

WORKING WITH AT-RISK FATHERS TRAINING

General Description

Noncustodial fathers often face many barriers that make it difficult for them to succeed in becoming the responsible, engaged father they would like to become. These barriers include poverty, childhood trauma, addiction and/or a history of incarceration. This six-hour workshop provides information and proven strategies to help persons and organizations interested in helping at-risk dads reconnect with their children and become responsible fathers. Gain an overview and understanding about best practices in working with at-risk fathers. This workshop includes the following topics:

- 1) A father's role in the wellbeing of his children
- 2) Effective ways to manage the burden of child support for low-income fathers
- 3) Strategies to help noncustodial fathers stay engaged with their children
- 4) The role of stable employment to preventing recidivism
- 5) A highly successful, faith-based model helping fathers restore their lives and relationships.

To register for Working with At-Risk Fathers workshop, [click here](#).

Working with At-Risk Fathers is eligible for Continuing Education approved by the American Psychological Association for mental health professionals. [To register for CEs, click here](#):

Learning Objectives:

Serving At-Risk Fathers: Understanding the Barriers and Ways to Overcome Them – 6 CEs

Noncustodial fathers often face many barriers that make it difficult for them to succeed in becoming the responsible, engaged father they would like to become. These barriers include poverty, childhood trauma, addiction and/or a history of incarceration. This six-hour workshop provides information and proven strategies to help persons and organizations interested in helping at-risk dads reconnect with their children and become responsible fathers.

After completing the Serving At-Risk Fathers workshop participants will be able to do the following:

- 1) Describe the barriers at-risk fathers face in becoming financially responsible for their children.
- 2) Understand the relationship between paying child support and child visitation.
- 3) Explain complex factors associated with paying child support and the challenges this poses for many fathers.
- 4) Explain the role of the Family Support Division in Missouri and its special program for at-risk fathers.

WORKING WITH AT-RISK FATHERS TRAINING

- 5) Identify the characteristics of successful programs serving at-risk fathers.
- 6) Explain the relationship of gaining employment to risks of recidivism for at-risk fathers.
- 7) List programs proven successful in helping at-risk fathers, especially those with a history of incarceration, gain employment and/or secure a better-paying job capable of supporting them and their family.
- 8) Describe the essential elements necessary to move at at-risk father to a fully functioning, responsible father.

WORKING WITH AT-RISK FATHERS TRAINING

PRESENTERS:

Lara Fors, J.D. – Lara Fors has 27 years of experience in administration, litigation, training, case management system design, and reviewing and making policy. At Public Knowledge® (PK), she supports the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) on the Employer Services and Data Access Teams in the Division of Federal Systems. For OCSE, she is a child support subject matter expert on child support issues with employers by developing process and procedures, giving technical assistance and outreach, and reviewing interagency legal agreements. She also contributes to PK's work with one of the 2019-2021 OCSE intergovernmental improvement demonstration grantees overseeing the data reporting to the client. She previously served as the IV-D director in Missouri, and more recently, as the director of a three-county project in southwest Missouri. The latter included providing judicial services to establish and enforce child support orders in the three local jurisdictions and by making referrals to establish and modify orders other jurisdictions pursuant to the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA).

Lara is very involved in policy, intergovernmental, and diversity and inclusion committees with two professional child support organizations, Eastern Regional Interstate Child Support Association (ERICSA) and the National Child Support Enforcement Association (NCSEA). In ERICSA, she is an Honorary Lifetime Association Member, past president, and currently serves on the Honorary Board and several committees. She also co-chairs the NCSEA Policy & Government Relations Committee's subcommittee, Emerging Issues and Leading Practices. She is a frequent presenter at conferences or webinars for ERICSA, NCSEA, and the National Tribal Child Support Association. She also is an Honorary Lifetime Member and past president of the Missouri Child Support Enforcement Association.

Jason Hynson MS – Jason Hynson is the Executive Director of Victory Mission and Ministry. Jason leads a great group of leaders and professionals. Under Jason's leadership the organization has grown from two to 10 Chaplains serving the community through Victory. Organizationally, Victory Mission has seen success in playing the Great Game of Business. After implementing the practices of the Great Game of Business, Victory Mission paid off all long-term debt of almost \$1 million. The team now understands how they can affect the bottom line. Both in the financials and impact on the individuals coming for assistance. God is doing a miracle at Victory. Now the Victory team looks forward to a post-Covid world to continue to transform and meet the needs of those in the margins who are looking for victory!

Mark McKnelly BS – Mark McKnelly serves as the Director of the Restoration program at Victory Mission in Springfield, Missouri. He is also the author of *Change for the Poor*, where he speaks about the steps necessary to restore those with a history of substance abuse and/or incarceration to a life that includes restored relationships and full-time employment. Mark is a Certified Coordinator for Jobs for Life. He has worked closely with the New Pathways for Good Dads program since its introduction at Victory Mission in June 2018.

WORKING WITH AT-RISK FATHERS TRAINING

Lisa Strader BS – Lisa Strader serves as the Case Manager Supervisor at Good Dads. As such she oversees case management supervision at multiple sites in southwest Missouri. She has regular contact with the dads enrolled in the program along with the people with whom they work most closely. She regularly interacts with representatives of the court, child support enforcement, and probation and parole. She is a frequent advocate for fathers seeking to restore a healthy relationship with their children. Her efforts have helped to expand the work of Good Dads throughout southwest Missouri