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**Promoting Child Well-Being and Safety:  
Promising Practices for Encouraging Child Health and Safety via  
Integration of Relationship Education Focused on Encouraging Healthy  
Couple, Co-Parenting, and Marital Relationships  
Webinar Question and Answer (Q&A)**

Thursday, August 30, 2012 2:00-3:30 PM EDT

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**Question:** What requirements does the Oklahoma Marriage Initiative have for the volunteers that you use? Do you perform background checks?

**Answer:** *From Connie Schlittler, Chief Information Officer, Information Services Division, Oklahoma Department of Human Services:*

We do not conduct background checks. Initially, we recruited members of the faith community, and licensed mental health professionals for several years. But we found that other volunteers in the community do a great job with this, where they have the opportunity.

So they have to submit a plan on who they're going to train, what their background and experiences are, when they're going to offer the classes—so that really helps us—and then the course is several days long that they spend with the trainers and other members of the class.

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**Question:** Are there any differences in promoting safety and well-being for teens versus children?

**Answer:** *Debra Gilmore, Family Safety Expert, National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families:*

The short answer to that is yes, and that's really based on child development. What comes to mind, just as an example, is that an infant cannot go for a long period of time without being physically touched or nurtured, that infant literally can die from a lack of nurturing.

And you compare that to a teenager, anyone with or having been a teenager knows that that much hugging, holding, and touching is a very different experience for a teenager and maybe not so much wanted at that stage. So it does look different.

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**Question:** Connie, you stated that state leadership is essential. Could an individual county implement something like the Oklahoma model if county leadership and partners could line up vision and resources?

**Answer:** *From Connie Schlittler, Chief Information Officer, Information Services Division, Oklahoma Department of Human Services:*

Absolutely. It could be implemented at any level of government, or any organization. But again, having that leadership involved, make sure it's a vision and can be sustained over a long period of time.

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**Question:** How did the Oklahoma Marriage Initiative evaluate the Family Expectations program, and were you able to see improvements over time (as in more than a year)?

**Answer:** *From Connie Schlittler, Chief Information Officer, Information Services Division, Oklahoma Department of Human Services:*

The results that we have so far are at 15 months after couples participated in the program. And data is being collected on an ongoing basis on several of these. But that's all that we have right now is 15 months from completion. And there are interviews with the couples. And I think there are interviews being conducted with the children of those couples as well.

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**Question:** Robyn Cenizal, during your presentation you mentioned the Resource Center has resources on asset building available on the website. What type of asset building were you referring to? Is it developmental assets or financial assets?

**Answer:** *From Robyn Cenizal, Project Director, National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families:*

I was specifically referring to asset building in terms of accumulation in management of financial assets, because that is a necessary component in order to move families to self-sufficiency.

But we also do have—within the resources related to youth and children—information on the 40 developmental assets, which I assume is the other part of that question. So although I was mentioning asset building from a financial aspect, and assets for independence in different programs, and tools that can support families in that regard, we do also provide information related to youth and assets.

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**Question:** How is the National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families funded?

**Answer:** *From Robyn Cenizal, Project Director, National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families:*

The National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families is funded through a grant from the Office of Family Assistance in the Administration for Children and Families.

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**Question:** How did the Oklahoma Marriage Initiative adapt the Within My Reach curriculum?

**Answer:** *From Connie Schlittler, Chief Information Officer, Information Services Division, Oklahoma Department of Human Services:*

It was really adapted from a couple's curriculum to a single parent, a single adult, as well as focusing on things that are of interest to folks that are low income. So we focused on the violence prevention. One of the things we did was we conducted focus groups with our TANF recipients so we could get more information about their lives and their experience. So that helped us really gear up curriculum that was meaningful for the single moms, primarily, who are in the TANF program.

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**Question:** Can the Resource Center help me if I want to learn more about healthy marriage programs in my state and area?

**Answer:** *From Robyn Cenizal, Project Director, National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families:*

Yes, we certainly can. There is information on the Resource Center website about programs around the country, but if you have specific questions about your area, feel free to e-mail us and we can look into that and help you connect with local providers such as the cooperative extension system that provides relationship education programming. And we can also connect to with healthy marriage grantees that might be working in your state and local area.

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**Question:** Does the Resource Center provide technical assistance in drafting proposals to industries?

**Answer:** *From Robyn Cenizal, Project Director, National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families:*

If the intent is proposals to industries to gain funding, no that's something we couldn't help with.

If it is helping them to identify information that would be helpful in promoting the idea of integrating healthy marriage education skills into a safety net service delivery system as part of an industry, we can help identify all those resources to support that.

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**Question:** Who should I contact if I have more questions about this webinar?

**Answer:** Visit the National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families website at <https://healthymarriageandfamilies.org/> or email us at [info@HealthyMarriageandFamilies.org](mailto:info@HealthyMarriageandFamilies.org).

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