



Fatherhood
Research
& Practice
Network

www.frpn.org

**A Conversation with Researchers About New
FRPN Outcome Measures for Nonresident
Fathers
January 12, 2016**

FRPN: Key Team Members & Committees

▶ **Temple University**

- *Jay Fagan, PhD, Project Co-Director*
- *Rebecca Kaufman MSW, Senior Research Coordinator*

▶ **Center for Policy Research Denver, Colorado**

- *Jessica Pearson, PhD, Project Co-Director*
- *Nancy Thoennes, PhD, Project Consultant*

▶ **University of Pennsylvania, National Center on Fathers and Families**

- *Vivian Gadsden, Ed.D.*

▶ **The Bawmann Group, Denver, Colorado**

- *Marketing communications firm with experience developing materials and strategies to reach fathers.*

▶ **40 leading fatherhood practitioners and researchers**

- *Steering committee and workgroups dealing with economic security, responsible fatherhood, co-parenting and communications*



Overview of FRPN

- ▶ Five-year, \$4.8 million grant (#90PR0006) to Temple University & Center for Policy Research funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Oct 2013-Sept 2018.

1 Promote rigorous evaluation of fatherhood programs that serve low-income populations nationwide.

2 Provide training and technical assistance to researchers and practitioners to conduct better quality evaluations.

3 Disseminate information that leads to effective fatherhood practice and research.

- ▶ See www.frpn.org for RFPs, research briefs, measures for low-income, non-resident fathers, new research publications, list serve sign-up, electronic newsletter.
- ▶ Target broad audience of programs serving low-income fathers: OFA and non-OFA grantees, state-sponsored Fatherhood Commissions, programs linked to Head Start & Early Head Start, programs funded by states and local child support & child welfare agencies, etc.



ROUND 1

FRPN Funded Projects

- ▶ Dr. Bright Sarfo (MEF Associates) and Mr. Joseph Jones (Center for Urban Families, Baltimore, MD). An RCT of the **Developing All Dads for Manhood and Parenting** (DAD MAP) fatherhood curriculum.
- ▶ Dr. Paul Lanier (University of North Carolina) and Ms. Patricia Beier (Wayne Action Group for Economic Solvency, WAGES, Goldsboro, NC). An RCT of **Circle of Parents**.
- ▶ Dr. Jennifer Bellamy (University of Denver, School of Social Work) with Metropolitan Family Services, Chicago, IL. An augmentation of a larger RCT of **Dads Matter**, a fatherhood intervention in home visiting.
- ▶ Dr. Young-Il Kim (Baylor University, Institute for Studies of Religion) and Dr. Brenda Oyer (The Ridge Project, Inc., McClure, OH). An RCT of **TYRO Dads** fatherhood program.

ROUND 2: LETTER OF INTEREST DUE FEBRUARY 5, 2016

TYPES OF STUDIES FRPN WANTS TO FUND:

- Evaluations of fatherhood services to promote economic stability or effective parenting or co-parenting and/or ways to improve effective practice
- Studies of innovative approaches to recruit, engage and retain fathers for services or fathers and mothers for co-parenting services
- Studies that focus on low-income, never-married and non-resident fathers
- Rigorous evaluation designs, replication studies, or exploratory studies that systematically examine innovative approaches & advance fatherhood field

WHO SHOULD APPLY & HOW:

- Teams of researchers and established fatherhood programs with a track record in recruitment, retention and low attrition
- Programs w/ or w/o OFA funding based in many places (e.g., CBOs, courts, agencies, schools), but not prisons or institutions
- Submit 3-page letter of interest by 2/5/16; If selected, full proposal April 8
- Funded projects begin July 1, 2016 and last up to 24 months
- Approximately 2-4 awards of \$50,000 and 4-5 awards of \$100,000

CONTACT US

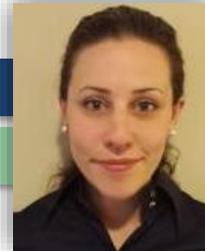


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TODAY'S SPEAKERS



Jay Fagan, Ph.D.
Temple University
FRPN Co-Director



Rebecca Kaufman, MSW
FRPN Senior Research Coordinator



Justin Dyer, Ph.D.,
Assistant Professor
School of Family Life,
Brigham Young University



Jessica Pearson, Ph.D.
Center for Policy Research
FRPN Co-Director

Creating and Validating Measures

Justin Dyer, Ph.D.



When We Say “Measure” We Mean...

A Set of Questions That Tap into Some Aspect of the Human Experience.

▶ **Father involvement**

- How often do you read with your child?
- How often do you help your child with homework?

▶ **Child Well-being**

- Is the child withdrawn?
- Is the child highly anxious?



How Should You Select Measures?

- ▶ **Where do you think your program will have an impact?**
 - Father involvement?
 - Child Well-being?
 - The father-mother relationship?
 - The father's knowledge of his child or child development?
- ▶ **Time constraints: Don't fatigue your participants. More than 15-20 minutes becomes difficult.**
- ▶ **Select measures that have been validated for your population.**



Can You Adjust a Measure?

(change wording, only use some of the items?)

- ▶ **If there are aspects of the measure that don't make sense for your population (certain questions or wording) then it is better to make a change than leave the measure as is.**
- ▶ **HOWEVER, be very cautious about this.**
 - You need to ensure the measure still has validity.
 - You will likely lose the ability to compare your results to the results of others.
- ▶ **The same goes for creating your own measure.**

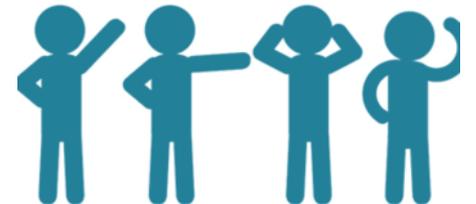
Variability in Measures

► **Some measures perform poorly because everyone responds the same.**

- How much do you love your child?
- How often do you take your child to school?



► **Examine your measures (perhaps pilot them) to ensure there are a range of responses.**



Analyzing Data



- ▶ **Critical question → Did change occur? (pre and post-test)**
 - Difference score
 - Regression controlling for prior levels
- ▶ **Did you allow sufficient time to pass for there to be an effect of the program?**
- ▶ **How long do the program effects last?**



The Need for New Fatherhood Outcome Measures

Jay Fagan, Ph.D.



Fatherhood Outcome Measures Typically Used in the Fatherhood Field



- ▶ **Father-Child Contact**
- ▶ **Engagement in Child Activities**
- ▶ **Responsibility**
- ▶ **Knowledge of Child Development**
- ▶ **Parenting Satisfaction and Self-Efficacy**
- ▶ **Co-Parenting**
- ▶ **Mother-Father Relationship Quality**
- ▶ **Child Support Payment**
- ▶ **Employment**



Current Measures Are Inappropriate for Unmarried Fathers

- ▶ **Current measures of father involvement with children typically include response choices that apply to fathers who see their children on a daily basis.**

Low income nonresident fathers often see their children several times per month or less.

- ▶ **Current measures of father involvement focus on children within a specific and limited age range (e.g., infants, preschoolers).**

Many fatherhood programs serve fathers with children across the developmental spectrum.



Current Measures of Co-Parenting Are Inappropriate

- ▶ **Although the co-parenting domains (e.g., support, co-parenting alliance) are the same for residential and nonresidential parents, the behaviors in these constructs are not always the same.**



For example, regarding gatekeeping, the fathers in our study reported that mothers sometimes did not allow the child to see the father. This gatekeeping behavior is unlikely to occur among co-residential parents.

Consequences of Using Inappropriate Measures

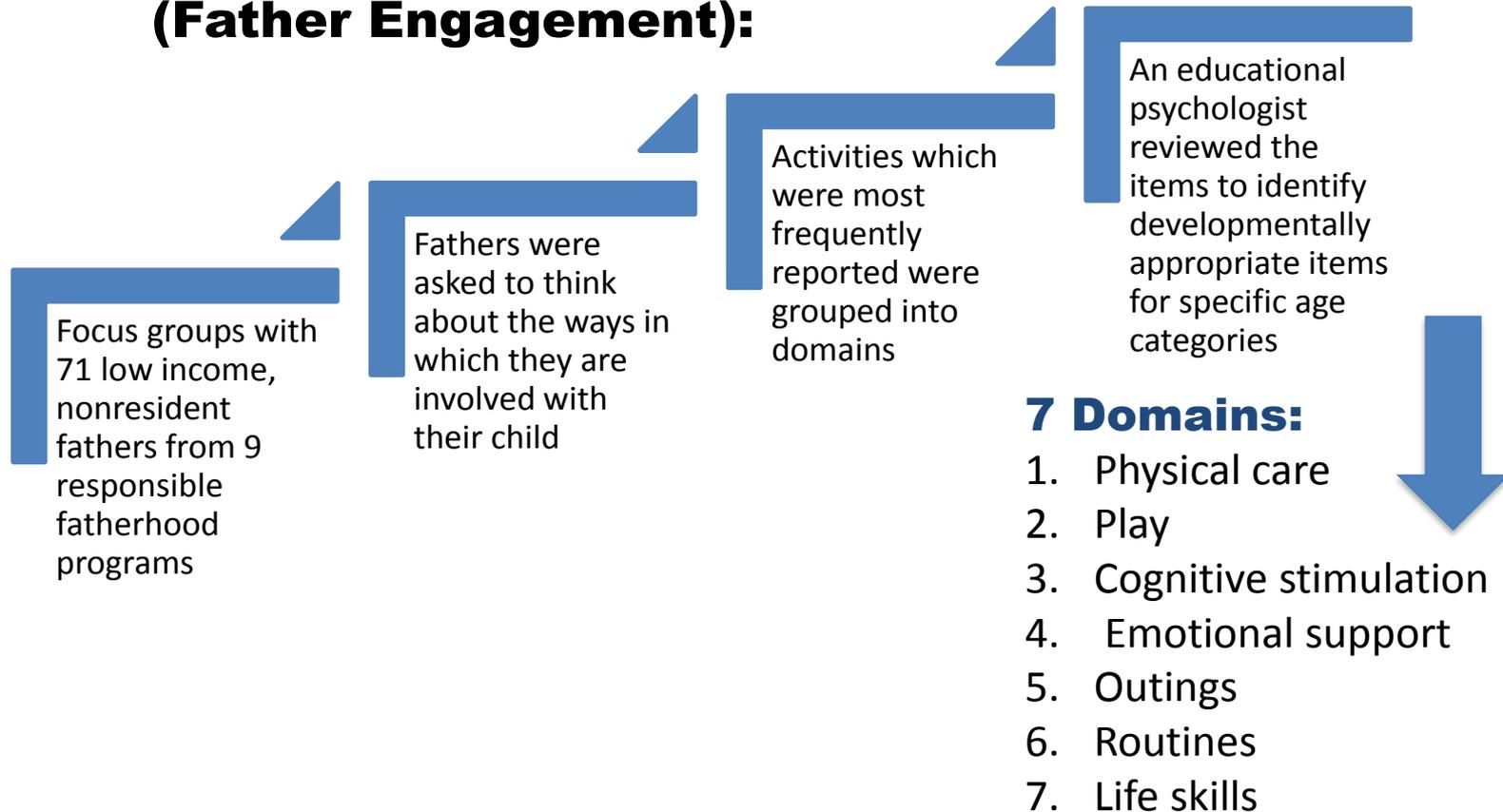
- ▶ **Inappropriate measures may not be sufficiently sensitive to detect changes in behavior or attitudes among fathers attending fatherhood programs.**
- ▶ **The researcher/program may not be able to say what they are measuring with precision. Validation helps to ensure that a measure assesses what it proposes to measure.**

For example, in our development of a measure of engagement we found that the play items were part of physical care for children. They did not function as a separate measure of “play.”



Development of the FRPN Measures

► Exploratory Phase of Measurement Development (Father Engagement):





Validation Study

We validated our new measures with 640 fathers: 216 were from fatherhood programs and 424 fathers were from high poverty neighborhoods. Fathers recruited from the community were approached in various neighborhood locations including grocery stores, barber shops, and churches.

In order to qualify for participation in the study, fathers were required to (1) be at least 18 years of age and (2) have at least one non-residential, biological child between the ages of one month and less than 21 years old.

FRPN Measures

► Validation studies have led to the development of new measures that are available on the FRPN website. **(Follow the link on the home page www.frpn.org)**

FRPN Research Measure & Video: Measuring Fathers' Decision Making Responsibility

Oct 2015 | Ethan Levine and Jay Fagan

FRPN Research Measure & Video: Measuring Fathers' Challenges

Jul 2015 | George James and Rebecca Kaufman

FRPN Research Measure & Video: Measuring Father-Child

Jun 2015 | Jay Fagan and Rebecca Kaufman

FRPN Research Measure: Fathers' Engagement

Nov 2015 | Justin Dyer, Rebecca Kaufman, Natasha Cabrera, Jay Fagan and Jessica Pearson



Administering Fatherhood Outcome Measures

Rebecca Kaufman, MSW



Administering New Fatherhood Outcome Measures

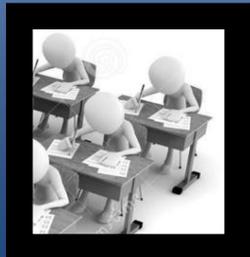
Strategies for Administering Surveys



Staff-administered



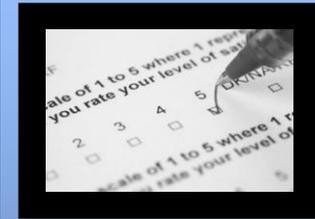
Self-administered



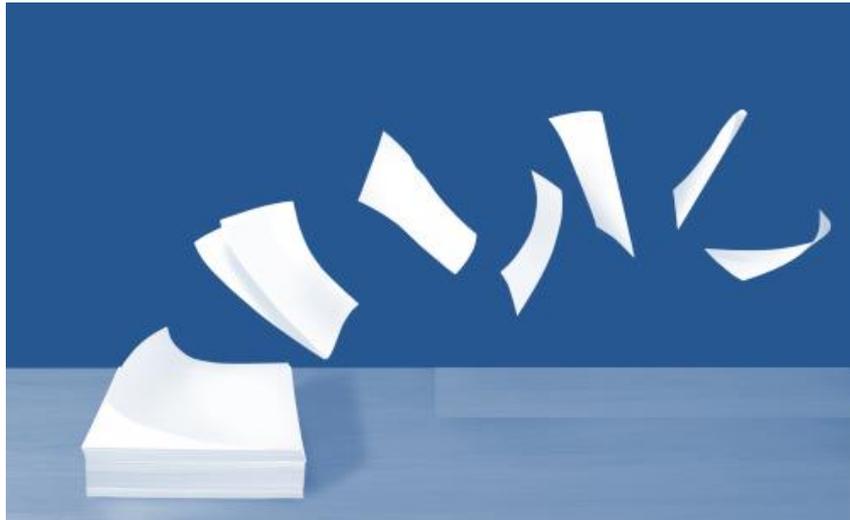
Telephone

Group Format

Computer Program



Administering New Fatherhood Outcome Measures



Frequency of Survey Administration

Once?

More Than Once?



Administering New Fatherhood Outcome Measures

Follow-up Telephone Calls



Preparation

Collect contact information

Update contact information

Train staff person

Develop telephone script

Execution

Multiple call attempts



Questions for the Panel?



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