



Washington Fatherhood Council – Monthly Meeting

November 7, 2025 10:30am-12:00pm

Welcome, Introductions and Group Norms and Mission – 10:30-10:40am

Jose Romo and Joey Charlton initiated introductions and welcomed attendees to the space. The group reflected on the Fatherhood Council norms and mission.

- We will be sending out a new calendar series that will come from Joey Charlton (DCYF). Please delete any other calendar invites or links you have saved to avoid confusion.

Fatherhood Council Engagement Discussion – Jose Romo, 10:40-11:10am

Council members walked through an engagement survey and broke into small groups to discuss how they want to be involved in engagement and outreach. As a large group, we reviewed highlights from the small group discussions.

Discussion Prompt: As an individual or with council partners, how do you want to engage or participate in outreach with local and state partners?

- It is important to have support for new Fatherhood Council members
- Is the communication going to be a blast to everyone all the time or is there an option to sign up for just the provider learning series?
 - We are open to hearing how people would like that to work.
 - In the past, we've sent out meeting invites just to the Fatherhood Council list, but there is a Gov Delivery list that has gone out wider and included the provider learning series and Fatherhood Summit.
 - We will need to share the sign up link again once it is available from DCYF.
 - It would be cool to be able to target the interest list geographically
- How do you want to engage or participate in outreach with local and state partners?
 - I'd like opportunities to reconnect with folks that participated in Fatherhood Cafes and doing some exploration about how we can continue to provide connection or support. Maybe a Community of Practice (CoP) or Learning Community?
 - Build up the role of the council in supporting the state to local connections. Like representatives from local fatherhood cafes?
 - There are a lot of opportunities through the state that we aren't looking to. We should have representatives from fatherhood groups come and speak at the council and council members go speak to fatherhood groups.
 - I'd like us to have an opportunity to learn about or speak to legislation.
 - We have 10 regions with FSPR. [FYSPRTs – Family Youth System Partner Round Table](#).

- We are trying (Washington initiative of boys and men) to get connected with our reps
- If we can build some sort of roadmap of what is already existing specific for families where we can have a male presence there, so we aren't having to reinvent the wheel.
- Language matters – required vs not required
- This group could be a resource for state agencies to review documents or provide the fatherhood expertise
- Advocate for fathers in other venues, in other arenas we are in – interject and make sure that fathers are being considered
- Without a budget, we need partners. There are lots of local and statewide organizations that do grants.
- Tribes are really good partners for this kind of work.
- Do we have any grant writers? If we are going to do anything other than have meetings, we need money.
- Add in a suggestion for topics to the survey for the meeting and the provider learning series, so individuals could list ideas – some fathers may be able to participate and not just be in attendance.
- Next step for the survey – it will come out in a follow up email once the transfer is done.

Provider Learning Series Update – Larua Alfani, 11:10-11:25am

Laura Alfani provided an update on the provider learning series and attendees had the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback.

- **Upcoming sessions** - Anne and Dieter did the planning and groundwork for these two. Anne will facilitate these discussions.
 - **December 4, 2025** Deborah Gardner and Anne McHugh, DOH, and Cindy Gamble, American Indian Health Commission for Washington State, will discuss the **new Maternal Mortality Report and Dads' roles in prevention**. Registration is open [Here](#). GovDelivery announcement will go out in the next few days.
 - **February 19, 2026** Jill Schropp and Bridgette Pierce, DSHS, Division of Child Support, and Sarah Jackson, Senior King County Prosecuting Attorney, will discuss **Partnering with DCS and the Prosecuting Attorneys to Establish Parentage**.
- Request made for support in introducing speakers and participating in planning discussions.
 - No current budget available for paid speakers; seeking volunteers or pro bono contributions.
- There's been recent success with two Indigenous fathers' cafés; participants are engaged and eager to share their stories.

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 Division | Approved for distribution by Name, Title

- The council may be interested in reviewing recommendations from the Department of Health and the Indian Health Commission’s maternal mortality review, which will go to the legislature in January.
 - We could add this as a topic for the January meeting and Provider Learning Series.

Partner Share out – Steven Thibert, 11:20-11:45am

Attendees had the opportunity to share out work in their agency, organization or area.

- Steven Thibert: I’m just back from the Reach Out and Read, Nurture Connection, American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) summit. There is growing engagement in early relational health, and it’s great to see so many people speaking a shared language. I’m there representing the fatherhood movement and helping move this work forward.
- Jim Ward: I want to share information about an upcoming webinar called “Engaging and Serving Young Fathers.” It’s a Zoom session happening in two weeks, and I think people in this group would be interested. <https://www.irp.wisc.edu/events/>
- Blair Daly (Washington Initiative for Boys and Men): There’s legislation to create a Washington Commission on Boys and Men, sponsored by Rep. April Berg and Sen. John Lovick, expected to move forward in 2026. There’s also a new nonprofit forming to raise money and provide grants to fathers and organizations that support fatherhood.
- Anne (WA Fatherhood Council): The Perigee Fund reached out to me about collaborating on an op-ed about fathers and paid family leave, planned for release after the holidays. They’re also exploring ways to support future fatherhood summits, since we’ve lost some public funding. There’s a potential pilot for a Washington-specific version of a fatherhood screening tool adapted from the Ohio Fatherhood Commission.
 - The group expressed interest supporting this pilot, and there may be opportunities to partner with AAP practices.
- Nick Kasovac: The World Association for Infant Mental Health Congress takes place in Toronto next year. The call for presentations is open until December 1. [Home - WAIMH 19th World Congress](#)

Closing 12:00pm – Raymond Gregson, 11:45

Our next meeting is Friday, December 5 10:30am-12:00pm. Join at:

<https://dcyf.zoom.us/j/8503145826?pwd=JxGHEnLYBLb5hH0D1OgYSaHIuikJbE.1&omn=87599177377>

About the Fatherhood Council

The Washington Fatherhood Council is a collaborative, transformational group of more than 35 state and local providers, academics and — most importantly — fathers with lived expertise, which helps further the goals of reducing poverty and inequality through increased fatherhood access and belonging. The Council fosters service provider capacity, creates community for fathers, works for policy change and resource investment in fathers, and promotes their voices and experiences to transform family systems.

We know that:

- Child and family well-being improve when fathers are positively engaged in their children's lives.
- Fathers play a unique and important role in children's development.
- Fathers should have support and resources to become the fathers they aspire to be.