

Fathering Court

Uniting Fathers and their Children

Presentation by:
National Center for Fathering
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The Problem

- 40% of America's children—25 million children—live in homes without their fathers
- The negative consequences are devastating to children:
 - Poverty
 - Teen Pregnancy
 - Dropping out of school
 - Crime
 - Depression
 - Suicide
- The Child Support System often *disconnects* children from their fathers—through prosecution, fines and incarceration

A Proven Solution—Fathering Court

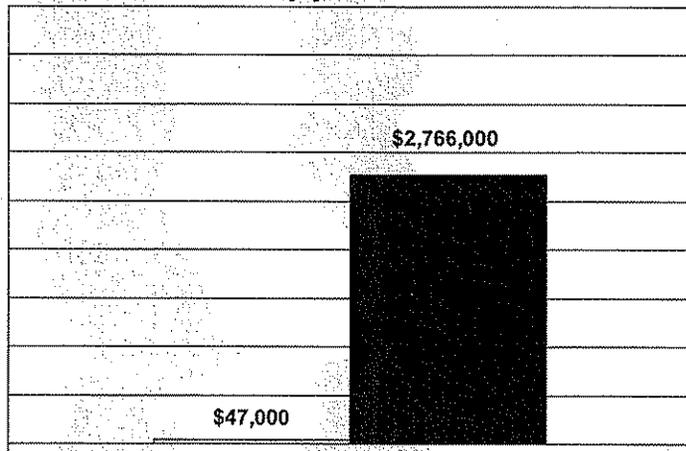
- Fathering Court—how it works:
 - Dads who are in arrears in their Child Support have their prosecution deferred while they participate in Fathering Court
 - A court-assigned case manager develops and monitors the fulfillment of an action plan that helps the dad become a responsible father and a fully-contributing member of society
 - A 12-week fathering class, *Quenching the Father Thirst*, equips the dad to become the involved and effective father his child needs
 - The dad “graduates” when the action plan is fulfilled; the prosecution is dropped

A Proven Solution—Fathering Court

- Results of the Kansas City experience:
 - 429 fathers enrolled, 198 Active cases, 87 graduates
 - Significant and lasting behavior change by dads for the benefit of their children
 - Physical reconnection:
 - 43% → 69% of dads with “regular contact”
 - Emotional reconnection:
 - 74% → 100% of dads “talk to my child a lot”
 - 68% → 100% of dads “talk to my child’s mom about child”

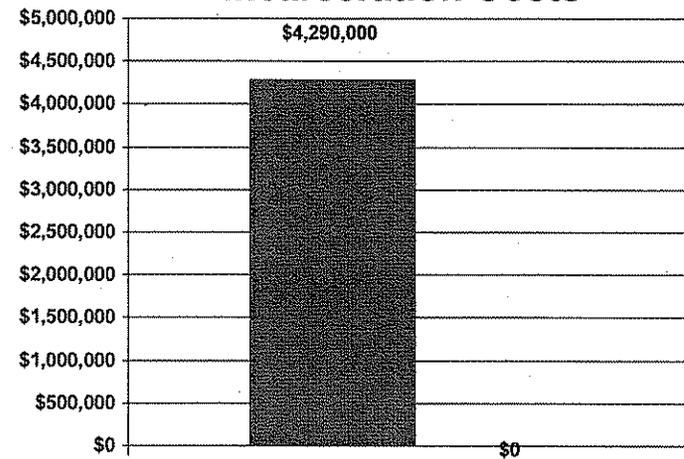
A Proven Solution—Fathering Court

Child Support Collections



■ Amount Collected Prior to Entry
■ Amount Collected from 429 Participants from March 1998 to September 2008

Incarceration Costs



■ Without Fathering Court - 6 months @ \$10,000
■ With Fathering Court - No Incarceration Costs

A Proven Solution—Fathering Court

- Total financial impact:
 - Child Support Payments + Incarceration Savings

\$7,056,000!

A Proven Solution—Fathering Court

Fathering Court—Keys to Success

- Committed Judge and Prosecutor
- Effective Case Manager
- Readily Accessible Support Services:
substance abuse, job training, education,
housing, transportation, child advocacy,
healthcare
- Proven Fathering Curriculum and Certified
Instructor

Contact Information

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