



Washington Fatherhood Council – Monthly Meeting

January 9, 2026 10:30am-12:00pm

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

Joey Charlton initiated introductions and welcomed attendees to the space.

Fatherhood Council 2026 Planning Discussion – Jose Romo & Laura Alfani, 10:40-11:25am

in a brief reflection on the previous feedback received during the December Fatherhood Council meeting and December meeting feedback and the September Fatherhood Summit.

Laura Alfani led members in a review of the key takeaways from previous discussion on Council priorities for 2026. Members self-selected into breakout rooms for each priority/area of interest:

- Provider Learning Series
- Fatherhood Summit
- Leadership Engagement
- Regional/Local Systems Engagement

Each breakout group discussed the following prompt: *What key actions are needed to advance this priority the Council identified? What would success look like in 6 months, 12 months...?*

Report Out and What's Next – where do we go from here?

Group 1: Provider Learning Series
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who is the audience: have a long list from past involvement. Around engaging fathers and roles of different programs. People in different roles in agencies, non-profits, providers. <p>General considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No budget for speakers, except a little for Dads with lived experience.• There is an opportunity to partner with, leverage agencies to highlight their work.• Important that whatever the topic, includes focus on knowing how to work with, engage fathers, improve language, processes and systems to make them feel included.• Consider how can align topics with Council priorities, objectives.• 6 months: logistics, processes.• 12 months: funding <p>Topic Idea: Fathers health, self-care, possibly including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Upcoming changes re: eligibility and enrollment. Move toward One Portal.• Reframing sexual and reproductive health messaging to be more inclusive of males, role of pharmacies, coverage options for men and fathers, methods– there are more than folks are aware of. Might be helpful to share some data on use by men and fathers.

- Training providers on how to have those conversations.
- Andrea may be able to cover some of this, and connect to others. Need to figure out who can talk to the broader idea of health and self-care. Department of Health (DOH) or other partners

Group 2: Fatherhood Summit

Key Actions:

- Pick a theme based on the evolution of work
- Speakers
- Do we want to do this virtually or in-person?
 - In-person is preferred

Next Steps:

- We have always had a committee focused on this in previous years, about 5-6 people that range in their experience/knowledge/connections
- Would King County have capacity? Linda Thomas could support with staff capacity, but not sure about funding
- DCYF could possibly commit a small amount of funds and staff capacity
- Department of Corrections (DOC), possibly with Strength in Families, staff capacity and funding

The Fatherhood Summit has occurred for the past several years. At this time, there is not funding or staffing to plan a Summit. Please join this group if you have ideas or would like to support this activity.

Live event: \$30k bare bones, done well about \$75k

- Breakdown of Cost: venue – the challenge is the size (typically need a space for over 200), sound and visual is another piece that needs to be considered, paid for speaker/travel, honorariums, food, paid for dads on the panel and the awards
- Anne has previously gone around and asked each agency for \$15k
- When done online it is fairly reasonable in cost, because you just need to pay the honorarium for dads

Attendees: around 300, 250 is solidly where we been, limit of 150 last year because of budget

Previous funders: Center for Community Research – Jessica Pearson – Fatherhood Research Practice Network (state of the state for the Fatherhood study), this supported the kickoff of the summit, hoping they can provide funding for work, leftover \$ last year from CW to support the venue

- Might have to pursue private funding
- DOC funding?
- Without the website (fatherhoodcouncil.org) may not be able to promote it in the same way, so it may be a down year
- Typically have a Fatherhood Council retreat in September

Group 3: Leadership Engagement

- There is an opportunity to re-establish relationships and buy-in with new state agency leadership.
 - Several agencies have new leadership and/or have undergone reorganization.
 - There is an opportunity to reassess whether agencies identified in the MOU have active representation on the Council, and if not, to identify representatives.
 - Providing orientation for agency leadership on the Council's role, purpose, and value would be beneficial.
 - Existing resources and relationships can be leveraged to strengthen leadership engagement. The MOU and study may be used to revisit agency commitments, review progress on activities, and share relevant data.
 - Consider incorporating stories and perspectives from individuals with lived experience.
 - Assess whether previous agency champions are still advancing father-inclusive initiatives and identify new champions as needed.
- Beyond leadership engagement, there is an opportunity to increase awareness, capacity, and engagement to broaden reach across agencies.
 - Agency communications staff could be engaged to share consistent messaging with internal and external partners.

Group 4: Regional/Local Systems Engagement

Key Action Items for next 6 months:

- Identify existing resources and regional representation
- identify where are gaps in resources and gaps in fatherhood representation
- Provider Learning Series – consider inviting fathers to speak about what worked for them and educating providers
- Finding funds around groups where dads can connect in person (ideal) or virtually (if in person not feasible)

State/Local Engagement

- Provide DCYF social workers with regional and community resources, including anything regarding fatherhood. It is challenging to find father specific resources in my region.
 - Possible way to incorporate is to include regional liaison reps within membership of the council
- Commerce has a data performance unit within our housing division and worked with Ann last year to identify emergency shelters that serve father-specific families and households. We are happy to help try to gather this info, so if there are questions or any way we can help collect that data, please reach out.
- Is the goal to use the resource map to use that and make sure it is up to date and get

more collaboration or are you looking to create a different tool?

- I don't think we have capacity at this point to reach out to those on the list. We want to look where there is strong momentum already in the Fatherhood space. Looking for someone to lead in that region where they are already doing the work.
- Potentially utilize Family Youth System Partner Roundtable (FYSPR) to uplift the good work
- The Agencies here should create opportunities for fathers from this group to share how to better engage fathers. They can share what has worked for the fathers and how best to share info. It is a matter of coordinating with Agencies to see when we can come and what topic to speak on.
- Is there a way we can leverage funding in certain regions to do local support groups?

- Should we continue these conversations in the next meeting's breakout groups?
 - Yes, we would like time to talk more as a group

Partner Share out – Steven Thibert, 11:25-11:45am

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

- Blair Daly gave an update on: Washington State Commission on Boys and Men
 - Prime sponsor Representative April Berg will be filing the Boys & Men Commission bill, HB 2401
 - Draft bill language did not include a mention of Fathers or Fatherhood
 - Prevention was absent in the language of the bill
 - Hopeful that it will make it to committee
 - This Commission will not be State funded, it will require outside funding. The lack of spending in the bill should hopefully make it more feasible.
- Nelson Rascon introduced his new company helping organizations improve or build fatherhood programing: <https://communityimpactsolutionsllc.com>
- Question from Jordan Orley (MD, MPH). Jordan helped this group develop a Fathers Screening Tool, and also he has recently done research on the impact of dads' alcohol consumption on contributing to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD):
 - I was wondering if I could present the findings of my FASD research at any upcoming forums or conferences aimed at fathers?
 - Jordan's contact: jorley@unc.edu
- Anne Stone shared: Nick and I have met with the Perinatal Support Line dad leader about the Fathers Well-being Screening. I have the most recent version, but we have not formatted it to be used in the field. I will be reaching out to Holly Schindler at University of

Washington for next steps.

- Potential presenter for future meeting: <https://movetotacoma.com/podcasts/tacoma-dads-group-with-sean-leacy/>

Register here for the February 19 Provider Learning Series. [Register Here](#) **Partnering with DCS and the Prosecuting Attorneys to Establish Parentage in Washington State National Fatherhood Initiative® (NFI) invites human service organizations to [apply to participate](#) in a 9-month project to start or expand the ProFathering15™ program with fathers.**

Eligible applicants include secular or faith-based nonprofits, community-based organizations, and city or county agencies that provide services to fathers and can:

- Enroll at least 100 fathers or father figures
- Designate staff (and a backup) to administer ProFathering15™
- Begin running the program by February 23, 2026

Application Deadline: All applications are due by Friday, January 30, 2026, at 2:00 P.M. EDT

Closing 12:00pm – Steven Thibert, 11:45am

Thank you for your time and wisdom! Our next meeting is Friday, February 6 10:30am-12:00pm.

About the Fatherhood Council

The Washington Fatherhood Council is a collaborative, transformational group of 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.