Fathers and Families: What's Missing and What Works

- Truin Huntley Executive Director
- Bob Ruthazer, CFLE, Founder & Programs Director
- LeMar Bowers, Fatherhood and Urban Programs Educator
- Donald R. Stern, M.D., M.P.H., Director, Richmond City Health District, VDH

April 2, 2013
Introduction

- Purpose of this presentation
  - Why family fragmentation is an issue
    - Children
    - Community & Health
  - What can be done to strengthen families
  - Recommendations for the Commission/Community

- Introduction of speakers
## Health Profile, Richmond City, 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vital Event</th>
<th>Virginia</th>
<th>Planning District 15</th>
<th>Richmond City</th>
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<td>Induced Terminations of Pregnancy</td>
<td>27,024</td>
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<td>Natural Fetal Deaths</td>
<td>6,918</td>
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<td>335</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Teenage Pregnancies</td>
<td>13,704</td>
<td>1,943</td>
<td>886</td>
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<td>Preg Rate/1,000 Pop Ages 10-19</td>
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<td>Diabetes Mellitus</td>
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<td>Chronic Liver Disease Rate/100,000</td>
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<td>Pneumonitis Due to Solids and Liquids</td>
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<td>Pneumonitis Due to Solids and Liquids Rate/100,000</td>
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<td>16.6</td>
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<td>2006 Census Population</td>
<td>7,642,884</td>
<td>944,820</td>
<td>192,913</td>
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<td>Females Ages 10-19 Population</td>
<td>502,344</td>
<td>64,377</td>
<td>12,887</td>
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Breakdown of Healthy Relationships: The Community Impact

- Unplanned Pregnancies
- Infant Mortality
- Teen Pregnancy
- Sexually Transmitted Infections
Richmond City Pregnancy Outcomes 2011

- Total Pregnancies --------- 5773
- Live Births ------------------- 2981
  - Births to single women-------- 64%
- Induced Terminations ---- 2492
- Fetal Deaths ------------------ 300

Source: VDH Center for Vital Records and Health Statistics
Percent non-marital births (PNMB) was calculated as number of non-marital births divided by total number of live births; e.g., Among black non-marital births (NMB), the Black PNMB = (# NMB to black women)/(Total # live births to black women) * 100.
A Child Born in Richmond City

Is very likely to be born:

- To a single mother
- Who is 20 Years of Age or Older

Where is dad?
Richmond plans new jail

Many inmates at the Richmond City Jail play cards to combat monotony. The jail, built to hold 882 inmates, now holds about 1,500.
Family instability and father absence is a statewide issue.

Families need strengthening with new efforts at upstream prevention. Consider stats from the most recent statistical year:

- **Single Parent Births**
  - In Virginia, 36,532 babies were born to single moms. (35.5%)
  - In the City of Richmond, 1,908 babies were born to single moms. (64.5%)

- **Marriage vs. Divorce**
  - In Virginia, there were 54,465 marriages and 30,011 divorces.
  - In the City of Richmond, there were 1,802 marriages and 988 divorces.

- **Children of Divorce**
  - In Virginia, 12,676 of the divorces involved at least one child.
  - In the Richmond area, 1,511 of the divorces involved at least one child.
Virginia: 1917 - 2009

Source: VDH, Division of Health Statistics, December 2010
Percent of Children Under 18 Living in One Parent Families
US and Virginia 1910-2008

Note: Excludes individuals living in group quarters and individuals currently or previously married.
Poverty Rate in Virginia
By Demographic Characteristic

<table>
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<th>Demographic Characteristic</th>
<th>Poverty Rate</th>
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<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Less than HS graduate</td>
<td>21%</td>
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<tr>
<td>HS graduate or GED</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Some college or higher</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Age</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>0 to 24</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>25 to 64</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>65 and older</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<td><strong>Marital Status/Children</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Female head, with children</td>
<td>31%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Married with children</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Marital Status/Workers</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Female head, no workers</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female head, at least 1 worker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Married, no workers</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Married, at least 1 worker</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Race</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>19%</td>
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<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ethnicity</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>13%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic, White</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Disability</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has a disability</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008
Family Fragmentation has far-reaching costs on a community

- Estimated annual costs of family fragmentation are nearly $2.4 billion per year in Virginia.

- Estimated annual costs of family fragmentation are just over $205 million per year in the City of Richmond.

- **BUT the LARGEST IMPACT is on our youth**
Children of single parent or divorced couples are influenced the most. These children are:

- Five-seven times more likely to live in poverty.
- Seven times more likely to experience teen pregnancy if the father is absent before age six.
- Six times more likely to suffer abuse.
- Three times more likely to fail in school.
- Two times more likely to engage in criminal behavior.
- Two times more likely to become a victim of child abuse.
- 1 ½ times more likely to experience educational, health, emotional and behavioral problems.
- 1 ½ times more likely to use drugs.

What's the big deal? Children in FATHER ABSENT homes are
The Father Absent Cycle

- Child in single parent household
- Dropout
- Pregnancy
- Drug-based Economy
- Felony
- Employer?
- Mother of his baby?
What Is the Solution???

Social Justice

Personal Responsibility
First Things First Mission: Strengthening Families for a Better Community

First Things First has three goals:

- To enhance the involvement fathers have with their children
- To reduce the number of pregnancies to single women
- To increase the number of marriages that are healthy and long-lasting

Richmond Family and Fatherhood Initiative has two goals:

- Reducing the percent of births to single mothers
- Increasing the percent of children raised in two parent households
What are we doing?

FTF

- Started in 1997 as a broad coalition of clergy incorporating as CBO in 2003
- Affiliated with First Things First in Chattanooga in 2004, a values based CBO
- Program efforts based on “research informed national best practices”
  - **Fatherhood**
    - "Boot Camp for New Dads" at 8 area hospital locations
    - "All Pro Dad" for Dads with their elementary age children
    - "Male Teen Talk" in two Richmond City high schools
    - "24/7 Dad"
    - "Inside Out Dad" in Jail / prison
    - "Celebrate Fatherhood" Awareness Events serving the Richmond Metro area around Father’s Day

Healthy Relationships/Marriage and RFFI on next slides
What are we doing?

FTF

- Healthy Relationships/ Marriage skills
  - “Relationships Smarts” serving at-risk youth
  - “It Takes Two; Keys to a Rewarding Relationship” (PREP)
  - “Within My/Our Reach” PREP for low income
  - “When Baby Makes Three” at area hospitals
  - “Pick-a-Partner” or “How to Avoid Falling for a Jerk”
  - LARGE Community Enrichment events
  - “PREPARE-ENRICH” Certification training for clergy or counselors and mobilizing congregations
  - “Celebrate Marriage” Awareness events to honor marriage and married couples
What are we doing?

RFFI
- Started in 2007, local health department initiative
- Affiliated with several community partners
- Program efforts
  - Community mobilization – primarily faith community, RFFI Institute
  - Enrichment events – Resolution project
  - Partner with Camp Diva
    - Daddy/Daughter Dance – (show this video!)
  - Partner with New Jubilee Family Life Center
    - Armstrong HS Heroes and Dreams
  - Casey Family Services Grant
  - Partner with FTF
    - “Inside Out Dads” in Jail
    - “Celebrate Fatherhood” Annual Celebration to honor dads and their families
1. **1% SOLUTION: Require at least 1% of Virginia’s TANF funds be used for Family Strengthening education:**

Several years ago we provided information that led to legislation which was approved but watered down as follows:

§ 63.2-214.1. Marriage and family programs; funding.

**Department of Social Services “may spend up to” one percent of all funds received through the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant **… to fund programs that support the development of healthy marriages and the strengthening of families.

**CHANGE TO**  “**SHALL SPEND AT LEAST 1% …**”

*Make Virginia the example for America.*

2. **Expand Commission on Youth to be Commission on Youth, Fatherhood and Families**
The 1% Solution supports the stated goals of TANF.

TANF stands for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

- The TANF program, which is time limited, assists families with children when the parents or other responsible relatives cannot provide for the family's basic needs. The Federal government provides grants to States to run the TANF program. These State TANF programs are designed to accomplish four goals:
  - to provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives;
  - to end the dependency of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage;
  - to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and establish annual numerical goals for preventing and reducing the incidence of these pregnancies; and
  - to encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

States have broad flexibility to carry out their programs.

Above copied right from TANF Web site: Italics and underline for emphasis

The 1% Solution will help Virginia accomplish the 3 goals of family strengthening above... a small cost for a GREAT outcome... Virginia could become a model for the nation through upstream prevention education!
Thank you for IMAGINING with us …

... a community with:

- Every child being raised in a home by a committed mother and father in a healthy lasting relationship working cooperatively to raise their children

- Fathers fully engaged in the upbringing of their children

This is a large task… but working together; government, non-profit agencies and faith communities can make a difference.

Questions?
Contact Us

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  - Cell: (804) 402-8004
  - bob@firstthingsrichmond.org
- LeMar Bowers, FTF Fatherhood-Urban Programs Educator
  Center for Counseling and Community Affairs
  - Work: (804) 737-3917 Ext 11
- Truin Huntley, FTF Executive Director
  - Work: (804) 288-3431 Ext 12
- 5100 Grove Ave, Richmond, VA 23226
  - www.FirstThingsRichmond.org
- Donald R. Stern, M.D., M.P.H,
  - Work: 804-205-3720
Bob Ruthazer, a Certified Family Life Educator, is the Founder and Program Director of First Things First of Greater Richmond, a non-profit “strengthening families for a better community.” He oversees educational programs for healthy relationships/marriage, fatherhood and youth relationship skills.

He is a regular presenter at the national SmartMarriages Conference and is certified instructor and trainer for many national programs including PREP, PAIRS, PREPARE-ENRICH, FOCCUS, Within My Reach, How PICK a Partner, and Boot Camp for New Dads. He also serves St. Giles Presbyterian Church as part time Family Life Educator coordinating Family Strengthening activities.

Bob and Dianne, his wife of 34 years, are passionately working to strengthen families through education, enrichment and awareness in our community.

Donald R. Stern, M.D., M.P.H. Director, Richmond City Health District, with the Virginia Department of Health since 2006. Dr. Stern has 32 years of public health experience, having worked in several roles in VDH including Acting State Health Commissioner.

Dr. Stern has been a leader in fatherhood and family issues in Richmond City and Virginia. He currently Chairs the Richmond Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, is chair of the Richmond Healthy Start Initiative (an infant mortality preventive initiative) and he is Chair of the Richmond Family and Fatherhood Initiatives (RFFI) Core Team (Board), a program that emanates from the Richmond City Health Department that is focused on reducing births to single women and increasing the percent of children being raised in two parent homes by focusing on fatherhood related issues. The vision of the RFFI is “Richmond: A City with healthy and safe families where mothers and fathers work together to raise their children”, and the mission is “Strengthening Richmond’s families through a collaborative effort to promote healthy parenting, strong relationships and fatherhood skills.”

Dr. Stern provided leadership for the Virginia Department of Health Fatherhood Campaign in the early 90s and is widely recognized as a leader and advocate for fathers & families. Dr. Stern is married to Debbie and have worked cooperatively for 32 years raising their 5 children.

LeMar A. Bowers, BA President and CEO The Center for Counseling and Community Affairs and Fatherhood & Urban Programs Instructor for First Things First of Greater Richmond

LeMar Bowers has extensive counseling and community service experience with at-risk families in the Richmond area. He has been advising First Things First and instructing many of the Fatherhood and Relationship Skills programs serving Urban and minority populations in Richmond City and surrounding communities. LeMar is married to Melanie for 12 years and they have three growing children.

WRIC TV8 Video on Male Teen Talk:
http://www.wric.com/global/Category.asp?c=190525&autoStart=true&topVideoCatNo=default&clipId=8445556#.USayC82fNk4