



**Pastor Eugene Norris, CEO**



**Senator Dr. Vernon Sykes  
Supporter**

**Mobilizing our community around the importance  
of Father involvement.**

**Goal to improve the well-being of children by  
increasing the proportion of children growing up  
with “Responsible, Committed and Involved”  
fathers**



# **Ohio House Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services**

**Testimony of:**

**Pastor Eugene Norris II, Executive Director**

**CCC/ FameFathers**

**1977 Parkgate Ave, Akron**

**March 21, 2017**



- **“To Chairman Romanchuk, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the House Finance Health and Human Services Subcommittee,**
- my name is **Pastor Eugene Norris**. I’m the Executive Director FameFathers. A fatherhood program of **Charisma Community Connection** (Faith-based Community Development Corporation) promoting responsible fatherhood throughout northeastern Ohio.



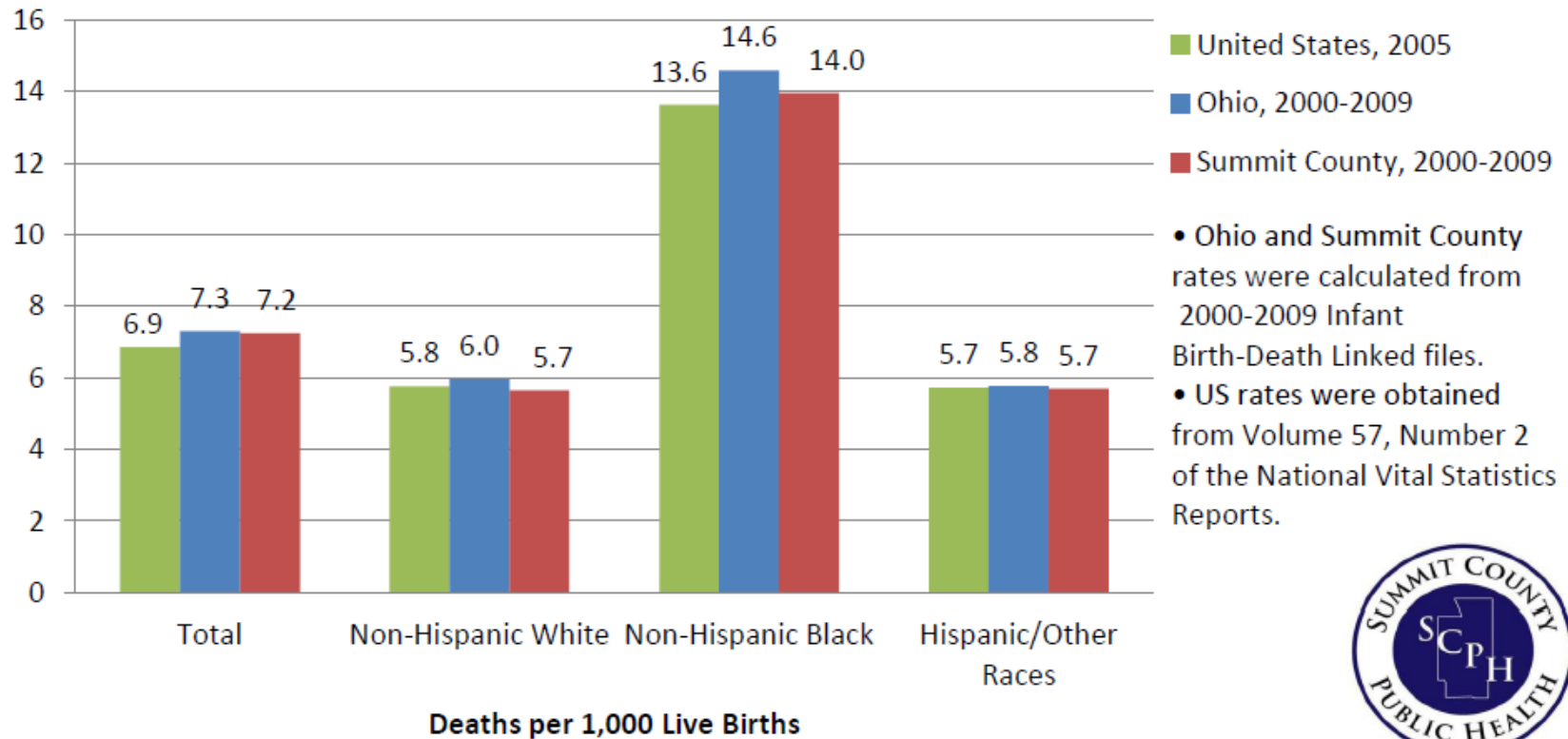
- Thank you for the opportunity to share with the committee. Today I would like to focus my attention on the importance of father involvement. And particularly **as it relates to infant mortality**, *the death of a child before its first birthday*. I was made aware of this this tragic phenomena about 2-years ago during a meeting with faith leaders in Cleveland. I try to aware of issues in our community, I shocked to learn that Ohio ranked amongst the worse in the **nation at the time 45<sup>th</sup> for infant mortality**



# Infant Mortality in Ohio

Representative Emilia Strong Sykes 34<sup>th</sup> District

## Infant Mortality Rates by Race and Ethnicity of Mother



# SCHUMACHER CLC





**FAMEFATHERS #PreciousCargo**  
**Community Survey**



1. You are? Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_
2. Nationality: Blk \_\_\_\_\_ Wht \_\_\_\_\_ Asian \_\_\_\_\_  
Latino/Hispanic \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is your zip code: 443 \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. What are the “ABC’s” of Safe Sleep  
“A” pick one  
\_\_\_\_\_ Away from walls  
\_\_\_\_\_ Alone  
\_\_\_\_\_ Alternate positions  
“B” pick one  
\_\_\_\_\_ Bed  
\_\_\_\_\_ Belly Breathing  
\_\_\_\_\_ Back  
“C” pick one  
\_\_\_\_\_ Crib  
\_\_\_\_\_ Cool area  
\_\_\_\_\_ Cuddle
4. What is Infant Mortality: pick one
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ Sudden Infant death “SID’s”
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ Death before 1<sup>st</sup> birthday
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ Crib death
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_ Shaken Baby
5. Do you know of someone within the past  
5-years who lost a baby that was born?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No
6. Do you know of someone who had a  
premature baby? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

**#PreciousCargo initiative**

**FameFathers and its “#PreciousCargo”**

initiative is striving to work with fathers and families to help them deliver healthy and safe babies, in order to reduce infant mortality.

Making sure that our fathers are involved and knowledgeable early and throughout the pregnancy is part of the solution.

When fathers **are not** present in a child’s life, children are **five** times more likely to **live in poverty** and **twice** as likely to **abuse drugs**, be **abused and neglected**, and develop **emotional or behavior problems**.

When dads are involved in their child’s life from the beginning, they are more likely to stay engaged in the child’s entire life.

# Increase knowledge

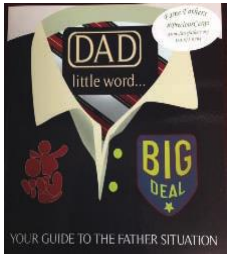
With the support of the Managed Care Providers

And for us, Eric Poklor with Buckeye Health Plan helping us to navigate this health care system. We were able to launch FameFathers #PreciousCargo Series





# Dads Learn and Earn *Free* Baby items



**SESSION #1 (training for fathers)**  
**“Understanding Mom”**  
Helping Fathers understand what to expect during pregnancy



**SESSION #2 (training for fathers)**  
**“Understanding Baby”**  
Helping fathers know what to expect during baby's first years of growth.

The **A.B.C.'s** of Safe Sleep



**Safe Sleep Training**  
(training for fathers or Groups)  
This training emphasizes the importance of the A.B.C's of safe sleep.



**BOOT CAMP for NEW DADS®**  
**For the brand New Dad**  
(aka Daddy Boot Camp®) is a unique father-to-father, community-based workshop for FIRST TIME FATHERS.



Pack -N-Play



Daddy Pack

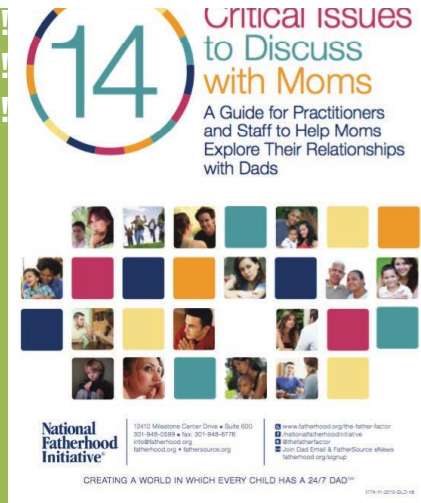


Disposable Diapers



Crib

# Co-Parenting Sessions



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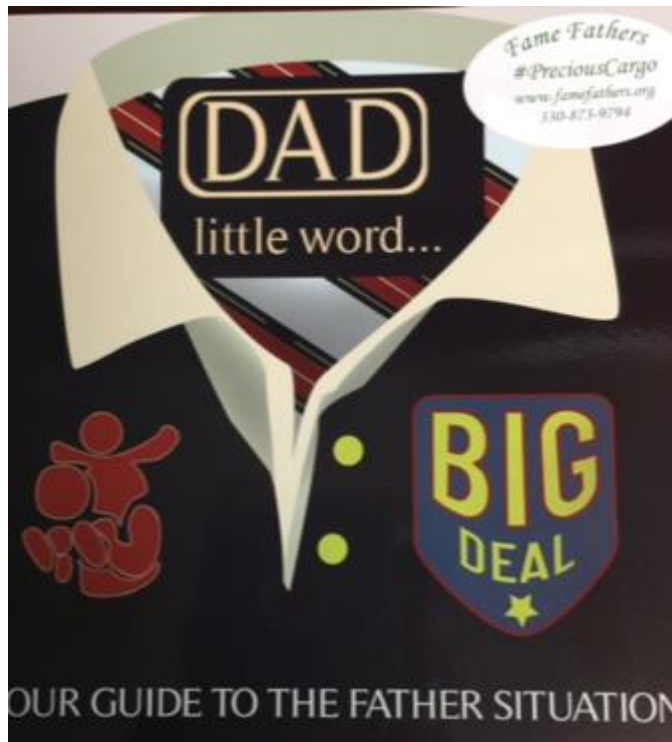
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# Understanding Mom



Offered on Monday's  
Green Leaf Family Services  
1:30 PM-3:00 PM  
FameFathers Facility  
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM



# Safe Sleep Training





# Safe sleep group training



# Boot Camp for New Dads





# Boot Camp Cleveland Clinic AGMC





# **Child Focused: Successful Co-Parenting Strategies**



**Arizona Chapter of the  
Association of Family  
and Conciliation Courts  
(AzAFCC)**

# FameFathers Resources Site and App



**Transportation; Father Family Events; Home Supplies;**



# Safe Sleep For Your Baby



Fathers Trained to date:  
Understanding Mom: \_\_\_\_\_

Understanding Baby: \_\_\_\_\_

Safe Sleep: \_\_\_\_\_

Groups: \_\_\_\_\_

Schools: \_\_\_\_\_

Boot Camp for New Dads:

Co-Parenting Sessions:

Reduce the Risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome  
(SIDS) and Other Sleep-Related Causes of Infant Death



For more information about SIDS,  
contact theSafeToSleep@campaignat  
1-800-505-2742 (1-800-505-CRIB) or at  
<http://www.nichd.nih.gov/SIDS>.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services • National Institutes of Health  
Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

# Custodial Dads

- **Supplies for Custodial Dads:**
  - One Fathers, 4-week old
  - Another Fathers, with Twins
  - 56 year Dads
  - All three instances mom Overdosed
  - Prematurity = <37 weeks gestation
  - Leading cause of infant mortality



# Out Come Based Programming

- Measurement tool design by:
- All Dads are required to complete Pre and Post evaluations noting:
  - Addressing conflict
  - Increase knowledge for relationship building
  - Increase Financial literacy
  - Track financial support for children
  - Workforce development, opportunities
  - Decrease destructive behavior





# Partnership / Collaboration

- Greenleaf families services
- Job & Family Services
- Summa Health System
- Akron Children's
- Cleveland Clinic AGMC
- Faith Community
- Akron Public Schools
- Community Groups
- Local Businesses



# Recruitment-community fathers

## September 2016



