



The Michigan Healthy Start Engaged Father Program



Shawna J. Lee, PhD, MSW, MPP – shawnal@umich.edu

University of Michigan School of Social Work

March 13, 2017

Acknowledgements

Michigan Health Endowment Fund (MHEF)

**Centers for Medicare and Medicaid
Services (CMMS)**

**Michigan Department of Health and
Human Services (MDHHS)**

**Suzanne Cupal, Porsha Black, & Matthew
Graham, Genesee Healthy Start**

Dawn Scharer, Genesee WIC Program

Shon Hart, Man2Man University

Flint Fatherhood Advisory Board (FAB)



PARENTING
IN CONTEXT RESEARCH LAB

Engaged Father Program Funding

- Funding for program development pilot project:
 - MDHHS Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
 - Michigan Health Endowment Fund
- Current ongoing funding to support a multi-site Healthy Start fatherhood project:
 - Ingham, Kalamazoo & Genesee County Health Depts
 - Detroit Institute for Population Health
 - Inter-tribal Council of Michigan – Hannahville Indian Community & Keweenaw Bay Tribal Community in the U.P
 - Spectrum Health – Strong Beginnings Healthy Start in Grand Rapids

Genesee Engaged Father Pilot Program Successes

- Direct contact with over 100 families in Flint through home visitation, Man2Man University, and community events
- Staff training with 23 WIC staff and 19 Healthy Start staff on strategies for engaging fathers in home visitation and WIC services
- Presented at the 2017 Michigan Home Visiting Conference, Grand Rapids, MI and the HRSA Healthy Start Regional Conference in Detroit, MI
- Upcoming poster presentation at the National Healthy Start Association meeting

Engaged Father Program Activities

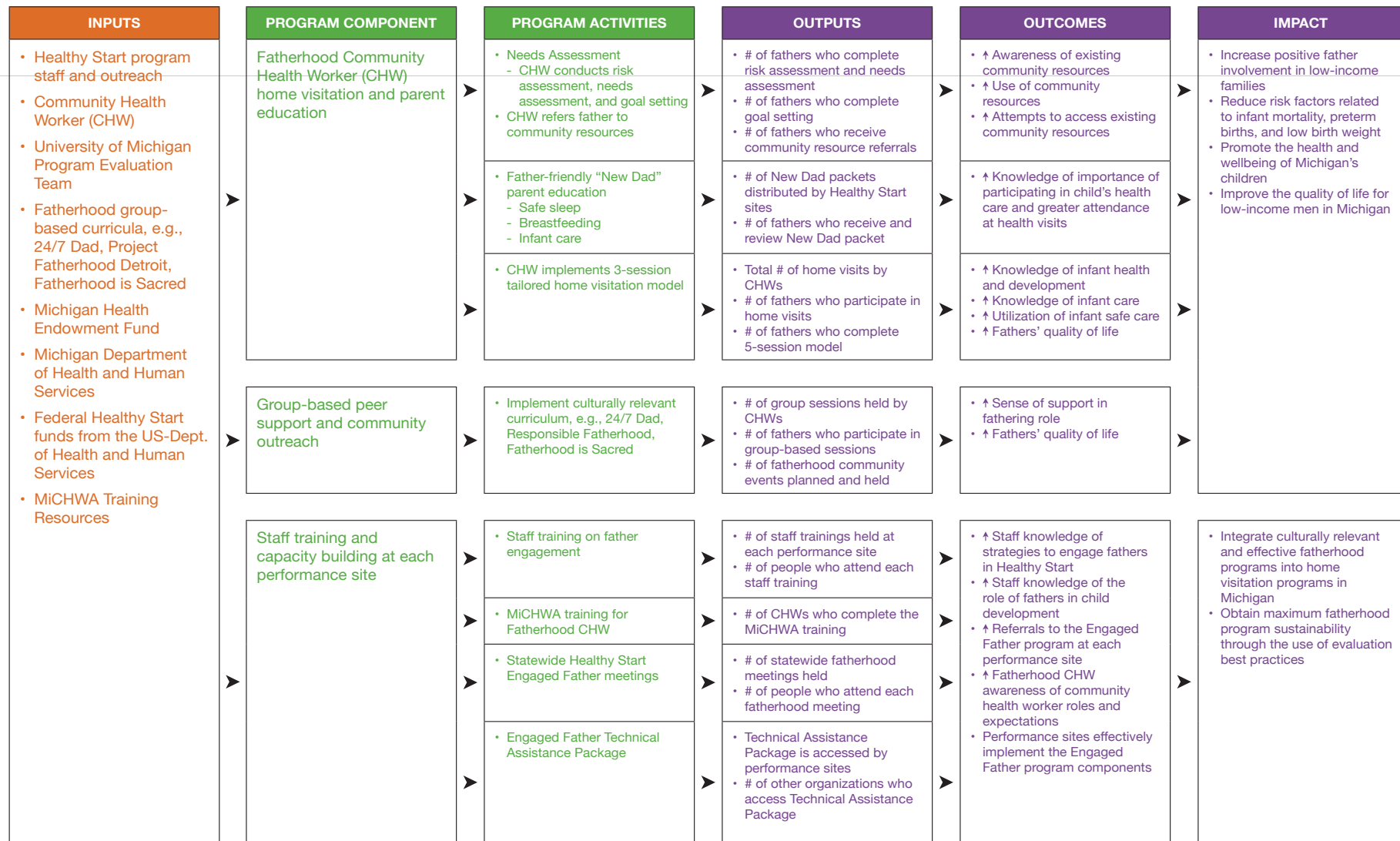
Overarching goal: Promote the health and wellbeing of fathers, mothers, and children in low-income Medicaid-eligible families

1. Direct outreach to fathers
 - One-on-one home visitation with expecting and new fathers
 - Man2Man, 24/7 Dad, Fatherhood is Sacred, and other group-based curricula
2. Provide parent education to Healthy Start fathers
 - Expecting & new dad parent education packet
 - Pilot testing interactive text messaging software program
3. Screening and referral
 - Mental health and physical health needs assessment
 - Referral to services to increase service utilization
4. Healthy Start staff training on father engagement

Other program activities:

- Flint Fatherhood Advisory Board (FAB)
- Implementing best practices across Healthy Start sites in Michigan

HEALTHY START ENGAGED FATHER PROGRAM LOGIC MODEL



ASSUMPTIONS

- Fathers are a critical component of Healthy Start.
- Efforts to engage fathers in Healthy Start services will increase maternal engagement in services.
- Positive father involvement—in Healthy Start and with mother and baby—will enhance short- and long- term maternal and infant health outcomes.
- Target age in programs: kids up to age 2.

EXTERNAL FACTORS

- Father engagement is a federal requirement of all Healthy Start programs.
- Father engagement must be consistent with the Community Health Worker (CHW) model.
- Father engagement must be tailored to the cultural values held by community members.



A HEALTHY BABY BEGINS WITH YOU
CALL 810-237-6161



INVOLVED DAD:

THE FIRST FEW MONTHS



HEALTHY START FATHERHOOD PROGRAM

“My greatest wish is that my children will always know just how much I love them and for the rest of their lives will know that no matter what, I will always be there for them, any way I can.

My children are a gift, and I will treasure mine forever.”

– Unknown author

HEALTHY START

Genesee County Health Department
630 S. Saginaw St.
Suite 4
Flint, MI 48502

810-257-3134



**Genesee County
Health Department**
Your Health. Our Work.


This publication is supported by the Genesee County Health Department through the Healthy Start project, Grant Number H49MC00148, from the Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)."



THROUGH A FATHER'S EYES

HEALTHY START
FATHERHOOD PROGRAM





The fatherhood program is an extension of the Healthy Start program.

We aim to strengthen families by providing fathers and partners with support and encouragement.

WHO WE ARE:

The fatherhood program is an extension of the Genesee Healthy Start program. We strengthen families by providing resources and support to fathers whose partners are in Healthy Start.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE:

Fathers of young children living in Genesee County.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

- Fatherhood Resource Packet
- Health Screening and Referral
- Man-to-Man Fatherhood Group
- Community Resources
- Father-friendly Activities

Did you know that positive father involvement contributes to child health and wellbeing? Children with involved fathers have greater success in school, fewer behavioral problems, and more self-confidence.

CONTACT YOUR HEALTHY START WORKER TO GET A FATHERHOOD RESOURCE PACKET AND MORE INFORMATION!

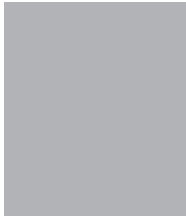

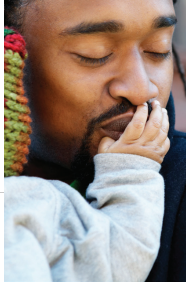
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 810-257-3134





JUST FOR DADS! SIGN UP FOR TEXT4DAD!

Text “daddy” to 24587 to receive
2 notifications a week about things
you can do with your baby!



EXAMPLE TEXTS

1 5 TO 6 MONTHS

Babies <3 music, especially when Daddy sings to them. It helps them develop language skills, soothes them when they're upset, & it makes them feel loved!

2 5 TO 6 MONTHS

Daddy Pro Tip: Daddy, here r some ideas to make ur baby laugh: funny faces, unexpected sounds, funny movements (dance moves), & nearly any other silly thing kids do.

3 7 TO 8 MONTHS

To a baby this age, parents who have been away a long time will feel like strangers & may even scare them. Try not to take it personally—it's a normal part of child development, and it just takes time & patience.



This service is free. Normal data usage rates apply. You can unenroll at any time by texting “STOP” to 24587. Questions or comments? Contact Porsha Black at Genesee Healthy Start: pblack@gchd.us or 810-257-3134.

FAST FACTS

- *You have a right to request DNA testing*
- *You have a right to agree to who the legal father is if you are 100% certain*
- *You have the right to make an agreement about parenting time for your child*
- *You have the right to make an agreement about custody for your child*
- *If your child receives money for food, cash, or healthcare from the state, the state will ask for child support*
- *If the state cannot find you to personally give you paperwork, they can still start a case for child support. You cannot dodge a child support case.*
- *If your child does not get money from the state, you have a right to not have a child support order if you live together or agree that you don't want support*
- *You have a right to work to try to create your own order*
- *Both parents have a right to be in their child's life and see their child*
- *Both parents can ask for help from the state to create an order*
- **YOU CAN BE INVOLVED AND MAKE DECISIONS FOR YOUR CHILD AND FAMILY**

ADAPT PROGRAM

DNA TESTING AT THE HOSPITAL
INFORMATION ABOUT THE COURT SYSTEM
CREATE YOUR OWN COURT ORDER
2 MONTHS TO COMPLETE, NOT 2 YEARS
PARENTING TIME AND CUSTODY CHILD SUPPORT
KNOW YOUR OPTIONS

Genesee County ADAPT Program

Phone: 810-232-3278

Genesee County
Friend of the Court
1101 Beach St.
Flint, MI 48502

What Every Parent Should Know About Becoming a Legal Parent



**The Basics Of DNA,
Paternity Establishment,
Custody, Parenting Time
and Child Support**

Phone: 810-232-3278

Thank You for Your Interest

Questions or comments?

Shawna J. Lee, PhD, MSW, MPP
Associate Professor
University of Michigan School of
Social Work

shawnal@umich.edu

734-678-4200 or 734-763-6565

www.parentingincontext.org



Text4dad – Sample Messages

- Bonding with ur baby is a 2-way street that comes 4rm spending time together & getting 2 know each other. It means that u & ur baby will share a special closeness.
- Here are some ways to bond w/ur baby: take care of him/her; hold ur baby close; watch him sleep, & please remember the peaceful times - not the fussy ones!
- Take lots of pictures w/ur baby. Why not have the picture as ur screen saver or wallpaper shot? Don't be shy - show it 2 everyone & brag about ur baby – s/he is awesome!