

• THIS SESSION WILL FOCUS ON MAXIMIZING THE QUALITY OF RELATIONSHIPS WITH EXTENDED AND NON-TRADITIONAL FAMILIES



- THE GOALS OF THE SESSION ARE AS FOLLOWS:
- TO DEFINE AND DISCUSS TRADITIONAL, EXTENDED AND NON-TRADITIONAL FAMILY STRUCTURES (SPECIFICALLY TO HIGHLIGHT THE ROLE OF FAMILIES WITHIN OUR PROGRAMS AND HOW WELL WE ARE INCLUDING EXTENDED AND NON-TRADITIONAL FAMILIES
- AND TO BEGIN TO PROCESS AND CREATE A PLAN FOR UNDERSTANDING HOW FAMILY STRUCTURE PLAYS A ROLE IN THE OUTCOMES OF OUR PROGRAMS.

- TRADITIONAL LINES HAVE BEEN BLURRED AND CAREGIVERS TAKE ON MANY FORMS IN OUR CURRENT SOCIETY. IN ORDER TO MEET THE LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS OF OUR STUDENTS, OUR PROGRAMMING MUST ADDRESS THE CONCERNS OF THE FAMILIES THAT WE SERVE.
- ONE CLEARLY DISTINCTIVE TRAIT IS A LARGE MAJORITY OF THESE FAMILIES ARE OPERATING IN PANIC MODE, DUE TO ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES, INCARCERATED PARENTS, LACK OF EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT, AND THE OVERALL STRESS TO SURVIVE.

 WORKING WITH EXTENDED AND NON-TRADITIONAL FAMILIES WILL ADDRESS ISSUES REGARDING VARYING TYPES OF FAMILY STRUCTURES. INNOVATIVE, CULTURALLY SENSITIVE, AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY IS KEY TO THE PARTICIPATION OF THESE FAMILIES





• THE DEFINITION OF A "TRADITIONAL" FAMILY STRUCTURE

CONSISTS OF A HUSBAND AND A WIFE PLUS THEIR CHILDREN.

IN WHAT WAYS HAVE TRADITIONAL DEFINITIONS OF FAMILY BEEN CHALLENGED?

• IN OUR COUNTRY AS A WHOLE

• IN THE STATE OF IL

• IN YOUR LOCALE (E.G. CHICAGO, CARBONDALE, ETC.)

THE BASICS: FACTS ABOUT EXTENDED AND NON-TRADITIONAL FAMILIES

- MOST HOUSEHOLDS ARE NON-TRADITIONAL UNDER THIS DEFINITION.
- FEWER AMERICANS ARE GETTING MARRIED.
- MORE MARRIAGES ARE ENDING IN DIVORCE.

LESS THAN HALF

(46%) OF US KIDS YOUNGER THAN 18 YEARS OF AGE ARE LIVING IN A HOME

WITH TWO MARRIED

HETEROSEXUAL PARENTS IN THEIR FIRST MARRIAGE.

• THIS IS A MARKED CHANGE FROM 1960, WHEN 73% OF CHILDREN FIT THIS DESCRIPTION,

AND IN 1980, WHEN 61% DID,

ACCORDING TO A PEW RESEARCH CENTER ANALYSIS OF RECENTLY-RELEASED AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY (ACS) AND DECENNIAL CENSUS DATA.

• HERE ARE 5 FACTS ABOUT THE MODERN FAMILY:

1. AMERICANS ARE PUTTING OFF LIFE'S BIG MILESTONES.

- TODAY, THE MEDIAN AGE AT FIRST MARRIAGE IS 29 FOR MEN AND 27 FOR WOMEN—THE HIGHEST IN MODERN HISTORY.
- (IN 2013, MORE THAN ONE-IN-FOUR (26%) OF PEOPLE AGES 18 TO 32 WERE MARRIED.
- BUT IN 1960, WELL OVER HALF (65%) OF AMERICANS WERE.) MOTHERS ARE ALSO WAITING LONGER TO HAVE CHILDREN.
- IN 1960, WOMEN AGES 15 TO 24 ACCOUNTED FOR 40% OF MOTHERS WITH INFANTS. BY 2011, THAT NUMBER HAD DROPPED TO 22%

2. TODAY, AN AMERICAN WOMAN, ON AVERAGE, IS EXPECTED TO HAVE 1.9 CHILDREN, COMPARED TO 3.7 CHILDREN IN 1960.

• CURRENT LEVELS ARE BELOW THE "REPLACEMENT RATE" OF ABOUT 2.1 CHILDREN, THE NUMBER OF BIRTHS NEEDED FOR CHILDREN TO REPLACE THEIR PARENTS IN THE POPULATION.

SOME EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAVE EVEN LOWER TOTAL FERTILITY RATES.

3. SOME 3 MILLION (37% OF) LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER ADULTS HAVE HAD A CHILD AT SOME POINT IN THEIR LIVES, ACCORDING TO THE WILLIAMS INSTITUTE.

AMONG WOMEN UNDER THE AGE OF 50

WHO IDENTIFY AS LGBT

AND LIVE ALONE OR WITH A SPOUSE/PARTNER,

ABOUT HALF (48%) HAVE A CHILD YOUNGER THAN 18.

SOME ONE-IN-FIVE LGBT MEN SAY THE SAME.

4. FAMILIES TODAY ARE MORE BLENDED AND DIFFERENTLY CONSTRUCTED.

- NEARLY HALF (44%) OF YOUNG PEOPLE AGES 18 TO 29 HAVE A STEP SIBLING. ABOUT HALF AS MANY (23%) OF THOSE AGES 50 TO 64—AND JUST 16% OF THOSE 65 OR OLDER—HAVE A STEP SIBLING.
- MORE BABIES ARE BORN TO UNMARRIED MOTHERS THAN EVER BEFORE. UNMARRIED WOMEN ACCOUNTED FOR 41% OF BIRTHS IN 2011, UP FROM JUST 5% IN 1960.
- IN 2011, 72% OF BIRTHS TO BLACK WOMEN WERE TO UNMARRIED MOTHERS, COMPARED WITH 53% OF BIRTHS TO HISPANIC WOMEN AND 29% OF BIRTHS TO WHITE WOMEN.
- BUT JUST 9% OF NEW MOTHERS WITH A BACHELOR'S DEGREE, REGARDLESS OF RACE, WERE UNMARRIED WHEN THEY GAVE BIRTH.

5. INTERMARRIAGE AMONG PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT RACES IS INCREASINGLY COMMON.

• IN 1980, JUST 7% OF ALL MARRIAGES IN THE U.S. WERE BETWEEN SPOUSES OF A DIFFERENT RACE OR ETHNICITY.

• IN 2010, THAT SHARE HAS DOUBLED TO 15% OF ALL NEW MARRIAGES IN THE U.S. HISPANICS (26%) AND ASIANS (28%) WERE MOST LIKELY TO "MARRY OUTSIDE OF THEIR RACE," COMPARED WITH 9% OF WHITES AND 17% OF BLACKS.

• ACTIVITY:

- BRIEF GROUP DISCUSSION ABOUT REACTIONS TO STATS
- GIVEN THESE 5 FACTS, FIND 3 WAYS TO DESCRIBE NON-TRADITIONAL FAMILY CATEGORIES
- 15 MINUTES TO DISCUSS
- GROUPS REPORT THE HIGHLIGHT OF THEIR DISCUSSION

• THERE HAVE BEEN RAPID CHANGES IN THE AMERICAN FAMILY STRUCTURE

ALTERNATIVE FAMILY FORMS:

• SINGLE PARENTHOOD-

BELIEVE IT OR NOT,

THIS WAS COMMON PRIOR TO THE 20TH CENTURY DUE TO MORE FREQUENT DEATHS OF SPOUSES.

BUT THERE WAS A CERTAIN STIGMA ABOUT BEING A SINGLE PARENT.

• TODAY SINGLEHOOD IS MORE ACCEPTABLE.

• ONE PARENT FAMILIES STILL RESULT FROM THE DEATH OF A SIGNIFICANT OTHER, BUT ALSO FROM CHOICE, DIVORCE, OR AN UN-MARRIED WOMAN'S DECISION TO HAVE A CHILD ALONE. (FOR EXAMPLE ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION.)

• POVERTY HAS BEEN A SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR ONE PARENT FAMILIES ESPECIALLY IF THAT PARENTIS A WOMAN.

• IN THE 2012 US CENSUS FOUND THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 10 MILLION SINGLE MOTHERS

- **EMPLOYMENT**
- THE SHARE OF MOTHERS EMPLOYED FULL OR PART TIME HAS QUADRUPLED SINCE THE 1950S AND

TODAY ACCOUNTS FOR NEARLY THREE-QUARTERS OF WOMEN WITH CHILDREN AT HOME.

• THE NUMBER OF WOMEN WHO ARE THEIR FAMILIES' SOLE OR PRIMARY BREADWINNER ALSO HAS SOARED,

TO 40 PERCENT TODAY FROM 11 PERCENT IN 1960.

COHABITATION

- •DEFINED AS THE SHARING OF A HOUSEHOLD BY AN UN-MARRIED COUPLE.
- •THIS ARRANGEMENT CONTINUES TO GAIN POPULARITY IN THE U.S.
- •COHABITATING COUPLES AND THEIR CHILDREN REPRESENT APPROXIMATELY 15 MILLION HOUSEHOLDS IN THE 2012 US CENSUS.
- •COHABITATION CAN BE SEEN AS AN ALTERNATIVE FORM OF MARRIAGE.
- •IT CAN BE USED BY COUPLE TO TEST THEIR COMPATIBILITY OR BY COUPLE WHOSE MARRIAGE WOULD NOT BE LEGAL.
- •IT DOES NOT RECEIVE THE SAME LEGAL BENEFITS OF MARRIAGE.
- •ALSO MANY RELIGIONS DO NOT FIND IT ACCEPTABLE.

GLBT RELATIONSHIPS

GLBT STANDS FOR GAY LESBIAN, BI-SEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER.

THESE RELATIONSHIPS AS WELL AS THE FAMILIES THEY CREATE ARE STILL CONSIDERED NON-TRADITIONAL. AS STATES RATIFY SAME SEX MARRIAGES, BELIEFS AND PERCENTAGES REPRESENTING THIS GROUP WILL EXPAND.

IN 1989, DENMARK BECAME THE FIRST COUNTRY TO PERMIT LAWFUL, SAME SEX MARRIAGE.

• CHILDREN NOT LIVING WITH EITHER PARENT.

THE REMAINING 5% OF CHILDREN ARE NOT LIVING WITH EITHER PARENT.

IN <u>MOST OF THESE CASES</u>, THEY ARE <u>LIVING WITH A</u>

<u>GRANDPARENT</u>—A PHENOMENON THAT HAS BECOME MUCH MORE PREVALENT SINCE THE RECENT ECONOMIC RECESSION.

GRANDPARENTS

The traditional definition of Grandparents were older individuals who after raising their children, assisted in parenting their grandchildren.

PROGRAM EXAMPLE-

In one of our community schools, 74% of the children who participated in our afterschool program, had grandparents as their sole caregivers and guardians.

Additionally, the average age of those grandparents was 34 years old. This presented a particular set of issues for the programming.

As educators we understand our target program outcomes, but as community workers we understand the innovations required to get the job done. This is where the rubber meets the road.

PARENT UNIVERSITY

ESL Classes

Financial Literacy-2nd Chance Banking

CPR Classes

Family Movie Night

Affordable Care Act Information and Enrollment.

Soft Job Skills Training-State of IL Unemployment Office.

On Site Weekly Job Club

Identification Assistance-II Sec of St Mobile Bus.

Day Care Action Council- Application Assistance

SEL Groups of Parents and Caregivers, held separate

but simultaneously.

TYPES OF FAMILY STRUCTURES-ACTIVITY

- CONSIDER YOUR LEVEL OF "EXPERTISE" OR ROLE WITHIN YOUR PROGRAM...
- NEW OR FIELD PERSON IN THE PROGRAM: WHAT ARE EXTENDED AND NON-TRADITIONAL FAMILIES IN YOUR COMMUNITY? WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?
- PROGRAM MANAGER OR ADMINISTRATOR: WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND AND TRACK EXTENDED AND NON-TRADITIONAL FAMILIES IN YOUR PROGRAM?
- WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE?

 MANAGING RELATIONSHIPS AND ASPECTS OF FAMILY TO CONSIDER

- ROLE OF EACH PERSON WITHIN THE FAMILY
- WAYS OF EXPRESSING AND MANAGING EMOTIONS
- WAYS OF EXPRESSING AND MANAGING CONFLICT
- FAMILY NORMS, BELIEFS AND BEHAVIOR

- CULTURALLY SENSITIVE
- LEARN HOW TO IDENTIFY THE FAMILY TYPES OF STUDENTS WHO ATTEND THE PROGRAM
- AND MANY FAMILIES DON'T EVEN FIT THE NUCLEAR FAMILY MOLD TO BEGIN WITH.
- IT'S EASY TO MAKE ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT A FAMILY, BASED ON WHAT IS FAMILIAR AND NORMAL.

• TO MISTAKE A SECOND FATHER OR MOTHER IN AN LGBTQ COUPLE AS AN AUNT, UNCLE, OR NANNY, FOR INSTANCE, OR TO INCORRECTLY BELIEVE THAT THE CHILD BORN AS A RESULT OF DONOR INSEMINATION IS ADOPTED, BECAUSE HE OR SHE DOESN'T LOOK QUITE LIKE THEIR PARENTS, CAN HAPPEN.

THE EASIEST THING TO DO IS ASK.

BUT SOME OF THE ASSUMPTIONS WE MAKE CAN HURT.

- COMMENTS WHICH WE MIGHT NOT HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT, AND WHICH ARE NOT DELIBERATELY INTENDED AS MALICIOUS, CAN STILL BE EXPERIENCED AS OFFENSIVE AND PAINFUL.
- HOWEVER, WHAT WE CAN DO IS EDUCATE OURSELVES TO BECOME BETTER AT DEALING WITH NONTRADITIONAL FAMILIES, SO THAT WHEN WE ENCOUNTER THEM, WE'RE NOT SURPRISED INTO SAYING SOMETHING POTENTIALLY HARMFUL.

SUPPORTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY

- LEARN ABOUT HOW PARENT RESOURCE CENTERS CAN BE USED TO INCREASE FAMILY PARTICIPATION
- NON-TRADITIONAL FAMILIES REQUIRE NON-TRADITIONAL APPROACHES TO ADDRESS THEIR CONCERNS AND INCREASE THEIR DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE WITH THE AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM.

 WHAT TYPE OF SERVICES DOES YOUR PROGRAM NEED TO PROVIDE FOR THESE FAMILIES?

• LANGUAGE-WHEN IN DOUBT- GENDER NEUTRAL LANGUAGE.

• REACTION- AS WE HAVE LEARNED IT SHOULD NOT BE A SURPRISE WHEN FAMILIES ARE "NON-TRADITIONAL."

FIND OUT MORE-

- Try not to expect a set of answers.
- Ask questions at appropriate times.
- Talk about your own family.
- Don't be offended if the other person wants to talk.

INNOVATIVE

• LEARN HOW TO DEVELOP ACTIVITIES TO INCREASE FAMILY PARTICIPATION

WHAT TYPES OF SERVICES DO THE FAMILIES NEED AND WANT?