



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Administration for Children & Families



Healthy Marriage Forum

January 29, 2004
Oakland, CA

Full Report

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This technical assistance report was prepared by AFYA, Inc. AFYA, Inc., is the contractor for the Welfare Peer Technical Assistance (TA) Network. The Welfare Peer TA Network is a Federal initiative that highlights the good work of other States, Tribes, and counties. This effort provides them with opportunities to learn from one another through peer-to-peer information sharing among States, Tribes, and communities.

Background

The Bay Area Social Services Consortium (BASSC) is an organization of 13 Bay area county social service agencies, 2 local foundations, and 5 Bay area social work programs. They work together to serve as a catalyst for new ideas that have legislative, administrative, public education, and training implications in the Bay area. The consortium also provides a forum for innovative regional programs related to research, training, and policy development.

As a collective group, BASSC requested technical assistance (TA) from the Welfare Peer TA Network. The request outlined BASSC's desire to explore innovative policies and best practices in promoting two-parent families. This area of interest was in response to the President's Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program goal "to encourage the formation and maintenance of healthy two-parent married families and responsible fatherhood." As a result, the Welfare Peer TA Network hosted a one-day workshop that highlighted best practices and model programs that encourage the development and sustaining of healthy marriages. This TA event was a collaborative effort between the TA requestors and Region IX Administration for Children and Families (ACF) office staff. Event speakers represented various sectors and groups, including the Federal government and national non-profit organizations. The following Bay counties were represented at the workshop:

- Alameda County;
- Contra Costa County;
- Monterey County;
- Napa County;
- San Francisco County;
- San Mateo County;
- Santa Clara County;
- Santa Cruz;
- Solano County;
- Sonoma County; and
- Stanislaus County.

Forum Presentations

Welcome and Acknowledgements

John Horejsi, TANF Program Specialist, Office of Family Assistance (OFA), HHS opened the meeting with welcome remarks to all of the meeting participants on behalf of Wade Horn, Assistance Secretary. Mr. Horejsi noted that the purpose of the Peer TA is to provide linkages, lessons learned, and best practice models to local and State TANF programs. He further stated that meeting reports, on-line newsletters, and other pertinent information could be retrieved on the Peer TA Web site. In support of the Web site as a valuable resource, Mr. Horejsi reported that this Web site receives more than 90,000 hits per month. In conclusion of his opening remarks, he also thanked Sharon Fujii, Regional Administrator, Region IX, Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Department of Health and Human Services for hosting the event.

Following, Sharon Fujii offered opening comments and provided a platform for participants to make introductions. Ms. Fujii acknowledged that the interest for this meeting had been generated by the BASSC. She also extended appreciation and recognition to Chandra Robinson, AFYA, for organizing the meeting. Ms. Fujii stated that her goal for the meeting was to identify ways to facilitate the Healthy Marriage Initiative and to share best practices among the participants.

Finally, Glen Brooks, BASSC Representative, offered words of welcome on behalf of Alameda County. He commented on the efforts associated with promoting healthy marriages over the last 10 years.

Importance of Marriage Strengthening Programs

Grant Collins, II, Chief Program Officer, OFA, HHS

Howard Hendrick, Oklahoma Cabinet Secretary, Oklahoma Department of Social Services

Moderator: Paul Purnell, Social Solutions, LLC

Grant Collins, Chief Program Officer, OFA, HHS, provided participants with a TANF overview. TANF provides cash assistance, work, and general family strengthening tools to families in need. Through this vehicle, State block grants are also provided in specific support to the family structure. TANF specifically was created to assist needy families while reducing dependency and preventing out of wedlock births. Woven into this effort are methods to encourage the formation

of two-parent families. There is currently, a 5-year reauthorization pending; which if approved, would afford the target population more resources to move toward independence and stability. Regarding the issue of reauthorization, it was noted that several accomplishments have been realized. Thus far, maximized work activities have been created, program performance has been improved, Federal State partnerships have been strengthened, child well-being has been promoted, and abstinence has been encouraged. Through several efforts, program facilitation has also been strengthened; it was highlighted that The President's plan to strengthen welfare reform has also made marked developments.

During Mr. Collins presentation, the question arose regarding the need to promote child well-being. It was noted that when children are in stable, healthy environments, they are more inclined to have a positive future and become an asset to society. Specifically, statistics reveal that children of divorce are less likely to graduate from high school. Additional findings highlighted the fact that 74% of the \$199 billion spent on child welfare by the government was earmarked for single parent families.

The methods and need to promote child well-being and healthy marriages was shared as well. It was stated that \$300 million per year is dedicated for this effort. Mr. Collins also highlighted several State plans and defined "healthy Marriage" for participants. The question was highlighted, in the meeting, regarding the revenue stream from which these resources will come. It was reported that \$100 million will come from States; specifically, the first \$100 million will be generated from States initially and can be "in-kind" or from TANF block grants. It was noted that generating these resources involves a competitive process. Moreover, the government would match dollar-for-dollar. By way of clarification, it was noted that \$100 million would be used for demonstrations, research, and technical assistance. In turn, channeling these resources into specific areas will reduce illegitimate birth bonus.

Participants were reminded that several opportunities are available to promote the well-being of children. These activities include creative programs in local areas, public advertising campaigns, pre-marital/marriage education programs, enhanced/divorce reduction initiatives, and targeted mentoring programs. While these long-term programs were identified, several suggestions were lifted that were deemed short-term in nature. These efforts include: thinking creatively about target groups and intervention; considering both matching programs and community initiatives; organizing and selecting a lead agency (not necessarily TANF agencies); and creating methods to annually define progress. Lastly, participants were encouraged to adopt a "multi-year" framework when creating and developing plans. This mindset and method of planning will foster long-term sustainability in programs and projects.

Following these remarks, Secretary Howard Hendrick began his presentation. He informed participants that his primary professional focal point was young children. This expertise and knowledge was developed prior to the current marriage initiative formation and attention. According to Secretary Hendrick, Oklahoma was focused on child well-being prior to the President's Healthy Marriage Initiative. As a result, the State conducted its own longitudinal study to examine several early childhood interventions. These findings helped motivate OMI design and implementation.

He provided TA participants with the historical origin of the Oklahoma initiative. In Oklahoma, the median income was average. Accordingly, the poverty rate in Oklahoma was startlingly high. He made a direct correlation between this specific poverty rate and the decision to implement a State marriage initiative. Many in Oklahoma now view the OMI as a strategy to meet Federal TANF goals.

Secretary Hendrick highlighted several data during his remarks. He noted that the prevalence of divorce has climbed to unhealthy rates. He also noted that when children are born out of wedlock, there is a direct impact on the development of skills that foster healthy relationships. In turn, the bonds of marriage are systematically weakened and fragile family structures develop and are perpetuated. Another trend is the development of unmarried, cohabitating couples; statistics show that this formation has doubled in the last 10 years. While teen pregnancies have declined, out-of-wedlock births are still climbing at staggering rates.

It was noted that the development of healthy marriages would create a generally more stable foundation in society. Specifically, the benefits of healthy marriage development were articulated during this session. It was stated that creating health marriages would lead to:

- Better financial foundations;
- Improved health;
- Overall happiness in life;
- Strengthened emotional health;
- Better sex;
- Increased productivity in men;
- Increased savings among couples;
- Shortened life expectancy for men; and
- Declines in the prevalence of violence.

It was noted that there is a need for fragile families to undergo counseling. While this attention is needed, in several instances, men are reluctant to seek this assistance. It has been proven that men will steer clear of counseling as a viable solution because they fear that the counselor will

change his or the families' identity. Comments were offered regarding the duality of marriage. While marriage is a public institution, there is a need to make private choices if indeed the union is to thrive. It was stated that both partners must be empowered if healthy marriages are to be fostered. When both individuals are empowered, the result is the creation of healthy children, which in turn is a tremendous societal value.

Along with the benefits of marriages, Secretary Hendrick articulated that many single families have been exemplary. While the latter have experienced a modicum of success, statistics reveal that children in single families are more likely to be delinquent and have a lower education level when compared to children from two-parent homes. States are paying for the collapse of families. Moreover, the belief was shared that Medicaid would drop if there was a reduction in single-family homes.

Questions and Comments

Following are questions and comments that were raised and addressed during this segment of the meeting:

- Q.** At what point do you find marriage support an effective intervention to address barriers?
- A.** It's hard to talk to people when there are other issues. You must address core needs first such as hunger and then deal with the marriage issues. Prep training courses include conflict resolution, forgiveness, and other areas of relationships that can also cover issues at work. This 12-hour training can be counted as work activities.

- Q.** Will HHS possibly fund a needs assessment for States?
- A.** Yes, and it is important to include the assessment when applying for the grants.

- Q.** Waivers required experimental methodology. How can one develop?
- A.** Movement toward activity, as opposed to methodology is needed. It is about taking action. The incentive is to implement strategies.

- Q.** Has Oklahoma done anything with emancipating foster youth with regards to relationship training?
- A.** New initiative has been created to develop training for foster youth. A grant has been developed to aid foster parents with relationship training when adding a new member to the family.

- Q.** How do the studies draw the conclusion without including confounding factors?

- A.** Selection effect can be an issue. However, over sampling helped to make sure that the sample was an effective one. Also, control for selection was also done. In addition, Office of Policy Research and Review (HHS) oversee the data before it is published.
- Q.** To what degree are faith-based groups involved in the research?
- A.** There is coordination by the University of Oklahoma. Faith-based groups were not involved in the research. Faith-based groups are one way to deliver the initiatives.
- Q.** How are faith-based programs included?
- A.** If faith based groups play a large part of your community then they should play a large part in the program initiative.
- Q.** Is there a correlation with the Fatherhood Initiative?
- A.** Certainly, it is a large correlation. It can be used to design a unique intervention. The intervention is about skill and knowledge. The initiative can be done with parents, children, mothers and fathers. Fatherhood is a great place to incorporate the marriage initiative.

Lessons from the Field

Theodora Ooms, Senior Policy Analyst, Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

Moderator: Paul Leonard, Alameda County Social Services Agency

Ms. Ooms started her remarks by noting that marriage is a very important issue and should be at the forefront of several agendas. She feels that there is a lot of diversity in the marriage movement. Given the issues that evolve, Ms. Ooms admitted that it is a controversial and complex topic. Creating a successful marriage is difficult. She explained that without a process of transformation, a healthy union is not possible. Participants were reminded that marriage is a very controversial and sensitive issue. Furthermore, many people have experienced relationships that were less than positive and in some instances, led to divorce. Given this increasing trend, marriage has become a public issue. She acknowledged that there are many voiced and unvoiced concerns and fears surrounding the marriage initiative. Ms. Ooms understands that it is going to take time for people to get over these fears. She also highlighted the fact that a lack of childcare and bad housing are greater issues for many individuals; in light of budget cuts—many believe marriage shouldn't be the focus. Others say the initiative is trying to use marriage as an answer to poverty. While it is true that marrying will not change poverty, she explained that a commitment to marriage has been shown to be helpful. The greater commitment is to marriage, the greater the commitment to finances and other building blocks in strong families and societies.

Ms. Ooms informed participants that several activities are transpiring on a nationwide level that foster strengthened families and marital structures. Child welfare has been a catalyst for this movement. Below are some examples of marital support activities being implemented throughout the States:

- Policy-change modifications to support two-parent families;
- State-level public education strategies that include media campaigns and conferences;
- State-level baseline surveys;
- Legislative changes in marriage and divorce laws;
- Demonstration programs using funding beyond TANF money;
- Pilot programs to address refugee marriages; and
- The Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP) program for couples in the military.

New research is also being generated in the following areas:

- Fragile Families and Child Well-Being Studies (found in packet)
- Ethnographic Studies
- Financial Issues
- Individual and couple assets
- Relationship challenges (e.g. lack of trust and arguments)

The Urban Institute was also highlighted as a resource that will conduct further research into marriage incentives among low-income families. Ms. Ooms concluded her session by stating that domestic violence experts need to work with the marriage initiative program. It is important to think about projects and practices that directly and indirectly undermine the marriage relationship.

Questions and Comments

Following are questions and comments that were raised and addressed during this segment of the meeting:

- Q.** What is the level of involvement with the medical field and counseling during the prenatal stage?
- A.** Nothing done yet, but MPR is working on a study looking at system changes and effects (Fragile Family Study).
- Q.** How can the marriage initiative be sold to the democratic States?

- A.** People try to polarize the issue, but is largely a bi-partisan issue. However, it is important to develop a program based on demographics and socioeconomic status.
- Q.** Describe the domestic violence community involvement. In Oklahoma they were involved in the discussion of developing a marriage initiative.
- A.** Domestic Violence leaders in Oklahoma support the marriage initiative. Remember, the focus is to keep together *healthy* marriages. There has been cross training for both programs. Referrals have gone both ways in OK. The 2 programs can reinforce each other.

Working Lunch: Local Models

Howard Hendrick, Oklahoma Cabinet Secretary

Jason Krafsky, Community Strategies Director, Families Northwest

Moderator: Paul Purnell, Social Solutions, LLC

The Oklahoma Marriage Initiative at the Local Level (Local Model I)

Presenter: Howard Hendrick

Several strategies need to be developed regarding the strengthening of healthy marriages. In teaching relationship skills, the person who conducts these activities needs to focus on certain elements in order to realize success. Specifically, the focus should be on getting people the skills they need. There should be more focus on supply and not demand. For Oklahoma, the focus has been on growing the talent (human resources) and not advertising the services. Accountability from the persons being trained is also required and a mission is a critical aspect of this strategy. Support for trainers can also be garnered via the following Web site: www.okmarriage.org.

When seeking to provide services in support of healthy marriages, there are several aspects to consider. Specifically, several assumptions need to be made which include: assuming that the couples want to be successful, assuming that the couples are teachable, and understanding that those facilitating know a lot about marriage and relationships. Accountability is a prerequisite for success in this arena. It was noted that people are not going to pay for training for people who are not trained and qualified. Consequently, prescreen training is also needed. There is the expectation that 3 days of free training will be provided. The provision of the 4-12 hour PREP course is also a part of the service delivery process.

During this portion of the meeting, Secretary Hendrick informed participants that there are several avenues available to implement marriage training and services. Following are a list of existing services that can be utilized:

- Youth and Family Services Agencies (OJA)-Juvenile Justice system;
- Churches, Temples, Houses of Faith;
- Prison chaplains;
- Military services;
- Health department counselors; and
- Social Services Social Workers.

Service delivery will not be seamless unless there is ample research conducted to highlight trends, needs, and relevant data. Research is specifically needed regarding attitudes surrounding marriage and divorce, needs of different populations, differences among ethnic backgrounds, and PREP training.

Questions and Comments

Following are questions and comments that were raised and addressed during this segment of the meeting:

Q. How are outcomes stratified by delivery groups (clergy, lay person)?

A. Outcomes showed there were no long-term consequences.

Q. Is the PREP curriculum modified for different situations (single parent, married etc.)?

A. They are still working on adaptation of the curriculum. Train PREP trainers to be specific to the audience. Trainers are encouraged to be responsive to the specific needs.

Q. What are the mechanisms for selecting trainers?

A. There is an application process to determine mental wellness.

The Northwest Marriage and Family Movement (Local Model II)

Presenter: Jason Krafsky

Families Northwest (FN) is a non-profit organization that has generated support from corporations such as Eddie Bauer, Microsoft, and local entities. FN has been working on the marriage initiative for 7 years. The goal is to advance marriages on the community level. This organization has undergone a 10 year cultural campaign mission to increase the rate of marriage success, enhance the relational health of couples and families, and turn the tide of family breakdown. The vision is to enable the Northwest to become the world's premier region for marriage, family, and children. To date, there has been an impact on marriage success, marital satisfaction and health, pre-marital education and participation, and a decrease in cohabitation rates. FN's work with communities is vital. It was noted that churches play a key role in establishing stronger families and marriages.

Mr. Krafsky highlighted the Ground Community Transformation Plan as a marriage strengthener. This plan implements best practices and unifies community leaders around central marriage goals. Moreover, leaders are educated regarding comprehensive marriage and family issues. During this forum, valuable statistical information on marriage and family life was provided as well. Information regarding this initiative can be retrieved from www.familiesnorthwest.org.

Questions and Comments

Following are questions and comments that were generated at this segment of the meeting:

Q. What is marriage mentoring?

A. Partnering with well couples to model a healthy relationship. This will eventually expand to single parent family mentoring.

Q. What role does government play?

A. It is different for different areas. Agencies can attach themselves as they see fit. However, government agencies have had and increasing amount of interest in the program.

Q. How are the local communities doing?

A. It is too early to tell outcomes. Although State and census data has been collected, additional information is lacking. We are working with ACF to measure the impact on the community.

The Importance of Healthy Marriage Research and Evaluation Models

Bill Coffin, Special Assistant for Marriage Education, ACF, HHS

Moderator: John Horejsi, OFA, HHS

Mr. Coffin began by identifying education as a key component in strengthening marriages and families. One ACF mission is to increase the percentage of healthy marriages for those individuals who choose marriage as a personal option for their lives. For ACF, education is seen as one of the keys to building strong families. Unfortunately, the secrets of building strong families have remained undisclosed. The question lingers as to how couples can successfully develop interpersonal competence. In order to develop and maintain strong relationships, the development of interpersonal skills is essential. The existing documented work in this area involves data related to relationship enhancement. ACF embraces and supports research strategies and models that capture and examine marriage, rather than solely addressing relationships, as an important component to research and literature. Other topics that were discussed in this presentation included:

- marriage education as a primary prevention tool;
- funding allocation to low-income families;
- three essentials of a couple's primary coping system; and
- research on marriage and family outcomes.

He further elaborated on the three essentials of a couple's primary coping system, which are a commitment to ongoing growth and change, solid communication skills, and the ability to deal creatively with the inevitable conflicts within the marriage and family structure. Maybe only 1 out of 4 couples possess these three essential skills. He acknowledged that children who grow up in homes with parents who have these skills fare better.

For more information and resources, he highlighted for participants the following Web sites:

www.lewingroup.com

www.smartmarriages.com

www.firstthings.org

www.okmarriage.org

www.clasp.org

www.utahmarriage.org

www.buildingstrongfamilies.info

www.prepinc.com

www.nire.org

www.pairs.com

www.couplecommunication.com

www.crcw.princeton.edu/fragilefamilies

www.becomingparents.com

www.familywellness.com

www.familiesnorthwest.org

www.acf.hhs.gov/key.html

Next Steps

Bill Coffin, ACF, HHS

Grant E. Collins II, OFA, HHS

K. Jason Krafsky, Families Northwest, Bellevue, WA

Theodora Ooms, CLASP

Moderator: Paul Purnell, Social Solutions, LLC

During this session, participants had an opportunity to engage in informal dialogue with forum presenters. Based on the information shared throughout this event, speakers guided small participant groups through the development of realistic and achievable next steps to be implemented once they return to their home agencies.

Closing Remarks

John Horejsi, Office of Family Assistance, HHS

Glen Brooks, BASSC Representative

Moderator: Paul Purnell, Social Solutions, LLC

In closing, feedback was generated regarding the effectiveness of the participants and the presentations. Participants shared their plans and strategies to gather the bay area counties together and develop a marriage initiative proposal. It was noted that the wide array of challenges presented on this topic was beneficial. Coordinating teleconferences with other States was also identified as a valuable next step for participants. Such teleconferences would allow States to share obstacles and success stories around designing and implementing a healthy marriage initiative. It was also shared that more TA would be available through the Lewin Group. Mr. Horejsi concluded that the participation of all meeting participants was invaluable to the success of this TA event. He specifically thanked the ACF Region IX Office, presenters, and providers of TA.

Participant Evaluations



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Written Evaluation Comments

What did you find most useful about attending this event?

- Very helpful; exceeded my expectations.
- The information provided by Grant Collins, as it related to possible options for consideration, was very useful.
- The ACF presentation on the program expectations provided much clarification for me.
- Good lists of resources.
- Lots of new and tangible information. I am energized to think about new opportunities within my community.
- Different perspectives, clearer understanding of what promoting healthy marriage really means.
- I came not really knowing what the possibilities were or why, as government entities would get involved in this matter (and how). I am clear now and a bit enthusiastic about potential possibilities.
- Interesting to hear about the Administration's policies from its representatives. Everyone seems a bit apologetic about focusing on marriage.
- Examples were good!
- Real character of the Healthy Marriage Initiative, options and possibilities.

What issues would you like to have more discussion about during the event?

- What were the biggest challenges to implementing the marriage initiatives?
- Blended financing: TANF dollars, Medicaid, etc.

- How and if others have overcome the diversity issues that might impact a county like San Francisco.
- Presentations of more research working with low income, immigrant, multiple/different cultural, urban/rural, etc. populations. Really need info on adapting curriculums to low literacy and low education communities.
- More info on healthy relationship enhancement integration with existing social services programs.
- The Oklahoma presentation was too rushed which did not allow for adequate discussion of material.
- Addressed meeting discussion.
- What counties will need to do to apply for funds—the mechanics of the process and what tips can be offered for writing a good proposal.
- Folks from counties could use more specifics about getting dollars.
- Practical steps/discussion of others experiences in start-up and planning.

Is there anything you can think of that would have made this event more valuable to you?

- Tracking “success” such that it meets Federal requirements, whatever they might be.
- No
- Not have focus on marriage, particularly from the Families Northwest Program, but more focused on building healthy relationships.
- Not really. My (and many others’) expectations were definitely met.

Additional comments:

- Good job!
- The event was well coordinated and did respond to the concerns from the Bay Area group.
- Informative presentation of a variety of options.
- Thanks for hosting this presentation and providing insight into the direction we should and will be going. Very informative. Thanks again.
- Are we really talking about promoting healthy relationships and a side effect may be a better marriage?
- Nicely done!
- Theodora Ooms was a very effective speaker because she came from the same political perspective and initial skepticism about promoting marriage.
- Thanks much for your support and help in this true collaborative effort.

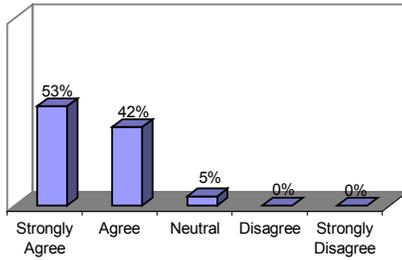
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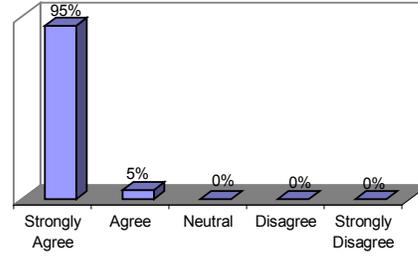
Workshop Coordinators....

N=19

Adequately prepared you for meeting

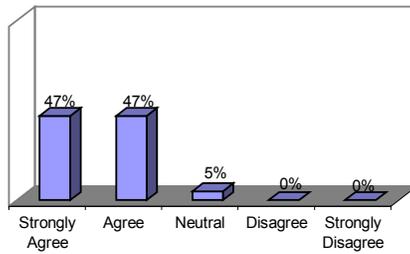


Handled the preparation, arrangements and scheduling in a timely, courteous, and competent manner

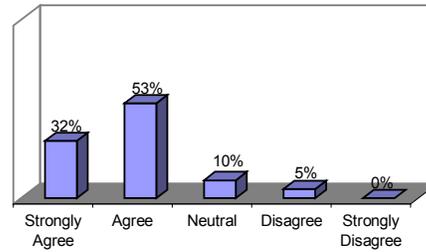


Speakers...

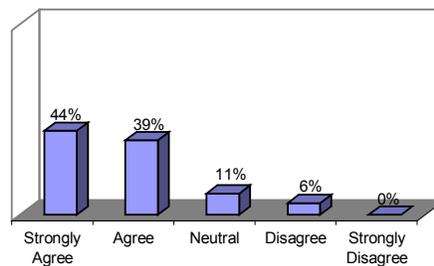
Were thorough in the subject areas presented



Engaged the audience and facilitated discussions



The information presented will be useful in developing new practices and/or policies within my organization



Appendix A: Agenda



Healthy Marriage Forum

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AGENDA

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast

Welcome and Acknowledgements

Sharon Fujii, Regional Administrator, Region IX, Administration for Children and Families (ACF),
Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
John Horejsi, TANF Program Specialist, Office of Family Assistance (OFA), HHS
Bay Area Social Services Consortium (BASSC) Representative

9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. Importance of Marriage Strengthening Programs

Grant E. Collins II, Chief Program Officer, Office of Family Assistance, HHS
Howard H. Hendrick, Oklahoma Cabinet Secretary, Oklahoma Department of Social Services

Senior-level Federal and State staff will present the intended goals and outcomes of the President's Healthy Marriage Initiative. The session will address the current supports and resources available to assist States, communities, and localities in creatively designing and implementing strategies that promote two-parent family formation. This session will highlight the benefits of marriage promotion and strengthening on children, families, and communities. To encourage an interactive experience, participants are encouraged to raise questions.

Moderator: Paul Purnell, Social Solutions, LLC

10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. BREAK

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Lessons From the Field

Theodora Ooms, Senior Policy Analyst, Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
This informative session will highlight research findings, best practices, and lessons learned from various two-parent family formation community models and initiatives. Participants will gain expert information highlighting the range of community strategies being implemented to build and support two-parent family projects/programs/services. A period of Q & A will be provided.

Moderator: Paul Leonard, Alameda County Social Services Agency

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Working Lunch: Local Models

Local Model I: The Oklahoma Marriage Initiative on a Local Level

Howard H. Hendrick, Oklahoma Cabinet Secretary, Oklahoma Department of Social Services

Mr. Hendrick will provide participants with an accurate account of the Oklahoma Marriage Initiative (OMI) and how it is being implemented on a local level. This session will capture the OMI background, lessons learned, and current activities. A period of Q & A will be provided.

Local Model II: The Families Northwest Program

K. Jason Krafsky, Community Strategies Director, Families Northwest, Bellevue, WA

This session is an overview of Washington State community strategies implemented to support two-parent family promotion. Participants will be provided with innovative policies and best practices that assist communities in unifying around a common marriage and family vision. A period of Q & A will be provided.

Moderator: Paul Purnell, Social Solutions, LLC

2:00 p.m. – 2:10 p.m. BREAK

2:10 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. The Importance of Healthy Marriage Research and Evaluation Models

Bill Coffin, Special Assistant for Marriage Education, Administration for Children and Families, HHS

A discussion of current research and evaluative models examining marriage related issues and activities will be highlighted for technical assistance recipients. Valuable resources will be shared to assist States and communities in their own development and examination of study models, and the benefits of quality data in marriage promotion.

Moderator: John Horejsi, Office of Family Assistance, HHS

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Next Steps

Bill Coffin, Administration for Children and Families, HHS
Grant E. Collins II, Office of Family Assistance, HHS
K. Jason Krafsky, Families Northwest, Bellevue, WA
Theodora Ooms, Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

Based on the information shared throughout this event, speakers will guide small participant groups through the development of realistic and achievable next steps to be implemented once they return to their home agencies.

Moderator: Paul Purnell, Social Solutions, LLC

4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Closing Remarks

John Horejsi, Office of Family Assistance, HHS
Bay Area Social Services Consortium (BASSC) Representative

Appendix B: Participant List



Department of Health & Human Services
Administration for Children & Families



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