

Clayton County Healthier Generations 24/7 DAD Program Strengthens Fatherhood and Families

June 16, 2015

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Clayton County Board of Health (CCBOH) is building strong families through the Healthier Generations 24/7 DAD program, which is designed to increase and maintain the father's involvement with his children, improve co-parenting relationships and promote family resiliency.



Healthier Generations 24/7 DAD program provides linkages to resources for workforce development, legal issues, child care and housing – all important resources that increase fathers' capacity to provide financial stability for their children. The fatherhood initiative is a component of the Healthy Start Grant funding opportunity provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

The fatherhood initiative can help to increase the proportion of fathers who are involved, responsible and committed to their children's lives by offering parenting skills, knowledge and tools needed for financial, emotional and family stability.

In addition to offering important life skills that support strong family units, male health assessments are offered to 24/7 DAD participants in an effort to heighten awareness of preventable health problems and encourage early detection and treatment of disease among men and boys.

“The 24/7 DAD program is an integral part of Clayton County’s commitment to building stronger and healthier families and communities,” said Alpha Fowler Bryan, M.D., CCBOH district health director. “When we help parents to better understand their lifelong obligations, we give that family hope to meet their basic needs and to thrive as individuals and a family unit.”

The 24/7 DAD participants are recruited through the mothers who are enrolled in the *Healthier Generations Program (HGP)*. HGP works to improve the health of women and strengthen family resiliency. Once the fathers complete the intake process, the facilitator provides assistance in identifying resources that support the specific needs of the fathers. With more than 27 years working with young males, Roosevelt Muhammad, president of TIME-ER Center Human Relations Consulting Firm Leadership and Educational Center, facilitates the 24/7 DAD meetings in [The Locker Room](#), a point of entry for male health care services at CCBOH.

Using a sports analogy, Muhammad conducts the 24/7 DAD meetings or “huddles” as a health coach. In order to successfully complete the program, all males must meet set criteria for the program and actively participate in all components of the 24-week 24/7 DAD curriculum.

Many of the program participants are in their 20s with young children or infants. Some of them are employed while others are unemployed and seeking career opportunities. Regardless of the male’s circumstances, the goal is to give them the tools and skills they need to become positive role models in their children’s lives and become self-sustaining citizens in Georgia.

In recent years, the program has helped its participants gain employment, one of whom successfully secured a job with AirServ at the Atlanta Hartsfield Jackson International Airport. This is just one positive example of how the 24/7 DAD program is helping to build successful and healthy parents and families in Georgia.