcome/Acknowledgements |
| 8:45am | Dads' Stories |
| 9:15am | Keynote Speaker: Josh Levs |
| 10:15am | Questions/Discussion |
| 10:30am | Find Your Workshop! |
| 10:45am | Workshops Session A |
| 12:45pm | Lunch |
| 1:45pm | Dads' Stories |
| 2:15pm | Find Your State Roundtable! |
| 2:30pm | State Roundtables: A Focus on Systems |
| 4:30pm | Day One Ends and State Networking Time Begins! |

From 4:30-5:30pm, feel free to stay in the meeting rooms and continue to network with your state partners

8:30pm ***After-Party! Come enjoy the beats of DJ Ricky Roberts***

Thursday, March 17, 2016

| | |
|---------|--|
| 7:30am | Registration/Breakfast |
| 8:15am | Welcome/Acknowledgements |
| 8:45am | Dads' Stories |
| 9:15am | Keynote Speaker: Jeanine Fitzgerald |
| 10:15am | Questions/Discussion |
| 10:30am | Find Your Workshop! |
| 10:45am | Workshops Session B |
| 12:45pm | Lunch |
| 1:45pm | Dads' Stories |
| 2:15pm | Find Your Workshop! |
| 2:30pm | Workshops Session C |
| 4:30pm | Day Two Ends |

Friday, March 18, 2016

| | |
|---------|--|
| 7:30am | Registration/Breakfast |
| 8:00am | Welcome/Acknowledgements |
| 8:15am | Keynote Speaker: Joseph Feaster |
| 9:00am | Question |
| 9:15am | Find Your Workshop! |
| 9:30am | Workshops Session D |
| 11:30am | Conference Ends |

Workshops

We keep workshop sessions open to all, but we do ask workshop presenters to tell us who their target audience is in case people are having a hard time choosing and want to attend a session that is focused on their work or parental role or both! The presenters choose from the following: providers, program managers, or dads/family men – and they can choose as many as they want! As you read over the workshops, you will see the target audience is noted under each workshop as "Who should attend"...if presenters choose more than one option the audience is listed as "ALL".

Workshops: Session A

Wednesday, March 16, 2016 10:45am – 12:45pm

How to Increase Work-Life Balance While Lifting Your Business's Bottom Line

Presenter: Josh Levs

Who should attend: ALL

Dads build better lives and businesses through work-life balance. This is proven across numerous industries. Josh Levs will take you through the step-by-step process of determining what can work for you -- and making it happen.

Co-parenting Relationships: What We Now Know

Presenter: Rebecca Kaufman

Who should attend: Providers/Program Managers

Parenting together, also known as co-parenting, is a complex and important process which can influence child development. The workshop will discuss new co-parenting research findings and share tools that programs can use to evaluate coparenting relationships.

A Father's Business-Engaging Dads through Entrepreneurship

Presenters: Moureen Bish and Damien Robinson

Who should attend: Providers/Program Managers

Discover a program that uses entrepreneurialism as a key tool to engage fathers on the path to self-sufficiency. This model program is embedded in a community-based Family Center, to assist fathers with starting their own businesses.

The Assets of Superheroes

Presenter: Rayallen Bergman

Who should attend: ALL

Superheroes in our culture spark our wonder. We've identified 40 developmental assets that youth use to protect against risk taking behaviors. Superheroes represent each of these as the "Power 40". Let's learn how!

It's All About Crying

Presenters: Luz Rivera and Gina Beebe

Who should attend: Dads

Going back to basics, let's talk about crying! Did you know your baby would cry like this? This workshop will provide you with a new way of understanding babies' crying, sleeping, and soothing routines.

The Study and Practice of Nonviolence

Presenter: Jose Rodriguez

Who should attend: ALL

This session offers an interactive discussion of the principles of Dr. Martin Luther King's theory of nonviolence, and how providers can apply it to their work with fathers.

Comedy, Tragedy, Everyday Reality: Working with Fathers

Presenter: Andrew Hook

Who should attend: ALL

The benefits, successes and challenges of Fatherhood home visitation will be discussed through a slideshow, videos, and graphic organizers. Brainstorming and role-playing will be used to explore early childhood literacy as a way to bond with children.

The Art and Science of Being a Great Lover

Presenter: Doug Edwards

Who should attend: ALL

Love is the foundation for a beautiful family relationship. Introspection, vulnerability and courage are required to be a consistently great lover. Let's get it on and find out - "What's love got to do with it?"

Helping Dads Tell Their Story

Presenter: Brandin Turner

Who should attend: Dads

Participants will learn the potential of a narrative approach to fatherhood. The group will participate in mural painting activity. The activity will allow participants to paint their favorite activities to do with their children.



Workshops: Session B

Thursday, March 17, 2016 10:45am – 12:45pm

Different Children, Different Needs

Presenter: Jeanine Fitzgerald

Who should attend: ALL

Children are not things to be molded, but people to be unfolded. This session will reveal every child's essence and influences on behavior. Every child we relate to and interact with must be visible, valued and supported in their own way.

Building the Bridge Between Child Support and Fatherhood Programs

Presenters: Gerald Ford and Vernon Wallace

Who should attend: Providers/Program Managers

This workshop provides successful strategies on how nonprofits and child support enforcement agencies can effectively partner. The Center For Urban Families will share how it developed an arrearage reduction program and modified child support orders for fathers.

WATCH D.O.G.S. (Dads Of Great Students)

Presenters: Eric Snow and Keith Schumacher

Who should attend: ALL

WATCH D.O.G.S.® (*Dads Of Great Students*) is an innovative program focusing on education and safety in our children's schools by using the positive influence of fathers and father-figures. Women and Men should attend this workshop.

Corporal Punishment: Guiding Dads Effectively and Respectfully

Presenters: Shari Doherty and Aaron Ivchenko

Who should attend: ALL

Corporal punishment in the home may be a divisive issue between fatherhood program participants and the professionals working to enhance skillsets. This interactive workshop examines the research and brainstorms how to create impactful, positive dialogues.

What's Right With Him? How to Shift from Wrong to Strong

Presenter: Galit Sharma

Who should attend: Providers/Program Managers

This interactive workshop is designed to help providers develop strength based approach in their work with fathers. Identifying what's strong, rather than what's wrong, increases father engagement, leads to better outcomes for fathers and helps providers feel successful in their work.

Facilitating Epiphanies: Fathers' Groups as a Path to Personal Development

Presenter: Haji Shearer

Who should attend: ALL

Fathers' groups encourage men to bond over one of the most profound aspects of our lives. This workshop will upgrade your facilitation skills. From beginner to experienced, you are guaranteed an "Aha" moment.

A Program Partnership: Strategies for Engaging Formerly Incarcerated Fathers

Presenters: John Lomax and Justin Oles

Who should attend: Providers/Program Managers

Participants will learn about the ongoing collaboration between CT Department of Correction and Child Support Enforcement to serve reentering/transitioning fathers with their barriers. We will review data sharing, outreach, the reintegration center, training, policy development, and next-step initiatives.

Identifying and Working with Parents with Cognitive Limitations

Presenter: Christine Keys

Who should attend: Providers/Program Managers

In this session, participants will learn about issues facing parents with cognitive limitations, and strategies for working with parents, to maximize engagement and active participation and help them be more successful in their parenting role.

Advancing Father Engagement In Healthcare Settings

Presenters: Raymond Levy and John Badalament

Who should attend: ALL

This workshop shares the step-by-step approach to developing an innovative fatherhood program in an urban, community-based health center. Discussion topics include building the case for father-inclusion, creating curriculum & materials, and building relationships with staff.

Dad! Do you and Your Kids Have a Smart Mouth?

Presenters: Leigh-Lynn Vitukinas and Nettie Sarro

Who should attend: Dads

Dental disease (cavities or gum disease) is an infection that can spread throughout your body and can also spread to your child. Learn how to prevent disease and establish good oral health for the entire family.



Workshops: Session C

Thursday, March 17, 2016 2:30 – 4:30pm

When Engaging Dads – Get Creative!

Presenters: Cinque Hall and Anthony Coler

Who should attend: Providers/Program Managers

Every relationship develops in a unique way. Explore with a panel of experienced fathering home visitors their creative approaches to engaging dads as well as developing and maintaining mutually trusting relationships.

Detained Dads: Facilitating Groups in a Federal Facility in Baltimore

Presenters: Branden A. McLeod and Geoffrey L. Greif

Who should attend: ALL

This workshop provides experiences co-leading fathering groups at a detention center for the past four years with over 400 fathers. Participants will learn the themes, group methods, and share their experiences working with incarcerated fathers.

Coping with Job Related Stress: Healthy Means, Restorative Ends

Presenter: Michael Smith

Who should attend: Providers/Program Managers

This seminar style workshop will assist participants in identifying the impact of work-related stress in social services field, providing strategies for healthy coping mechanisms and enhanced well-being.

Savings Fitness

Presenters: Crystal Hirst and Karen Gagnon

Who should attend: Dads

Looking for simple ways to get on the road to financial security? Join our workshop to learn about ways to increase your financial fitness and save for retirement, including using employer-based retirement savings plans.

The Vagina Monologues (Yes, We Said Vagina!)

Presenters: Wendy Garf-Lipp and Bryan Besse

Who should attend: ALL

This session will create a deeper understanding of the issues surrounding violence against women through monologues and stories that capture a variety of emotions, working to create a true portrait of how it affects every one of us.

Doubling the Odds for Early Childhood Success: Engaging Dads

Presenter: Allan Shedlin

Who should attend: ALL

Defining DADvocacy and presenting original qualitative research on the importance of father engagement, workshop describes an interactive, unique program/methodology that has succeeded attracting fathers, grandfathers and father figures in early childhood settings in NM/DC/MD.

Education: Fathers Opening Doors of Opportunity for Their Family

Presenter: Kevin Cooperwood

Who should attend: ALL

This workshop will discuss the importance of fathers creating opportunities through education and passing on the educational legacy in their family. Participants will learn creative ways to discuss learning with the fathers they serve and how it can lead to a successful future.

Journey Toward Forgiveness: We May Never Forget But We Can Forgive

Presenter: Charles C. Daniels, Jr.

Who should attend: ALL

Participants will explore steps that aim to support them in forgiving their fathers, mothers or anyone that hurt them. Therapeutic techniques will be discussed to help participant's understand of what it means to forgive.

Planning for Success: A Practical Approach to Fatherhood Programs

Presenters: Richard Claytor and John O'Neil

Who should attend: Providers/Program Managers

This workshop presents an overview of the issues that fathers face and will demonstrate how to develop services and programs for fathers that will better position them to emotionally and financially provide for their children.

Preparing Teen Fathers for the Present and the Future

Presenter: Saleh Hanaif

Who should attend: Providers/Program Managers

This workshop is ideal for caseworkers, supervisors and community providers to help them understand the impact of working with teen fathers and preparing them for what to expect when working with young fathers.



Workshops: Session D

Friday, March 18, 2016 9:30 – 11:30am

Mental Illness and Suicide...Is Anybody Listening? How a Family Copes

Presenter: Joseph Feaster

Who should attend: ALL

In this workshop, the presenter will share his personal story of having a child suffering from mental illness who committed suicide, and how he has made this experience his ministry.

It's Your Mindset That Sets Your Spirit Free

Presenters: Michelle Koehler and David Dudley

Who should attend: ALL

Come learn about how a mindset, a deeply ingrained set of beliefs and assumptions, influences our decisions and behavior and ultimately, the outcome of our lives.

Help Me Grow: Connecting Parents and Providers

Presenters: Kareena DuPlessis and Catherine Lenihan

Who should attend: ALL

Learn how CT's Help Me Grow Program through Child Development Infoline provides families and community providers with resources and support focusing on development, and how you can set up a similar model in your state.

The Role of Men in Men's Violence Against Women

Presenters: Ben Ellcome and Lee Clasper-Torch

Who should attend: Dads

The Ten Men project and RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence is dedicated to the prevention of violence against Women by bringing well-meaning men into the work. This workshop is developed to bring new men in to the work, for the good of our daughters and sons.

Empowering Dads with Visual Life Mapping Tools

Presenter: Tonya Glantz

Who should attend: Providers/Program Managers

Visual life maps can be used to empower dads and educate providers about dads' potential. Participants will learn about eco-maps and fathered-to-fathering maps, reviewing examples of both and learning the process for using with dads.

Important Collaborations: Fatherhood, Batterer Intervention and Anger Management

Presenters: Richard Claytor and Craig Norberg-Bohm

Who should attend: Providers/Program Managers

What is Batterers' Intervention? How does Batterers' Intervention compare and collaborate with Fatherhood and Anger Management Programs for men? This workshop will help answer these questions and allow fatherhood group leaders to hone their skills for assessment and referral.

Child Support Court: Strategies to Help Dads Meet Their Goals

Presenters: Juan Giron-Sanchez and Samantha Baronavski

Who should attend: ALL

In this interactive session, presenters will discuss the process of child support court, common barriers, and job readiness strategies to assist providers and dads in meeting their goals.

Fathers and Children: A Focus on Building Secure Attachments

Presenters: Tomas Colon and John O'Neill

Who should attend: ALL

Helping fathers understand the importance of secure attachment through introspection. Being a father is a commitment to be readily available to fulfill your child's needs through every stage in his/her development.

Women Working with Fathers: Does Gender Matter?

Presenters: Darlene Spencer and Karla Walker

Who should attend: Providers/Program Managers

Fathers and women who work with fathers are invited to this conversation: how gender bias and systemic inequity impacts the work of engaging fathers. Presenters will share best practices and candid experiences through this dialogue.

Keeping Children Safe: The Enough Abuse Campaign

Presenter: Beverly Costa-Ciavola

Who should attend: ALL

End the secrets, shame, hurt, confusion, and denial that for too long have allowed child sexual abuse to operate, and even thrive, in our homes/communities, by using the knowledge/skills learned in this workshop.



WORKSHOPS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE