



***Heart of a Father,
Strength of a Man***

March 18 - 20, 2026
Mystic Marriott Hotel and Spa
625 North Road
Groton, Connecticut

The 26th Annual NEFC

Heart of a Father, Strength of a Man

Fatherhood has changed over the past few decades as society embraces new roles and expectations for fathers. This year's conference theme, "Heart of a Father, Strength of a Man", highlights the dual nature of fatherhood: the emotional depth and nurturing aspect of a father's love alongside the protective and guiding strength he provides. Strength is more than physical ability, with inner strength being just as vital while navigating relationships, especially with children. "Fathering with heart" embodies love, hope, resilience, and the determination to face challenges or take risks as a parent. These qualities motivate fathers and their families to overcome adversity or pursue goals, and we all, as part of the broader community, benefit from this perseverance. This multi-day educational event for professionals brings together human service providers, social workers, health professionals, educators, program directors, government representatives, family advocates, and fathers in programming across the region, offering the opportunity to learn, share information and experiences, and network within and across states. The conference features a diverse array of talented speakers and presenters who will inspire and challenge us!

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

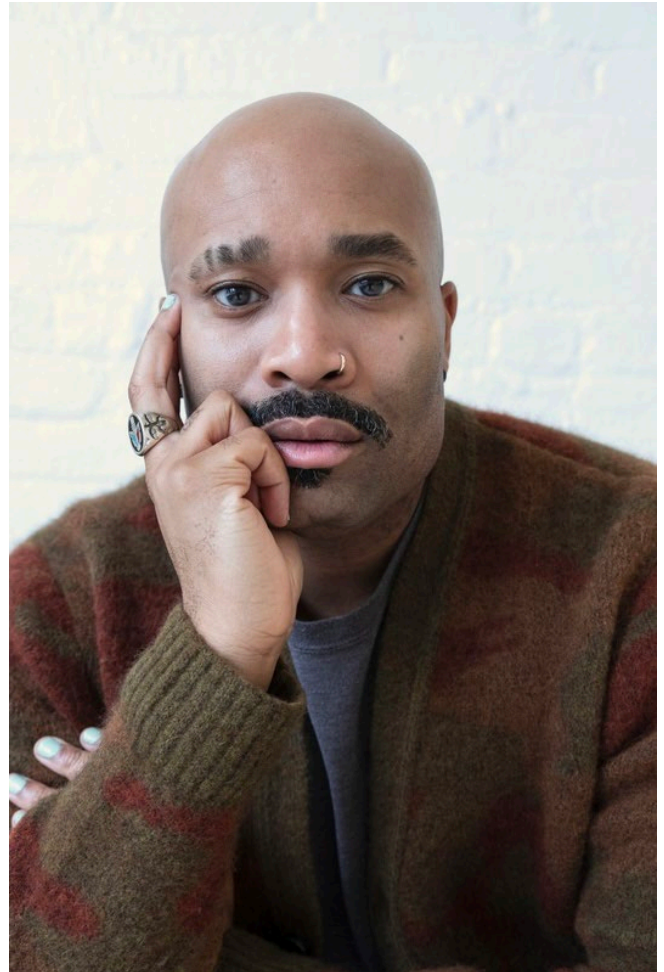
JOÉL LEON

Joél Leon, author of the 2025 Gotham Book Prize-nominated "Everything and Nothing At Once: A Black Man's Reimagined Soundtrack For the Future" is a Bronx-born girl dad, poet, performer and cultural critic who writes and tells stories for Black people.

His TED talk on co-parenting has over 1.6M views, and his work has been featured in the New York Times, The Boston Globe, ABC NEWS, and others.

He is a Creative Collective NYC Creative Class alumni, winner of the BCA Bronx Recognizes Its Own Award in Poetry, member of the Top 50 Waymaker Class of 2025 and author "Things I Will Tell My Daughter", and "God Wears Durags, Too" (Bottlecap Press).

He is currently a Creative Director at the New York Times' T Brand Studios. Joél is currently repped by Folio Literary.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Thursday, March 19, 2026

INGRID CANADY

Dr. Ingrid M. Canady is the leader of both an agency and a movement. Since joining the State Education Resource center (SERC) as a member of the consulting team more than 22 years ago, she became passionately engaged in the agency's intentional and strategic journey on examining the hidden realities of institutionalized racism and its impact in today's classrooms. As SERC Executive Director since 2016, Ingrid has become the face of SERC's mission to ensure an equitable and accessible education for all of Connecticut's students.

Her numerous accolades include receiving the Courageous Conversation's Asa G. Hilliard Award for Outstanding Achievement in Racial Equity, the CT Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents' Equity Champion Award, CT Parent Power's Educational Equity Leadership Hero Award, YWCA New Britain Women in Leadership Award, and being inducted into the Carol R. Virostek Academy of Women Leaders, among many others.



Ingrid migrated to the United States from Costa Rica in 1989 and became a U.S. citizen in 1997. Her educational journey began as a Head Start educator in the City of Waterbury, and she graduated from Northwestern Connecticut Community College with an associate's degree in early childhood education. She earned her bachelor's, master's, and sixth-year Educational Leadership degree from Central Connecticut State University and her doctoral degree in Leadership and Learning in Organizations from Vanderbilt University: Peabody College. Ingrid is an avid long-distance runner, enjoys weekends at home with her husband Kevin, and, as often as possible, traveling to visit their grandchildren Kai and Ava.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Friday, March 20, 2026

JOSEPH GIDJUNIS

Joseph Gidjunis is the Director, Producer and Host of the PBS Docuseries *Grown Up Dad*. He is an award-winning journalist, director and entrepreneur. He started as a newspaper reporter covering complex stories and politics for regional and national papers including USA Today. For 20 years, he's led his production studio, becoming known for photographing celebrities, CEOs, and politicians. Some of his most notable work was documenting Pope Francis on his visit to the United States in 2015. He directed commercial films earning 14 Telly awards in 2020, 2021 and 2025. He is also a union set photographer in IATSE 600 and has served as a producer on the feature film, *Brave the Dark*. He is married to his wonderful wife, Rebecca, and they have a 9-year-old son, Gabe, and a dog, Max.



SPECIAL CONFERENCE FEATURES

Networking Hour

The NEFC regards fellowship as a critical part of the conference experience. **From 4:30-5:30pm on Wednesday, March 18**, enjoy snacks and beverages together with other conference attendees and presenters from New England and beyond in the Marriott Ballroom.

Dads' Stories

Dads from across New England will talk about their involvement with, and commitment to, their children ... a wonderful opportunity to hear directly from dads on Day 1 and Day 2!

Resource Hall

In the NEFC Resource Hall throughout the two and a half days, shop the selection of books on fathering and family development as well as children's books with dad-friendly themes and free information and materials about programs and services offered by agencies throughout New England and at the national level.

Door Prizes

Throughout the two and a half days, attendees will have the opportunity to win cool stuff!

NEFC Iron Dad Competition



The Planning Committee is thrilled to offer this exciting competition on the final day of our 2026 conference! The NEFC Iron Dad will be led by Friday's Keynote Speaker, Joe Gidjunis, immediately following his address. Dad dyads will compete for the title as the rest of our attendees participate in activities to help them earn points toward their total score - and also for the chance to win prizes themselves throughout the competition!

Important Information

Conference Attire

NEFC is a professional conference. Attendees' attire varies between "business" (suit, tie, dress shirt, dress, dress with jacket), "business casual" (sport coat/blazer, dress shirt/polo shirt, dress pants, skirts, dressy tops) and "casual" (khakis/nice jeans, sweaters/polo shirts, button-down shirts, blouses - comfortable, yet clean and professional). Since the temperature throughout the hotel may vary, wearing layers is suggested. It is March in New England, so be prepared for potential chilly weather outside the hotel walls as well!

Explore the Area

Ask the hotel staff at the front desk about local options for dining and entertainment to help you enjoy the Groton/Mystic area.

NEFC Frequently Asked Questions

Please review answers to frequently asked questions available on the NEFC website, to be fully prepared to enjoy the NEFC experience!



Hotel Room Reservations

The Conference will take place at the beautiful **Mystic Marriott Hotel and Spa**, located at 625 North Road, Groton, Connecticut.

A block of rooms has been reserved for March 18 - 21 under the name "New England Fathering Conference."

NEFC room rates are \$119.00/night + 15% tax.

Conference attendees are responsible for booking and paying for their own room reservations.



Please contact the hotel directly at **1-860-446-2600** to make your reservations by phone. **Be sure to mention that you would like a room under the "New England Fathering Conference" block.**

Room reservations can also be made online by clicking the link provided on the New England Fathering Conference (NEFC) website: www.nefatheringconference.org

The deadline for room reservations at the NEFC rate is Friday, February 20, 2026.



Conference Registration

PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE AT www.nefatheringconference.org

ALL ATTENDEES MUST REGISTER ONLINE

PAYMENT MUST BE MADE BY CREDIT CARD AT TIME OF REGISTRATION

**REGISTRATION OPENS MONDAY, JANUARY 5 AT 7:30AM
AND CLOSSES FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2026 AT 5:00PM
OR WHEN THE NEFC REACHES EVENT CAPACITY**

ALL FEES ARE NONREFUNDABLE

REGISTRATION CATEGORIES

<u>Agency Staff:</u>	A person attending on behalf of their federal/state/nonprofit/for-profit agency
<u>Individual:</u>	A person attending who is not representing a particular agency
<u>Student:</u>	A person currently enrolled as a college, graduate or postgraduate student. <i>A current .edu email address must be provided at time of registration, and a valid student photo ID is required at check-in.</i>
<u>Program Dad:</u>	A person currently participating in/who has recently completed parenting/fatherhood programming. The agency offering the fatherhood programming sponsors attendance and pays all fees. Agency staff must accompany their program dads. The discounted rate will be offered to up to 75 registered Program Dads. <u>PLEASE NOTE:</u> If the NEFC determines that the registered person does not meet this description, the registration is not valid. The person for whom the ticket was purchased will not be admitted to the event and no refund will be given.

REGISTRATION FEES

- Each registration fee paid provides a ticket for one person for the full event
- Tickets may not be shared by multiple individuals
- Fee includes breakfast and lunch on full event days, and breakfast on the final day
- All fees must be paid online at time of registration.

Agency Staff: \$450.00

Individual: \$450.00

Student: \$225.00 (See description with requirements above)

Program Dad: \$225.00 (See description with requirements above)

REPLACING A REGISTRANT

An agency may replace the person assigned to a particular ticket if that person is no longer able to attend. However, the replacement attendee must be in the same registration category as defined above, or a category with a higher fee. No refunds or partial refunds will be given. The replacement attendee may only attend on the dates that the first registrant planned to attend. The form to complete the replacement is available on the NEFC website along with answers to frequently asked questions.



Conference Registration

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 20, 2026 AT 5:00PM
OR WHEN THE NEFC REACHES EVENT CAPACITY**

ALL FEES ARE NONREFUNDABLE

NEED APPROVAL FROM YOUR AGENCY TO ATTEND?

If you are an individual registering and attending in your professional role as an agency staff, you must note during registration that your agency has approved you to attend. **The NEFC Planning Committee will not reimburse individuals who pay with their personal credit card and have not confirmed approval to attend from their agency.**

NEED TO REGISTER A GROUP OF STAFF AND/OR PROGRAM DADS?

An agency representative may register up to 10 individuals under each Eventbrite order. To help those who are coordinating registration of a group, the NEFC Planning Committee has created a form outlining the required information for each person to be registered. The form is available on the NEFC website. You can download this form and collect information from each member of staff and/or program dad, so you have everything you need when you enter the Eventbrite system to complete your group registration and pay by credit card.

www.nefatheringconference.org

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS (CECs) FOR LICENSED SOCIAL WORKERS:

An application for Continuing Education Credit Hours (CECs) has been submitted for approval through the CT Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW/CT). **There is an additional non-refundable fee of \$25.00 if you wish to receive CECs. When you begin the registration process by choosing your ticket type, if you wish to receive CECs please choose the "NASW CEC Fee" option to add the fee to your order. You must also check the CEC box when entering attendee details in the order form and enter your professional license number.**

Payment for CECs must be made at the time of registration.

Questions about Registration?

Please review answers to registration frequently asked questions on the NEFC website.

ACCESSIBILITY/ACCOMMODATIONS:

The NEFC Planning Committee will do our best to fulfill requests for reasonable accommodations. Please note individual needs (accessibility requirements, etc.) when you register.

If you require an interpreter for the hearing impaired, please email your request to info@nefatheringconference.org by Friday, January 16, 2026. NEFC may not be able to fulfill requests made after this date.



Conference Schedule At-A-Glance

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

5:00pm – 7:00pm Early Check-in

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

7:30am Check-in/Breakfast
8:15am Welcome/Acknowledgements
8:45am Opening Remarks
9:15am **Keynote Speaker: Joél Leon**
10:00am Questions/Discussion
10:15am *Find Your Workshop!*
10:30am **Session A Workshops**
12:30pm Lunch
1:45pm **Dads' Stories**
2:15pm *Find Your Workshop!*
2:30pm **Session B Workshops**
4:30pm **Networking Hour in the Marriott Ballroom**
5:30pm Day One Ends

Thursday, March 19, 2026

7:30am Check-in/Breakfast
8:00am Welcome/Acknowledgements
8:15am Opening Remarks
8:45am **Dads' Stories**
9:15am **Keynote Speaker: Ingrid Canady**
10:00am Questions/Discussion
10:15am *Find Your Workshop!*
10:30am **Session C Workshops**
12:30pm Lunch
1:45pm **Dads' Stories**
2:15pm *Find Your Workshop!*
2:30pm **Session D Workshops**
4:30pm Day Two Ends

Friday, March 20, 2026

7:30am Check-in/Breakfast
8:00am Welcome/Acknowledgements
8:15am **Keynote Speaker: Joseph Gidjunis**
9:00am Questions/Discussion
9:15am *Break*
9:30am **NEFC IRON DAD Competition**
11:30am Conference Ends



Workshops

NEFC asks presenters to tell us their target audience in case people are having a hard time choosing and want to attend a session that is focused on their work or parental role or both! Presenters choose from: direct service providers, supervisors, or fathers/family men. The target audience is listed under “who should attend” for each workshop below. Workshops are subject to change.

NOTE: the following is for informational purposes only; no pre-selection of workshops is required or available.

Workshops: Session A

Wednesday, March 18, 2026 10:30am – 12:30pm

TITLE: *The Present of Being Present*

DESCRIPTION: Over the course of two hours, we'll walk our fathers through some practical ways to be more grounded, more intentional, and more present for their families and communities.

PRESENTER: Joél Leon

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: FATHERS/FAMILY MEN

TITLE: *Fatherhood Manologues Workshop*

DESCRIPTION: The Fatherhood Manologues is an exhilarating collection of short stories about fatherhood. This workshop will feature a couple of the Fatherhood Manologues cast members who will perform and then work with the participants to craft their own Fatherhood Manologues.

PRESENTER: Abdul-Rahmaan I. Muhammad

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: AGENCY STAFF/PROVIDERS

TITLE: *The Whole Father: Building Strength Inside and Out*

DESCRIPTION: This session explores the mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual health of fathers. This session highlights practical strategies for balance, resilience, and growth, equipping fathers to thrive personally and within their families while fostering stronger, healthier communities.

PRESENTER: Mario Immanuel

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: FATHERS/FAMILY MEN

TITLE: *Power of Collaboration: the Journey of the Cambridge Dads Program*

DESCRIPTION: Cambridge Dads is a partnership of programs with the goal of supporting fathers in our community. In this interactive workshop we share lessons learned from our journey and will engage participants in thinking about ways they can collaborate in their own communities to create or expand their fatherhood initiatives.

PRESENTERS: Shawn Proctor and James Normil

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: AGENCY STAFF/PROVIDERS

TITLE: *Fatherhood, Family, and Community - Building Stronger Bonds*

DESCRIPTION: Providing fathers and family men with practical tools, insights, and inspiration to strengthen their family bonds and positively impact their communities, this interactive workshop focuses on leadership, emotional availability, community involvement, and personal well-being.

PRESENTER: Anthony I. Lawson

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: FATHERS/FAMILY MEN



Workshops: Session A (cont.)

Wednesday, March 18, 2026 10:30am – 12:30pm

TITLE: *From Cycles to Legacies: Fathers Shaping the Future Through Mental Wellness*

DESCRIPTION: Attendees will gain insight into the impact of mental health on fathers and families while practicing hands-on methods for self-care, breaking cycles, and nurturing connections. This interactive workshop provides tools, strategies, and resources to empower fathers and those who support them, with a focus on lasting legacies.

PRESENTER: Jennifer Byrd

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: ALL

TITLE: *The CLICC Parenting Program: Strengthening Families Separated by Incarceration*

DESCRIPTION: Incarceration traumatizes the parent-child bond. Learn how the *Connecting Through Literacy: Incarcerated Parents, Their Children, and Caregivers* (CLICC) program empowers incarcerated parents to heal these critical connections through a unique, literacy-based mentoring model. Parents gain tangible skills in emotional regulation and restorative communication, learning to rebuild their families and interrupt cycles of intergenerational trauma and incarceration.

PRESENTERS: Aaron Weintraub and Dawn Poindexter

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: ALL

TITLE: *Healthy Daddy, Healthy Family*

DESCRIPTION: Discover practical tools and proven strategies from the National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse to strengthen fathers and families. This engaging workshop equips participants with resources, insights, and community connections to support responsible fatherhood and healthy relationships; while offering actionable steps you can implement immediately to make lasting impact.

PRESENTER: James Worthly

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: AGENCY STAFF/PROVIDERS

*** WORKSHOPS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE ***

Workshops: Session B

Wednesday, March 18, 2026 2:30pm – 4:30pm

TITLE: *The Fight for Manhood: Building Strength and Leaving a Legacy*

DESCRIPTION: Fathers face challenges of misunderstood manhood, low self-esteem, and systemic barriers that hinder engagement. This interactive workshop explores those struggles while guiding fathers and father engagement workers to create a Legacy Blueprint of values, traditions, and action steps. Participants leave equipped with resilience, peer support, and a renewed vision for fatherhood and legacy.

PRESENTER: Joseph A. Johnson

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: ALL



Workshops: Session B (continued)
Wednesday, March 18, 2026 2:30pm – 4:30pm

TITLE: *Fathers and Domestic Violence*

DESCRIPTION: In this workshop you will learn the distorted beliefs and characteristics of men who use violence at home, and practice implications when assessing fathers and the risks to their children. Participants will take away engagement skills that support fathers in stopping domestic violence.

PRESENTER: **Jeffrey Trahant**

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: AGENCY STAFF/PROVIDERS

TITLE: *Engaging Fathers in School Advocacy*

DESCRIPTION: Fathers often feel overlooked in school-family partnerships, yet their involvement can significantly influence outcomes for children. Barriers to the involvement of fathers include cultural norms, work schedules and experiences of exclusion by schools. Engaging fathers helps broaden perspectives, strengthens advocacy efforts, and models of shared responsibility in supporting children's academic success.

PRESENTERS: **Mary-Beth Landy and Elaine Arsenault**

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: ALL

TITLE: *Being Present: Make the Most of Court-Approved Parenting Time*

DESCRIPTION: Many times, court-approved parent-child "visits" don't give the noncustodial parent much time to plan activities to do with their child to make the most of their time together. This workshop will help providers and dads learn appropriate activities to do in their visits to foster love and build a bond with their child.

PRESENTERS: **Hyacintha Bernard and Stanley N. Bernard**

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: ALL

TITLE: *What Should I Say? Talking to Kids About Substance Use*

DESCRIPTION: An active, experiential workshop that will provide practical tools for diving into conversations with youth about substance use and mental health. Will include data on youth use in New England, the media's portrayal of substance use, and discussion ideas for immediate use by parents and caring adults.

PRESENTERS: **Denique Weidema-Lewis and Kelley Edwards**

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: ALL

TITLE: *Using Fun as a Tool for Learning*

DESCRIPTION: In this interactive workshop, participants will learn ways to help children develop and hit their milestones as they grow through fun! The presenter will share approaches to help fathers connect one-on-one, understand when to use play and how to connect with their own inner child.

PRESENTER: **Nicholas Morrett**

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: ALL

Workshops: Session B (continued)

Wednesday, March 18, 2026 2:30pm – 4:30pm

TITLE: *Steady Hands, Strong Hearts: Fathering Neurodiverse Children*

DESCRIPTION: Being a dad to a neurodiverse child takes courage, patience, and a heart that never quits. This workshop celebrates fathers who rise to the challenge, offering powerful insights, hands-on strategies and brotherhood with other dads. Walk away empowered and discover the strength of manhood in raising your amazing neurodiverse kid.

PRESENTERS: Dr. Haley Scott-DeClerck and Jennifer Wilder

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: ALL

TITLE: *Father 2 Father-Peer Mentorship to Leadership*

DESCRIPTION: Father 2 Father is a peer lead Circle of Parents leadership group in Rhode Island. Presenters will share the program's design through discussion and exercises. Elements include recruitment, mentorship, leadership development, active listening, culture, wellness, and belonging. Presenters will share successful outcomes with fathers leading state policy/practice changes and how workshop participants might replicate a similar model in their own states.

PRESENTERS: Christian Núñez and Shaun Bramble

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: ALL

*** WORKSHOPS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE ***

Workshops: Session C

Thursday, March 19, 2026 10:30am – 12:30pm

TITLE: *Heart of a Father, Strength of a Man: Our Commitment to Keep the Heart Beating*

DESCRIPTION: As Latina women, we often carry the echoes of our fathers' sacrifices—their strength, their love, and their unwavering commitment to family and community. This session is a celebration of that legacy: the heart that nurtures and the strength that protects. Through storytelling and reflection, we will explore how these values shape our identity, leadership, and resilience.

PRESENTER: Ingrid Canady

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: ALL

TITLE: *Resolving Our Unresolved Conflicts that Trigger Us*

DESCRIPTION: A trigger is any word, person, or experience that sets off an immediate emotional reaction; a reflex over which we have no control. The reaction can be brief or of long duration. Often it is excessive, meaning it is more intense than what is warranted. Our triggers are the clue into our unresolved conflicts. This session examines our triggers that lead to fear, anger and sadness in a way that will not escalate to anxiety, rage and grief.

PRESENTER: Jeanine K. Fitzgerald

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: FATHERS/FAMILY MEN



Workshops: Session C (continued)

Thursday, March 19, 2026 10:30am – 12:30pm

TITLE: *Dear Daughter, I Love You Because...*

DESCRIPTION: Participants will take an interactive journey through parenting with the author of “I Love You Because...” Using the book as a guide, participants will leave with strategies they can use to begin to build or further develop healthy relationships with their daughters, nieces, cousins, etc.

PRESENTER: **Latasha Easterling-Turnquest**

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: ALL

TITLE: *Dad Guild: Building a Fatherhood Community*

DESCRIPTION: In seven years, Dad Guild has gone from a small group of dads looking for community to a network of 2,000+ fathers and masculine-identifying caregivers across the state of Vermont. Come learn about how Dad Guild has been successful at building a robust fatherhood community and what is needed to bring it to your state!

PRESENTERS: **Keegan Albaugh and Marlon Fisher**

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: ALL

TITLE: *Engaging the Heart of a Father*

DESCRIPTION: This workshop empowers participants to recognize the vital role of fathers, build cultural competency to engage diverse families, and apply practical strategies to boost father involvement. Through insightful learning and actionable tools, attendees will strengthen family relationships and support positive child outcomes across varied cultural and community contexts.

PRESENTER: **Nick Corsi**

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: ALL

TITLE: *Effective Father Engagement: Going Beyond the Basics*

DESCRIPTION: Effective father engagement remains a persistent challenge social service sector and the courts; this session responds to a need to go beyond the basics, or “check the box” father engagement practices, to cultivate a truly father-inclusive culture and meaningfully engage fathers. Lecturettes, group discussions, role plays, and audio-visual resources will take a deep dive into the history of child welfare, individual bias, masculinity/sexuality and outdated fatherhood roles.

PRESENTER: **Alan-Michael Graves**

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: ALL

TITLE: *Healing from Trauma: the Strength of Families and Communities*

DESCRIPTION: A trauma-informed approach designed to help families and communities affected by trauma; identify our experiences, challenges and develop the skills that lead to healing. If we could habitually offer support to each other, and a shared environment for healing; could cycles of trauma be prevented?

PRESENTER: **Tara Register Curry**

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: ALL

TITLE: *The Legacy Blueprint: Equipping Fathers to Lead and Love*

DESCRIPTION: Discover The Legacy Blueprint, a hands-on framework that helps fathers and advocates build strong foundations, healthy relationships, and generational legacy. Through interactive activities, participants will design practical strategies for engagement, discipline, and leadership equipping fathers to lead with strength and love.

PRESENTER: **Malik Champlain**

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: ALL



Workshops: Session D

Thursday, March 19, 2026 2:30pm – 4:30pm

TITLE: *Triggered Life, A Fatherhood Discussion; Relationships, Resilience after Trauma*

DESCRIPTION: This workshop is an innovative intimate learning experience about trauma.

Triggered Life will help providers and fathers understand the impact of abuse on men and boys. Fathers will be able to name vulnerability which is important to engage in relationships and move from surviving to thriving as parents.

PRESENTERS: Keith Mascoll and Roxann Mascoll

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: ALL

TITLE: *Parents Living Apart - Brainstorming Conflict*

DESCRIPTION: Parent Help case managers will explore the dynamics of unhealthy, chronic parental conflict. The participants will then work in groups, reviewing several scenarios involving confrontations and brainstorming ways that each situation might move from unproductive to healthy approaches to the conflict.

PRESENTERS: Shari Doherty and Aaron Ivchenko

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: AGENCY STAFF/PROVIDERS

TITLE: *Heart-Centered Design: Empathy Mapping to Boost Father Engagement*

DESCRIPTION: Discover how empathy mapping can boost father satisfaction and retention. In this interactive session groups role-play real scenarios, reflect on the fathers' experiences, and visualize the holistic insights. Participants will map existing community resources and identify gaps — helping you better understand and effectively meet the needs of your fathers today.

PRESENTERS: Beth Flores and Leah Clemenson

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: ALL

TITLE: *Writing with a Father's Strength and Heart*

DESCRIPTION: This workshop provides a welcoming space for fathers, mothers, and families to share letters and personal stories. Together, participants explore writing as a pathway to healing, unity, and connection, fostering stronger bonds that transcend challenges and strengthen relationships across generations.

PRESENTERS: Troy Ellison and Kwasi Ntem-Mensah

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: ALL

TITLE: *Closing Space: Bridging the Gap between Incarcerated Fathers and Staff*

DESCRIPTION: A mix of lecture and interactive discussion, exercises, and take-home materials. We will focus primarily on facilitation skills, fostering authenticity, and building group community. Topics include how to set group rules, appropriate boundaries, set realistic expectations of engagement, and reciprocity between facilitators and group members.

PRESENTER: Hannah Collier

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: AGENCY STAFF/PROVIDERS

TITLE: *Not a Wuss, Not a Bully: Real Manhood Insights*

DESCRIPTION: What do you need to discuss with our groups? We need to be strong; we don't want to be weak. We struggle with vulnerability. Culture, community, and family have expectations. Our brains tell us one thing; our hearts tell us another. What do our families and kids need from us?

PRESENTER: Doug Edwards

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: ALL



Workshops: Session D (continued)
Thursday, March 19, 2026 2:30pm - 4:30pm

TITLE: *Equipping Fathers for Legal Challenges: Skills, Support & Success*

DESCRIPTION: This session highlights a six-week model that equips fathers with life skills, fatherhood skills, and social-emotional growth while guiding them through legal challenges like legitimation and child support. Practitioners will gain tools to help fathers build confidence, resilience, and positive outcomes in their families and communities.

PRESENTER: **Javin Foreman and Rodney Kellum**

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: ALL

TITLE: *Introduction to Human Trafficking*

DESCRIPTION: Many parents and those who work with them may have heard of human trafficking but not fully understand all that it involves. Come learn about sextortion, how to identify people at risk of and/or confirmed survivors of sex and labor trafficking, and how to report suspected incidents of human trafficking.

PRESENTERS: **Stephanie Zanker-Rivera and Lisa Zurolo**

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: ALL

*** **WORKSHOPS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE** ***