



Academy

Elevating Clinical Practice
In Permanency

Birth/First Fathers: Core Issues, Clinical Practice, and Beyond

Faculty: Dr. Phil Weglarz

Learning Objectives

1. Identify examples of the Seven Core Issues in birth father narratives
2. Explore therapeutic approaches to working with birth fathers and the impact of birth fathers' presence and/or absence when working with other members of the constellation
3. Formulate opportunities for engaging birth fathers in services

Timed Agenda:

Session One (2-hours): Birth Fathers & the Seven Core Issues

1. Welcome, Introduction & Review of Learning Objectives (10 mins)
2. Self-reflection: cultural attitudes and bias towards birth fathers (5 mins)
3. Overview of research involving birth fathers - What we know and do not know (15 mins)
4. Identify Seven Core Issues in case studies of contemporary birth fathers (60 mins, includes small group break outs)
5. Large group discussion of Seven Core Issues (20 mins)
6. Plan for Session Two (10 mins)

Session Two (2-hours): Clinical & Supportive Services for Birth Fathers

1. Welcome back & reflection on Session One (5 mins)
2. Self-reflection: How is birth fatherhood present in my practice? (5 mins)
3. Identify obstacles to men's participation in birth parent-directed services (5 mins)
4. Discussion with guest speaker: Men's experiences with birth parent peer support, groups, retreats, and post-placement counseling (45 mins)
5. Workshop therapeutic approaches to clinical services for birth fathers using contemporary case studies (30 mins, includes one-on-one break outs)

6. Debrief workshop in large group (15 mins)
7. Prep for Father's Day weekend: How do we acknowledge Birth/First Fatherhood? (10 mins)
8. Plan for Session Three (5 mins)

Session Three (2-hours): The Future of Research & Practice with Birth Fathers

1. Welcome back & Reflection on Father's Day weekend (5 mins)
2. Discussion with guest speaker: The future of practice and research with fathers (60 mins)
3. Workshop individual opportunities for increased engagement of birth fathers in current practice (15 mins, in dyad/triad break-outs)
4. Share feedback in large group (15 mins)
5. Develop individual action plans and method of peer support/accountability (15 mins)
6. Course wrap up & Evaluation (10 mins)