


The DAD Project: Supporting Fathers to Build Strong Families

Flenard Burnham
Father Involvement Specialist

Darcy DuBois, MPH
Program Manager

Jeremy Goodrum
Father Involvement Specialist

Troney Small
Father Involvement Specialist



Fulfilling the Promise Conference
March 8, 2017

DAD Project Background


- MHD has history of providing high-quality home visiting services
- MCH HV programs identified need for father-specific services



Think Health. Act Now! - CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT - www.milwaukee.gov/Health
© Content in this presentation may not be duplicated, copied, or reproduced outside the purview of MHD without permission.

Outline

- Direct Assistance for Dads (DAD) Project background
- Program design
- Integrating community feedback
- Evaluation design
- Preliminary outcomes
- Challenges & successes



Think Health. Act Now! - CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT - www.milwaukee.gov/Health
© Content in this presentation may not be duplicated, copied, or reproduced outside the purview of MHD without permission.


Program Design: Goals

1. Strengthen father involvement in children's and partner's lives
2. Improve pregnancy and birth outcomes
3. Improve child health, safety, and development
4. Enhance family functioning and improve parent's economic self-sufficiency
5. Prevent child abuse and neglect

Think Health. Act Now! - CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT - www.milwaukee.gov/Health
© Content in this presentation may not be duplicated, copied, or reproduced outside the purview of MHD without permission.

DAD Project Background

- High infant mortality rates in Milwaukee
- Lifecourse Initiative for Healthy Families
- Father involvement positively correlated with numerous positive health and social outcomes for children and mothers



Think Health. Act Now! - CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT - www.milwaukee.gov/Health
© Content in this presentation may not be duplicated, copied, or reproduced outside the purview of MHD without permission.

Program Design: Target Population and Staff

- Target population
 - Expectant and parenting fathers of children 0-12 months living in the city of Milwaukee
- Program staff
 - Program Manager
 - 4 Father Involvement Specialists (FISs)
 - 1 Public Health Social Worker
 - Evaluation Team

Think Health. Act Now! - CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT - www.milwaukee.gov/Health
© Content in this presentation may not be duplicated, copied, or reproduced outside the purview of MHD without permission.

Program Design: Services Provided

- Parents as Teachers EB HV model
- Curricula: Parents as Teachers, 24/7 Dad
- Individualized, strength-based care plans
 - Goal-setting guidance and support
- Assessments and service referral
- Resource referral and follow-up
- Father group

Think Health. Act Now! - CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT - www.milwaukee.gov/Health
© Content in this presentation may not be duplicated, copied, or reproduced outside the purview of MHD without permission.

Integrating Community Feedback: Participant Advisory Group

- DAD Project participants
- Guide all aspects of program throughout program implementation
- Provide feedback and input on
 - Enrollment and evaluation materials
 - Program content
 - Program format (individual vs group)
 - Recruitment and retention

Think Health. Act Now! - CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT - www.milwaukee.gov/Health
© Content in this presentation may not be duplicated, copied, or reproduced outside the purview of MHD without permission.

Integrating Community Feedback: Focus Groups

- Formal method of obtaining feedback
- First round held prior to service delivery
 - Fathers: 5 participants
 - Mothers: 8 participants



Think Health. Act Now! - CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT - www.milwaukee.gov/Health
© Content in this presentation may not be duplicated, copied, or reproduced outside the purview of MHD without permission.

Integrating Community Feedback: Participant Advisory Group

- Goal: meet 3x/year, 6-8 attendees/group
- 3 meetings held since 9/2014
- Challenges
 - Scheduling
 - Child care
 - Advisory vs. social group
- Group will continue to meet to guide PAT EB HV model implementation

Think Health. Act Now! - CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT - www.milwaukee.gov/Health
© Content in this presentation may not be duplicated, copied, or reproduced outside the purview of MHD without permission.

Integrating Community Feedback: First Round of Focus Group Feedback

Participants felt program should address/include

- Pregnancy basics/biology
- Infant health & safety
- How to be a role model
- Stress management
- Opportunity to “vent”
- Support for goals
- Support for communicating with partner/child’s mother
- Info about community activities

Think Health. Act Now! - CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT - www.milwaukee.gov/Health
© Content in this presentation may not be duplicated, copied, or reproduced outside the purview of MHD without permission.

Evaluation Design

- Mix of internal and external partners
 - **Darcy DuBois**, Program Manager, MHD
 - **Erica LeCounte**, Epidemiologist, MHD
 - **Dr. Geof Swain**, Medical Director, MHD; and Professor, UW School of Medicine & Public Health
 - **Kaija Zusevics**, Associate Researcher, UW-Milwaukee, Center for Urban Population Health

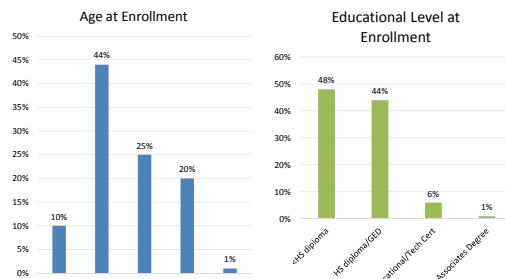
Think Health. Act Now! - CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT - www.milwaukee.gov/Health
© Content in this presentation may not be duplicated, copied, or reproduced outside the purview of MHD without permission.

Evaluation Design

- **Process**
 - Participant basic demographics
 - Father Satisfaction Survey
 - Interviews and focus groups with staff and participants
 - Numbers of fathers referred, enrolled and graduated
 - Community resource referrals provided
- **Outcome**
 - Father engagement/involvement
 - Improved mental health/decreased stress
 - Improved health
 - Children meet developmental milestones

Think Health. Act Now! - CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT - www.milwaukee.gov/Health
 © Content in this presentation may not be duplicated, copied, or reproduced outside the purview of MHD without permission.

Participant Demographics



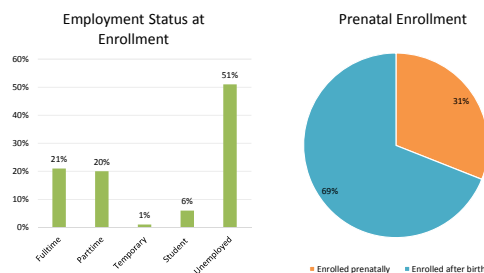
Preliminary Outcomes: Progress To-Date

- Enrollment began March, 2014
- 237 referrals received
- 95 clients enrolled

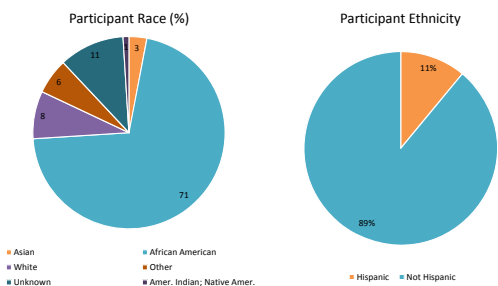


Think Health. Act Now! - CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT - www.milwaukee.gov/Health
 © Content in this presentation may not be duplicated, copied, or reproduced outside the purview of MHD without permission.

Preliminary Outcomes: Participant Demographics



Preliminary Outcomes: Participant Demographics



Think Health. Act Now! - CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT - www.milwaukee.gov/Health
 © Content in this presentation may not be duplicated, copied, or reproduced outside the purview of MHD without permission.

Preliminary Outcomes: Focus Group/Interview Feedback

- **Overall feedback**
 - Positive experiences with and gratitude for program
 - DAD provides unique support to Milwaukee fathers and families
- **What is helpful for fathers to learn about**
 - Child development: stages of development and how to support infants
 - Setting personal and professional goals with FIS
- **DAD impact on mother/father relationship**
 - Most report healthy relationship with mother/father of child
 - DAD reinforces importance of communication and role definition

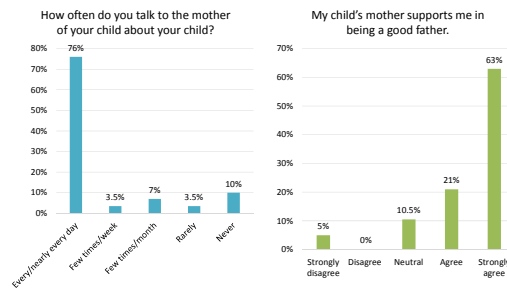
Think Health. Act Now! - CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT - www.milwaukee.gov/Health
 © Content in this presentation may not be duplicated, copied, or reproduced outside the purview of MHD without permission.

Preliminary Outcomes: Focus Group/Interview Feedback

- **DAD impact on personal goals**
 - FISs support in setting and tracking goals invaluable
 - Information about education, employment, and legal resources helpful to setting and achieving goals
- **Benefits of DAD**
 - Positive, trusting, and respectful relationships with FISs
 - Information is kept confidential, program participation is voluntary, communication is open, and support is genuine
 - Resources and goal setting support how to be a good role model and provider for family

Think Health. Act Now! - CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT - www.milwaukee.gov/Health
© Content in this presentation may not be duplicated, copied, or reproduced outside the purview of MHD without permission.

Preliminary Outcomes: Father Involvement Survey Data



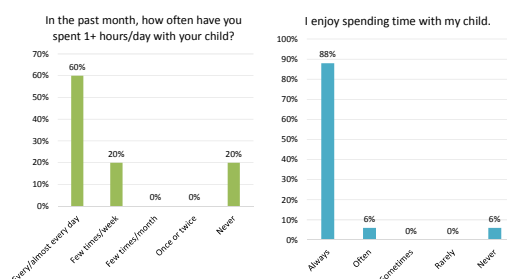
Think Health. Act Now! - CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT - www.milwaukee.gov/Health
© Content in this presentation may not be duplicated, copied, or reproduced outside the purview of MHD without permission.

Preliminary Outcomes: Self-Identified Goals

- Employment
- Housing
- Increase amount of time spent with children
- Obtain health insurance
- Health & fitness goals
- Education & job training
- Improve parenting skills
- Build a better relationship with their father

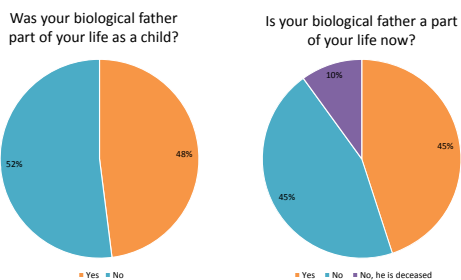


Preliminary Outcomes: Father Involvement Survey Data



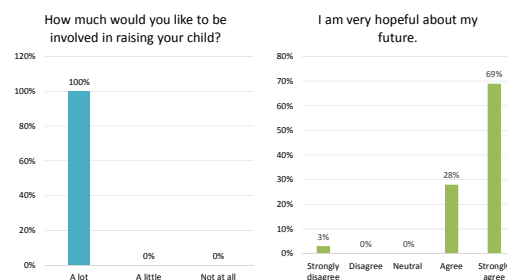
Think Health. Act Now! - CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT - www.milwaukee.gov/Health
© Content in this presentation may not be duplicated, copied, or reproduced outside the purview of MHD without permission.

Preliminary Outcomes: Father Involvement Survey Data

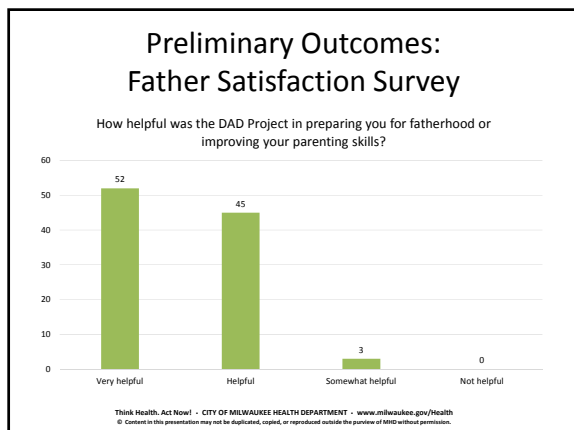


Think Health. Act Now! - CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT - www.milwaukee.gov/Health
© Content in this presentation may not be duplicated, copied, or reproduced outside the purview of MHD without permission.

Preliminary Outcomes: Father Involvement Survey Data



Think Health. Act Now! - CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT - www.milwaukee.gov/Health
© Content in this presentation may not be duplicated, copied, or reproduced outside the purview of MHD without permission.

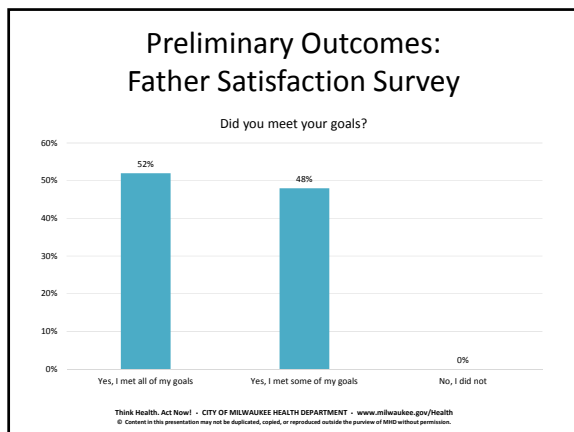


Preliminary Outcomes: Father Satisfaction Survey

85% of participants report that their relationship with the mother of their children has improved

- "I am now more patient"
- "We talk more and have built respect"
- "We're more of a team"
- "We listen to one another better than before"
- "We communicate better"

Think Health. Act Now! - CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT - www.milwaukee.gov/Health
© Content in this presentation may not be duplicated, copied, or reproduced outside the purview of MHD without permission.



Challenges

- Staffing issues
 - Slow process of recruitment & hiring qualified staff
- Perspectives on father's role in family
- Participant retention
- Educating potential referral sources on innovative service method for fathers

Think Health. Act Now! - CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT - www.milwaukee.gov/Health
© Content in this presentation may not be duplicated, copied, or reproduced outside the purview of MHD without permission.

Preliminary Outcomes: Father Satisfaction Survey

96.4% of participants report that their relationship with their children has improved

- "I know more about an infant"
- "Stronger bond now more than ever"
- "I have learned to be more patient with her"
- "I have become a better father"
- "Taught me to observe and build a healthy relationship"
- "I stay home more often"

Think Health. Act Now! - CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT - www.milwaukee.gov/Health
© Content in this presentation may not be duplicated, copied, or reproduced outside the purview of MHD without permission.

Successes

- High satisfaction with program
 - 97% of clients report being satisfied or very satisfied
- Improved father-child and father-mother relationships
- Strong, positive, and long-lasting relationships between FISs and participants
 - 85% of clients report having a great relationship with FIS
- 18 clients have graduated
- Obtained ongoing funding
- Added PHSW to team

Think Health. Act Now! - CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT - www.milwaukee.gov/Health
© Content in this presentation may not be duplicated, copied, or reproduced outside the purview of MHD without permission.

Next Steps

- Monthly father group
- Incorporate PAT EB HV model components
- Add PHN to team



Think Health. Act Now! - CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT - www.milwaukee.gov/Health
© Content in this presentation may not be duplicated, copied, or reproduced outside the purview of MHD without permission.

How do you describe the benefits participants will receive from participating in the DAD Project? How do you “sell” the DAD Project to fathers?

Think Health. Act Now! - CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT - www.milwaukee.gov/Health
© Content in this presentation may not be duplicated, copied, or reproduced outside the purview of MHD without permission.

Video



What does a typical home visit entail?

Think Health. Act Now! - CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT - www.milwaukee.gov/Health
© Content in this presentation may not be duplicated, copied, or reproduced outside the purview of MHD without permission.

Father Involvement Specialist Interview Panel

Flenard Burnham, Father Involvement Specialist

Jeremy Goodrum, Father Involvement Specialist

Troney Small, Father Involvement Specialist

Think Health. Act Now! - CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT - www.milwaukee.gov/Health
© Content in this presentation may not be duplicated, copied, or reproduced outside the purview of MHD without permission.

What do you feel motivates participants to participate?

Think Health. Act Now! - CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT - www.milwaukee.gov/Health
© Content in this presentation may not be duplicated, copied, or reproduced outside the purview of MHD without permission.

Audience Questions

Think Health. Act Now! - CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT - www.milwaukee.gov/Health
© Content in this presentation may not be duplicated, copied, or reproduced outside the purview of MHD without permission.

Which resources are fathers most interested in and/or in need of accessing?

Think Health. Act Now! - CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT - www.milwaukee.gov/Health
© Content in this presentation may not be duplicated, copied, or reproduced outside the purview of MHD without permission.

What are some ways in which non-fatherhood HV programs could engage fathers?

Think Health. Act Now! - CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT - www.milwaukee.gov/Health
© Content in this presentation may not be duplicated, copied, or reproduced outside the purview of MHD without permission.



Darcy DuBois, MPH
Program Manager
DAD Project

Tom Barrett, Mayor
Bevan K. Baker,
Commissioner of Health
www.milwaukee.gov/health

dduboi@milwaukee.gov
414.286.6725

Think Health. Act Now! - CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT - www.milwaukee.gov/Health
© Content in this presentation may not be duplicated, copied, or reproduced outside the purview of MHD without permission.

Client successes

Think Health. Act Now! - CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT - www.milwaukee.gov/Health
© Content in this presentation may not be duplicated, copied, or reproduced outside the purview of MHD without permission.