



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Family Assistance

Working with Fathers from the Hip-Hop Culture

April 28, 2009 2pm – 3:45pm EST

Moderator:

Nigel Vann: NRFC Director of Training & Technical Assistance

Presenters:

P. Thandi Hicks Harper, Ph.D., President, Youth Popular Culture Institute, Inc., Clinton, MD

Brian Gullins, Coordinator for Male Responsibility, Richmond City Health District, Richmond, VA

Carol F. Burton, LMSW, Executive Director, Centerforce, San Rafael, CA (OFA grantee)

Ron Clark, Director, Community Based Programming, National Fatherhood Initiative





National Partnership for Community Leadership Dr. Jeffrey Johnson, President & CEO

11th Annual International Fatherhood Conference

- "Maximizing Father Engagement, Celebrating 100 Years of Father's Day in America"
- June 16-19, 2009
- Baltimore, MD
- For Details Visit www.fatherhoodconference.com
- Or call: (888) 775-6725

Responsible Fatherhood Rally

- Saturday, June 20th, 2009
- Washington, DC & Regionally
- For Details Visit www.npclstrongfamilies.com

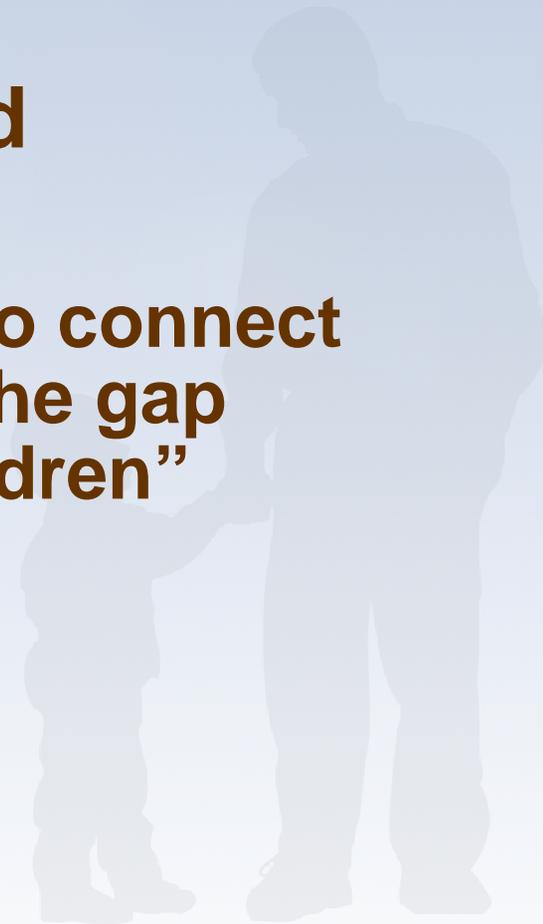




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Hip-Hop & Fatherhood

“Using Hip-Hop culture to connect with fathers and bridge the gap between fathers and children”





As a result of this presentation you will be able to:

1. Discuss the historical origins of hip-hop culture.
2. Recognize the underlying messages and needs expressed in hip-hop culture.
3. Examine strategies for communicating the value of fatherhood through hip-hop culture.



History of Hip-Hop “from the bridge to the birth place”

- In the 1950's the South Bronx borough of New York was a stable middle class community. In an effort to “bridge” growing suburban neighborhoods with downtown retail districts, massive construction began on an expressway.
- Construction would destabilize the economic base of the South Bronx, to be followed by suburban flight. Demographically, by the 1970's the South Bronx would become characterized by low income, high unemployment, high crime, high rates of non-marital births, rising school drop out rates and a majority African American population.
- The South Bronx would become the birth place of hip-hop culture.



Hip-Hop

“from subculture to pop culture”

4 original elements of hip-hop

1. Rapping
 2. DJ-ing
 3. Breakdancing
 4. Graffiti
- Early themes were fun, community and self-pride.
 - Beginning as an urban genre, hip-hop would transform into a global movement.



Hip-Hop

“from subculture to pop culture”

- ◆ Hip-Hop culturally and continentally can be found in:
 - North America
 - Asia
 - Africa
 - Europe
 - Middle East
 - Latin America
- No racial or cultural limits.
- Cultures with historically oppressed populations embrace hip-hop.



Messages and Needs

“I needed my father....but he needed a needle” -
My life, Young Jeezy

Generation X and hip-hop

- Born 1961-1981.
- Post Baby Boomer Generation.
- Described as a “Nomad” Generation.
 - Ratty, tough, unwanted, diverse, adventurous.
 - Cynical about authority and institutions.
- Hip-Hop message was shaped by a generation that felt **disenfranchised**.



Messages and Needs

“I needed my father....but he needed a needle” -
My life, Young Jeezy

Generation X and hip-hop

- Culturally, the deep seated feeling of disconnection and abandonment would give way to messages of misogyny, materialism, criminalism and anti-intellectualism. These feelings reflect a generation lacking the emotional and financial connection of a father.
- “Every rapper- I’ll say about 90% of rappers grew up without a father...” Snoop Dog.



Messages and Needs

- Hip-Hop culture currently consists of two age segments Generation X'ers (born 1961-1981) and Millennials (1982-2002).
- A survey indicated a need for greater understanding around the following 4 issues:
 1. Identity
 2. Relationships
 3. Sexuality
 4. World View



Using Hip-Hop to Reach Fathers -- 5 Strategies

1. Create a Profile
2. Bait the Hook
3. Make Programming E.P.I.C.
4. Target Critical Transitions
5. Use what is Cultural to Communicate what is Timeless



Strategy 1 -- Create a Profile

- Location, Location, Location (census Data)
 - Where are they?
- Educationally (Public School Website)
 - What do they know –and what don't they know?
- Socially (Local social networking sites)
 - Where do they go?
- Economically
 - How much do they make?
 - Where do they spend and on what?



Create a Profile (cont.)

- Culturally
 - Who do they listen to?
 - What do they wear?
- Relationally
 - Who do they date?
 - How do they connect with each other?
- Health
 - Are they healthy? (physically, emotionally, spiritually)



Strategies 2 and 3

- Bait the Hook
 - Create programming that appeals
 - 3 on 3 basketball
 - Video production opportunities
 - Job skills workshops
 - Open Mic contest
 - Stipend Focus Groups
 - GED opportunities
- Make Programming E.P.I.C.
 - Experiential draw to places or organizations
 - Participatory directly involved
 - Image Driven communicate using visual-stimulus
 - Connectedness networked with each other and the world



Strategy 4 Target Critical Transitions

- Middle School to High School
- Pre teen to Teen
- Abstinent to Sexually Active
- Walking to Driving
- Single to Dating
- Employed to Unemployed
- Husband to Fathers
- School to Work



Strategy 5

Use what is Cultural to Communicate what is Timeless

- Use Poetry
 - Use Art
 - Use Music
 - Use Fashion
 - Use Technology
 - Use Sports
 - Use Dance
 - Use Food
-
- ◆ Employ the culture as a vehicle to communicate your message.



LL Cool J on Being a Father

“It’s an opportunity to shape and mold a young mind. To turn them into a contributing member of society. You actually get to mold a human being into something that is great if you do the job right. So far I think I’m doing okay.”



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HIP-HOP, Incarcerated Fathers and Implications for Service Delivery:

**“Strategies for engaging
fathers impacted by
incarceration”**





As a result of this presentation you will be able to:

- Understand the prevalence of young incarcerated males.
- Develop a greater understanding of Hip-Hop and its impact on children affected by incarceration.
- Learn strategies that can be used within organizations that typically do not have a youth focus.



Why this work is important to consider

- Incarcerated fathers and their children are a marginalized group of people -- *“Distorted in the telling, buried in the untelling”* (Randall Robinson on the legacy of slavery).
- A criminal justice system lacking a tradition of considering incarcerated father’s familial relationships.
- Fathers scared of overwhelming child support arrears.
- Negative public attitudes toward incarcerated individuals and their families.
- Tendencies toward focus on children of incarcerated mothers.
- Social Services providers are disconnected and ill equipped to engage young fathers and families impacted by incarceration.



Prison Count Pushes Up

Between 1987 and 2007, the national prison population has nearly tripled (from 585,084 in 1987 to 1,596,127 in 2007).

Note: 1987 – 2006 data are year-end prison counts from the Bureau of Justice Statistics. 2007 figure is Pew Public Safety Performance Project's count as of Jan. 1, 2008.



Who's Behind Bars

- **One in every Hundred Adults in the United States are Behind Bars.**
- **One in Thirty One are on Probation or Parole.**



Who's Behind Bars

- For Black men ages 18 or older, **1 in 15 are in state or federal prison.**
- For those aged 18-19, the ratio is **1 in 19.**
- For ages 20-24, 25-29 and 30-34, it is **1 in 9.**
- For ages 35-39, **1 in 10.**
- For ages 40-44, **1 in 13.**



Incarceration Rates by Race, Ethnicity and Age [1 in X]

1 in X:

	All	White	Black	Hispanic
All ages	72	136	21	54
18+	54	106	15	36
18-19	57	107	19	47
20-24	30	60	9	24
25-29	30	59	9	26
30-34	30	53	9	27
35-39	36	61	10	32
40-44	43	71	13	38
45-54	83	148	23	55
55+	391	588	115	184



Xiara's Song

*“Hi, Daddy.
How you doing?
Are you fine?
I haven't seen you in a long time.
And I miss you.
I love you.
I just forget about you.
You're still with me.
It's great to see you here.
It's great to hear about you.”*





The Impact of the Incarceration of Young Fathers on Children

Xiara's Song does not romanticize Harold, who has been in and out of jail for his daughter's entire life; it does reveal the gentle side of this handsome, charming rapper who finds inspiration in his deep love for his daughter.



The Impact of Incarceration of Fathers on Children

Percentage of minor children with a parent in state or federal prison by age*:

- Under 1 year old: 2%
- 1-4 years old: 20%
- 5-9 years old: 35%
- 10-14 years old: 28%
- 15-17 years old: 15%

* Incarcerated Parents and Their Children. Christopher Mumola. U.S. Dept. of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Special Report, 2000.

Breaking the Cycle and Maintaining Contact

- Often, the same life circumstances that led the parent to criminality are present for the child.





Meeting Fathers where they are..

- Assume that most fathers love and care for their children.
- Ask fathers what kind of life and outcomes they desire for “all” of their children.
- Help fathers gain greater empathy for their children.
- Stress the important role of fathers in the lives of their daughters.
- Go for the low hanging fruit before requesting that fathers change their dress, language etc....
- Help fathers understand that paying child support is important and that there are other ways of being a father.



Staff selection and training

- Hire staff who are sensitive to the needs and complexities of incarcerated fathers and their families.
- Hire young fathers and women and then mentor and promote them to leadership positions within the organization.
- Consider gender and cultural specific training from experts in the field of “Engaging the Hip-Hop Generation”.
- Reexamine program policies and procedures that deter incarcerated and formerly incarcerated fathers from “fully” participating in services.
- Enroll “older” incarcerated men in prison outreach efforts.
- Seek resources that will challenge your belief systems.



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The Yellow House at San Quentin, Office of Family & Children Services

(mail not accepted)
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San Quentin, CA
phone: 415-456-4200

The House on the Hill Visitor Center at San Quentin State Prison

(mail not accepted)
206 McKenzie St.
San Quentin, CA
phone: 415-482-8509

Carol F. Burton, LMSW
Executive Director



Hip-Hop Development™:

WORKING WITH FATHERS FROM THE
HIP-HOP CULTURE

April 28, 2009

P. Thandi Hicks Harper, PhD

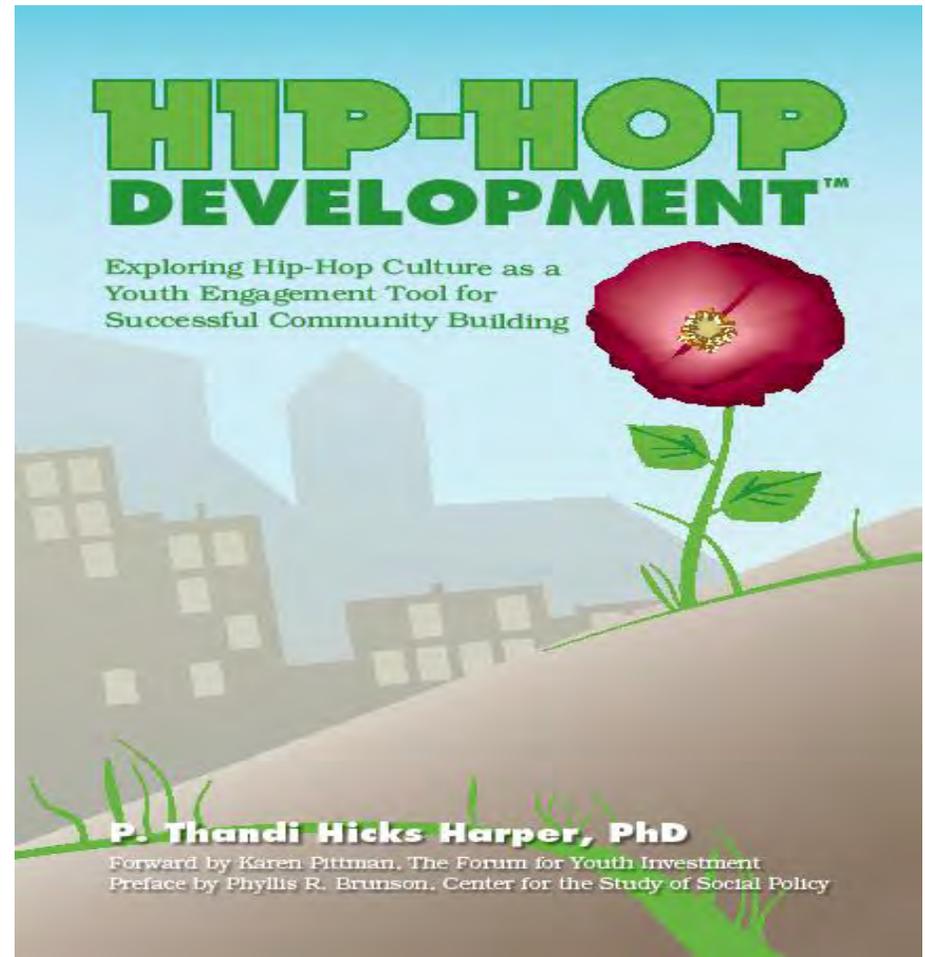


National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse
(NRFC)

Technical Assistance Webinar

SUCCESSFUL YOUNG FATHER ENGAGEMENT

HHD points to the ability of Hip-Hop to assist in providing young people with engagement asset skills (& opportunities to use them) such as critical thinking, writing, speaking, goal-setting, outreach, debating, decision making, influencing, researching, negotiating, and the leadership, self-esteem, and confidence building that accentuate these skills.



Hip-Hop Development

CULTURE



- Culture is learned.
- Culture is socially shared and all encompassing.
- Culture affects every aspect of an individual's life.
- Culture often unites a group and sometimes dictates behavior.
- Culture is a blueprint to the mentality of a group.
- Culture is a variable in nature in that all cultures allow for some individual variation, creativity and choice.

CULTURE TERMINOLOGY

- CULTURAL SENSITIVITY
- CULTURAL AWARENESS
- CULTURAL OPENNESS
- CULTURAL HUMILITY
- CULTURAL FLUENCY



Hip-Hop Development

Hip-Hop Cultural Competence

One's ability to willingly and un-judgmentally work to understand Hip-Hop culture, despite whether it is a culture other than one's own. This means learning from those immersed in and knowledgeable about the culture, as well as drawing on resources and supports that facilitate unbiased comprehensions of traditions, values, norms, and cultural potentials is required.



"FORMAL FEATURES" OF HIP-HOP

- "Swagga"
- Technology



Hip-Hop Development Adultism & Young Fathers

Adultism refers to behaviors and attitudes based on the assumption that adults are better than young people and entitled to act upon them without their agreement or input. This mistreatment is reinforced by social institutions, laws, customs, and attitudes.



Hip-Hop Development

Increasing our understanding of:

- HIP-HOP AND ITS FORMAL FEATURES,
- POSITIVE YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT ENGAGEMENT, &
- NEW MEDIA TECHNOLOGY IN HIP-HOP

Equals:

- MORE INFORMED DECISION MAKING &
- HHD STRATEGIES THAT LEAD 2 DESIRED PROGRAMMATIC & YOUNG FATHERS' LIFESYLE OUTCOMES.



Passport 2 Opportunity (P2O)



Created for young people to explore juvenile justice issues, and the positive and negative choices that influence their interactions with the criminal justice system.

Hip-Hop 101

A SENSE OF URGENCY FOR ...

Commitment

Competence

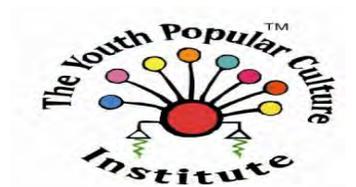
Belief

Change

Reception

Sharing

Authenticity



CHANGE

A Hip-Hop Development Mandate



"We gotta make a change...
It's time 4 us as a people to start making changes.
Let's change the way we eat, let's change the way we
live and

Let's change the way we treat each other.
You see the old way wasn't working.
So it's on us to do what we gotta do 2 survive"

Artist: Tupac Amaru Shakur Song: Changes





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