

2024 KENTUCKY FATHERHOOD SUMMIT REPORT



SUMMIT OVERVIEW

The 6th annual Kentucky Fatherhood Summit, held October 14–16, 2024, was a resounding success. Organized by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services-Department for Income Support (CHFS-DIS Child Support Enforcement Division) in collaboration with the Commonwealth Center for Fathers and Families (CCFF) and partnering agencies, this year's theme, "NEXT LEVEL FATHERHOOD," underscored the event's focus on advancing fatherhood engagement.

CCFF provided strategic leadership in coordination with SP Management Group, a professional event management service, and the Planning Committee. The summit featured distinguished keynote speakers, specialized tracks including a dedicated "corrections track", and facilitated discussions to explore the intersection of policy and practice. Attendees also benefited from a robust network of fatherhood advocates and subject-matter experts from across Kentucky and the nation.



NEXT LEVEL PARTNERSHIPS

Next level is fortifying alliances with key local, state, and national community partners, agencies, and institutions in order to establish coordinated strategies, practices, policies, and procedures that enlist fatherhood as a crucial element in promoting child well-being, ensuring family safety, and fostering economic stability and employment across the Commonwealth.



NEXT LEVEL PARENTING/FATHERHOOD

Next level is challenging and empowering fathers to go to the next level on behalf of their children, families, and communities. The Summit enlightened attendees on what it means to be an engaged, responsible, and proactive father in today's world and give a voice to fathers that have successfully navigated this journey. This year premiered a Pre-Summit Institute designed specifically with lived experience fathers and recovery advocates in mind.



NEXT LEVEL PROGRAMS & APPROACHES

The areas of emphasis at this year's summit were re-entry, recovery, human trafficking, and more. We highlighted concepts, demonstrated projects, and debuted interdisciplinary approaches that established fatherhood engagement as a viable and effective component of emerging and promising practices in multiple sectors and issues. Our speakers included a dynamic lineup of local, state, and national leaders in fatherhood advocacy.



2024 PARTICIPATION



301

ATTENDEES

48

**PRE-SUMMIT
ATTENDEES**

32 **PIR
Attendees**

26 **Certified to
facilitate PIR
Curriculum**

23

EXHIBITORS

110

**FATHER
ATTENDEES**

11

**STATES
REPRESENTED**



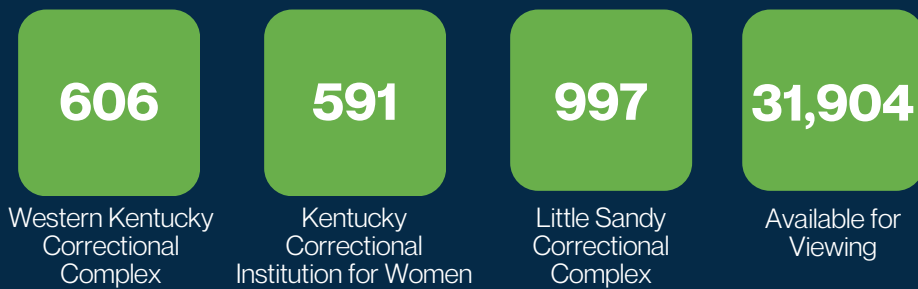
59

**COUNTIES
REPRESENTED**

Kentucky

3 CORRECTIONAL FACILITY WATCH PARTIES

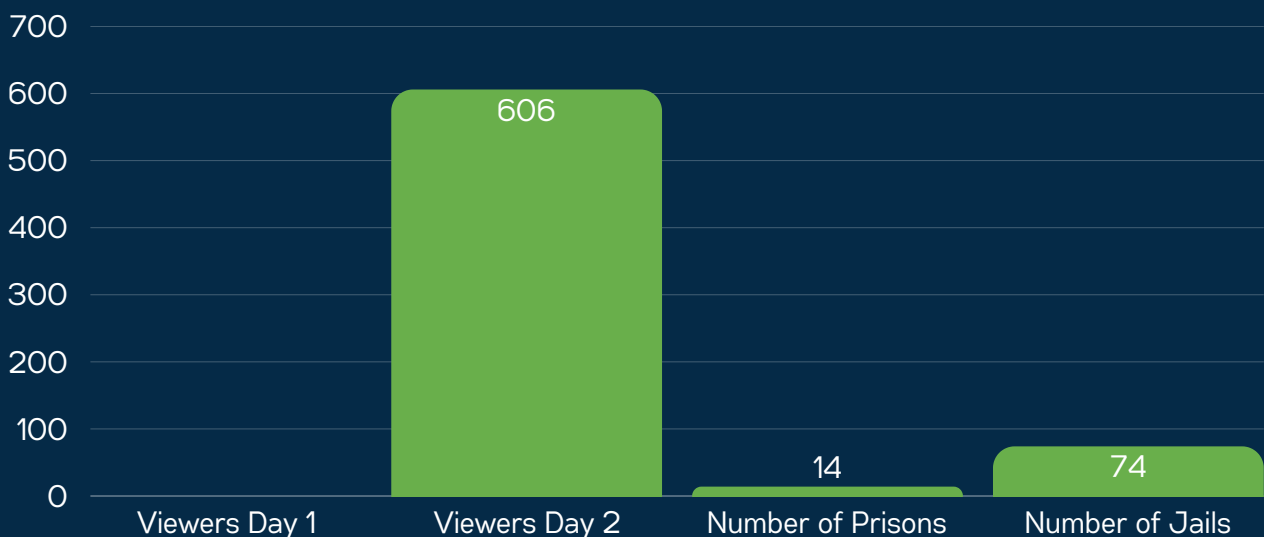
WATCH PARTY DEMOGRAPHICS



Gender



RECORDED SESSIONS WITH CLOSED-CAPTIONS ARE NOW ACCESSIBLE FOR ANY PRISON OR JAIL INTERESTED IN SHARING THEM WITH THEIR RESIDENTS



MORE PARTICIPATION POINTS

33

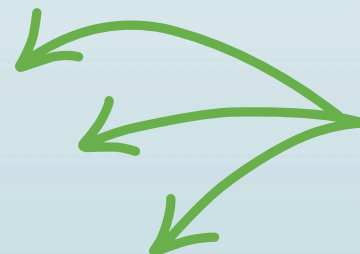
**Total CEU
Issued**

12

**Social
Work**

73

**Professional
Headshots
Taken**



3

Childcare

11

**Peer Support
Specialist**

7

**Certified
Alcohol • Drug
Counselors**

61

**Attendees had
Current /Past
Involvement
With Child
Support**



36

**DIFFERENT
PROFESSIONS
REPRESENTED**



ELEVATING SELF CARE & WELLNESS

Recognizing the profound dedication of our attendees, many of whom balance caregiving, professional responsibilities, and community service, the 2024 Summit emphasized the importance of self-care. This year, we introduced a Self-Care/Mindfulness space, a peaceful environment designed to help attendees rest, decompress, and focus on their well-being. The self-care space featured diverse opportunities to unplug and recharge, including quiet zones, mindfulness activities, massages, and resources to promote physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional health. Attendees were encouraged to pause and prioritize their own healing and renewal, aligning with the summit's commitment to holistic wellness. By offering this dedicated space, the summit not only highlighted the value of self-care but also reinforced its role in sustaining the strength and resilience needed to uplift families, communities, and the important work of fatherhood advocacy.



HONORING LEADERS IN THE FIELD AT THE 2024 CAP RECEPTION

A centerpiece of the summit was the C.A.P.P. Reception (Community, Agency, & Program Partners), where we recognized three outstanding individuals for their significant contributions to advancing fatherhood work in Kentucky. These honorees exemplify dedication, innovation, and leadership, inspiring others to continue building momentum in this critical field.

WHAT IS C.A.P.P.?

The C.A.P.P. Reception marked a significant milestone in the evolution of Kentucky's fatherhood work. What began as the Kentucky Fatherhood Initiative (KFI), a volunteer group instrumental in strategizing and shaping the early stages of the summit; has now transitioned into the more dynamic and inclusive framework of C.A.P.P. meetings. These gatherings bring together community members, agencies, and programs to collaborate, share best practices, and drive collective progress, ensuring that Kentucky's fatherhood advocacy continues to be impactful, innovative, and forward-thinking.

OUR AWARDEES

During the summit three exceptional leaders were honored at the C.A.P.P. Reception for their contributions to fatherhood advocacy. Dr. Armon Perry received the Ambassador Award for exemplifying responsible parenting and lifting his community through civic engagement and leadership, serving as a true ambassador for fatherhood. The Drum Major Award was presented to Dr. Antonio Garcia for championing justice and equity, embedding fatherhood into strategic initiatives, and inspiring others to advance fathers and families. Ted Strader was honored with the Anchor Partner Award for his pivotal role in establishing and sustaining fatherhood services in Kentucky through enduring partnerships and collaboration. These awards, celebrated during the C.A.P.P. Reception, reflect the summit's theme, "NEXT LEVEL FATHERHOOD," and highlight the profound impact these leaders have had on fathers, families, and communities.



TED
STRADER



DR. ANTONIO
GARCIA



DR. ARMON
PERRY

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND FATHERHOOD

During the Kentucky Fatherhood Summit, a targeted emphasis on human trafficking was offered through an exclusive executive session for local, state, and federal leaders, in addition to a workshop open to all attendees.

The executive session was hosted by Dr. Laura Dryjanska, a professor of psychology at Asbury University in Wilmore, Kentucky, and a part-time lecturer at Uniwersytet Kardynała Wyszyńskiego in Warsaw, Poland in conjunction with federal officials from Region-4 Administration for Children and Families. The session convened 15+ representatives, including program leaders, strategists, thought leaders, and lived experience experts, addressing topics such as Appalachian poverty, workforce scarcity, limited educational outcomes, coastal challenges, and high immigrant populations that all serve to contribute to heightened risks of trafficking.

The workshop was led by Dr. Dryjanska, a noted expert on trafficking, and included 55+ attendees from counties across Kentucky and beyond. The presentation focused on risk factors, protective factors, aftercare, and advocacy, especially highlighting the role of the father in combatting trafficking.



SUMMIT SPEAKERS | 20 24



David Cozart

David Cozart is the Chief Visionary Officer of the Commonwealth Center for Fathers and Families. He has been a community organizer and family service provider for over two decades. A significant portion of his work has been related to engaging fathers and BIPOC men. David earned degrees from Campbellsville University. He is husband to wife, Nekesha; father to Zachary, Destiny, and Dalen; and servant to many others.



Dr. Alex Elswick

Dr. Alex Elswick is a tireless advocate for people with substance use disorders. He currently serves the University of Kentucky as an Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist for Substance Use Prevention and Recovery. Alex is a trained researcher, recovery coach, and mental health therapist, as well as the co-founder of Voices of Hope, a peer-driven recovery community organization. But most importantly, Alex is himself a person in long term recovery from the chronic disease of addiction.



Bobby Evans

Bobby Evans is the creator of the YouTube channel Etown MediaWorks, which serves as an outlet to tell stories of recovery, resilience, and strength with the goal to “Humanize Humans”. Bobby served in the 101st Airborne as an Infantry soldier, rising to the rank of Sergeant before receiving a medical retirement. He is a Purple Heart recipient, and his story from the Afghanistan deployment is featured in the documentary No Greater Love, available on Amazon Prime. With over three years of continuous sobriety, Bobby is deeply involved in service work through Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). He serves as Co-Treasurer, chairs 12 and 12 meetings on Wednesdays, and acts as the Group Conscience Chair. Bobby is also a proud family man with one sister, two nieces, and three daughters. Being a father brings him immense joy, and he confidently describes it as his dream job.



Dr. Raymond Levy

Dr. Levy has been a Clinical Psychologist at Mass General Hospital, Boston, for 29 years and founded The Fatherhood Project in 2013. He has edited two books on psychodynamic psychotherapy research and, more recently, published articles and a chapter about fatherhood and fatherhood research with Dr. Milton Kotelchuck. Dr. Levy recently accepted a position on the Academic Advisory Board at Children's Health Watch, a multi-site organization of academic researchers who design and implement research aimed at influencing political policy related to concerns about poverty. Dr. Levy is the proud father of two adult children and has made fatherhood central to his life.

SUMMIT SPEAKERS | 20 24



**Governor
Andy Beshear**

Andy Beshear serves as the 63rd Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. He is a graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law. He worked in international law in Washington D.C. and later as a consumer lawyer at Stites & Harbison, being recognized by Lawyer Monthly as the nation's top consumer lawyer. He served the Commonwealth as Attorney General beginning in 2016 and was later inaugurated as governor in December 2019. Andy and wife, Britainy, have two young children, Will and Lila. The family attends Beargrass Christian Church, where both Andy and Britainy serve as deacons, and they volunteer with several local organizations.



Mayor Linda Gorton

Linda Gorton, the longest continuously serving member of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council, is serving her second term as Lexington Mayor. Mayor Gorton was re-elected on Nov. 8, 2022, winning 71% of the vote. In her first term, Mayor Gorton successfully led our city through the pandemic, protecting our health and safety and keeping our economy on track during a challenge that may rank as the most daunting of the modern era. Now, employment has surpassed pre-pandemic levels. Goals for her second term include a continuing focus on public safety, lifting up and protecting our young people, expanding the emphasis to disrupt domestic violence and creating paths forward to improve mental health; providing more affordable housing; expanding our ag-tech sector as part of our work to attract new employers and grow jobs locally; and continuing to protect our working farms. Mayor Gorton and her husband, Charlie, a retired Major General in the Army, have two children and five grandchildren. She is a registered nurse and graduate of the University of Kentucky.



**Secretary
Eric Friedlander**

Eric Friedlander serves as Secretary of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS), appointed by Governor Andy Beshear on December 10, 2019. He has spent more than 35 years in public service, most of them with CHFS.

A graduate of Antioch College, Eric has served as chief resilience officer for the Louisville Metro Office of Resilience and Community Services and as CHFS deputy secretary in the administration of Governor Steve Beshear.



**Secretary
Keith Jackson**

In February 2024, Keith Jackson was appointed Secretary of the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet. Immediately prior to stepping into this leadership role, Jackson served as the cabinet's deputy secretary. During his 27-year career in the U.S. Army Reserves, Secretary Jackson served in numerous capacities ranging from platoon leader up to Battalion Command. In addition to his military service, he began his municipal and public service career in January 1991 with the Lexington Fire Department. In June 2012, Chief Jackson made history by becoming the first African American appointed Chief of the Lexington Division of Fire and Emergency Services. Jackson understands the cabinet's critical role in creating safer communities for all and works to ensure the safety and security of Kentucky communities through an approach centered on protecting citizens, restoring victims, and reforming wrongdoers – all in a focused environment where everything is measured for accountability and performance.

SUMMIT SPEAKERS | 20 24



**Rev.
Rodney McFarland Jr.**

Rev. Rodney McFarland, Jr. is a graduate of Southern University at Shreveport, Louisiana with an Associate Degree of Applied Science in Funeral Service Administration. He is a graduate of LeTourneau University of Longview, Texas with a Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministry Leadership. He received his Master's of Divinity from Regent School of Divinity of Virginia Beach, Virginia. Rev. McFarland is the Lead Pastor of First Baptist Church Bracktown in Lexington, KY. He is married to Falon McFarland, and they are the proud parents of Ava, Bella, and Rodney III.



Jacqueline Mull

“Jacque” Mull serves as the southeast (Region 4) regional administrator for the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) in Atlanta, Georgia which includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. As a regional administrator, Jacque provides leadership, communication and coordination for the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) staff in the region and partners with other HHS operating divisions, federal agencies, states, tribes, territories, cities, and communities. Jacque ensures program integration and implements high priority, results-based strategic initiatives to support ACF priorities and state, local, and tribal efforts. Jacque is an avid runner and athlete who shares her love for a balanced lifestyle, is married with two adult daughters who help keep her pulse on how the next generation would like to serve and access our services.



Erin Kidder

Erin Kidder serves as a TANF Program Specialist at the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Family Assistance. Prior to working at ACF, she served for 13 years in a variety of public assistance-related positions at the Commonwealth of Kentucky/CHFS/DCBS. Kidder has dedicated her career to public assistance policy, and she is passionate about improving public assistance programs for vulnerable children and adults. Erin has a BA in Studio Art from Transylvania University. She is currently pursuing a Master of Public Administration degree from Eastern Kentucky University with a concentration in Applied Policy. She was born and raised in central Kentucky. She and her husband have been married for 13 years and are the proud parents of a 7-year-old son.



Robert Taylor

Robert Taylor is a graduate of Fisk University in Nashville, TN (2000) with a B.A. degree in Biology. He later earned his Master of Public Administration degree from Bowie State University in Bowie, Maryland (2006). Mr. Taylor is currently working as President of the New Life Center a 501(c)3 nonprofit. He also serves as an instructor at Meharry Medical College and is a Program Coordinator for the Masters of Science in Public Health program in Meharry's School of Global Health. Most recently, Robert was elected to serve as the School Board representative for District 1 in Nashville, Tennessee. Robert is a devoted husband to his beautiful wife Adjoa and father to their seven wonderful children. Robert is passionate about providing fathers and their families with the tools and support they need to be the parents that their children so desperately need. He puts his passion in action by managing all of the New Life Center Program Activities including the Training Camp for New Dads, the Fatherhood Development Program and strengthening families workshops.

SUMMIT SPEAKERS | 20 24



Dr. Laura Dryjanska

Laura Dryjanska is a professor of psychology at Asbury University in Wilmore, Kentucky and a part-time lecturer at Uniwersytet Kardynała Wyszyńskiego in Warsaw, Poland. After obtaining her PhD from the Sapienza University of Rome in Italy, she worked at Biola University in Southern California. Her main research interests include human trafficking, migration, and multidisciplinary collaboration. Her recent book, co-edited with Dr. Stoklosa and Dr. Hopper, features psychological perspectives on human trafficking, published by the American Psychological Association. She is a member of the executive committee of the EU-funded network of researchers on Transnational Family Dynamics.



Kelly R. Little

Kelly R. Little, founder and CEO of the Urban Institute of Strengthening Families, is a respected author, fatherhood expert, youth whisperer, philanthropist and emotional intelligence change agent. Committed to elevating humanity, he specializes in executive coaching, youth programming, and emotional wellness. Kelly's transformative work in shifting perceptions of Child Support and Human Services has garnered national recognition. A certified professional mindfulness teacher, executive coach, and fatherhood facilitator, Kelly holds an MBA and a Master of Science and Leadership from Pfeiffer University. He also was a Health Program Leader with Child and Adolescent Mental Health. His passion lies in empowering fathers and fostering healthy connections between young people and families, while working with systems and institutions to evaluate and redesign their approaches to working with fathers in a way that is inclusive and equitable.



Richard B. Barr

Richard is a nationally recognized expert in matters of poverty and economic development opportunities for families, fathers and communities. In 2000, Richard served as the first director and formulated the program for the Urban League's Columbia Fatherhood Engagement Initiative. Richard later served as the Vice President of Strategy & Organizational Development at the South Carolina Center for Father and Families, helping to expand its statewide reach and establish it as one of the premier Fatherhood centers in the nation. Currently, Richard is a Senior Director at ICF international with a focus on matters of innovative strategies around growth and development, family formation, workforce and poverty solutions. Additionally, he is the CEO of Barr Development Consortium and the Lead-Minister to the Bishopville Church of Christ in Bishopville, SC. He has a vision and a heartfelt desire to see people maximize their gifts and potential and see families and communities strengthened.



Dr. Sherelle Roberts

Dr. Sherelle Roberts is a political scientist whose research focuses on political behavior and political psychology. Before earning her Ph.D., Sherelle worked in television and radio as a reporter, anchor, and talk show host. She has also worked in politics as a campaign manager, government spokesperson, and communication strategist.

SUMMIT SPEAKERS | 20 24



Marcus Jackson

Marcus Jackson is a formerly incarcerated Kentuckian who overcame many obstacles to become the founder and Executive Director of Advocacy Based on Lived Experience (ABLE) and Vice Chair of the Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. He is a Kentucky native and long-time advocate for criminal justice reform. Prior to this role, he was the Smart Justice Organizing Coordinator with the American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky where he led the organization's voting rights efforts focused on restoring the voting rights of those disenfranchised due to past convictions; and a paralegal with the Louisville Urban League's Reilly Expungement Clinic. He was featured in the Independent Lens - ITVS documentary Persistent: A Challenge to Kentucky's PFO Law, and his other criminal justice reform efforts have been covered at the local, state, and national levels.



Dee Parker

Dee Parker is a visionary leader and advocate for diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. As co-chair of the Kentuckians for the Commonwealth Executive Committee and Steering Committee, as well as a member of the Alliance for Appalachia Steering and Coordinating Committee, Dee's influence spans across community leadership and social justice. He is also the co-president of Abolish Slavery KY. His journey reflects a deep commitment to education and empowerment. Dee's leadership roles, including The People of Color caucus (KFTC) and the first Black President of the Hazard Rotary Club (2024-2025), highlight his dedication to transformative change, especially in marginalized communities. He is a driving force in social, racial, and environmental justice, striving to build resilient, inclusive communities.



Billy Jeffries

BJ is a directly impacted, returning citizen and father from Shelbyville Ky. His three daughters are Londyn (6), Brooklyn (3), and Paris (1). He is a son. He is a brother. He is a friend. He is an employee as an operations supervisor for aluminum extrusion company MATALCO Inc. He is an advocate for change and positive community engagement. He is ABLE!



William Oliver

William Oliver, known as Billy to his friends, is a devoted father of five children, ranging in age from 12 to 24. He is also a proud grandfather to twin boys, whose arrival has reignited his passion for fatherhood and advocacy. His dedication to his family is evident in every aspect of his life. Recently, William transitioned into a role as a Maintenance and Facilities worker at Murray State University, following a 22-year career in safety and security. This change marked a deliberate shift in focus, allowing him to prioritize his family and personal growth. William is an active member of Crossroads Church, where he finds joy in engaging in meaningful conversations that deepen his understanding of his faith. His journey has been marked by significant personal achievements, including breaking generational curses that have impacted his family. Although the journey continues, William is grateful for the progress he has made and looks forward to the future with hope and determination.

SUMMIT SPEAKERS | 20 24



Julius Johnson

Julius Johnson is a native of Lexington, KY. He is the father of two beautiful kids Eva-Amor and Elishajuan Johnson. His expertise revolves around prison reentry and youth violence, and he recently completed his master's thesis examining women in reentry. Julius is a doctoral candidate working towards a Ph.D. in Behavioral Science at Northcentral University and is an alum of Just Leadership USA (JLUSA). He is currently a board member of the Commonwealth Center for Fathers and Families (CCFF). As the Director of Reentry Services, and Project Peace at the Lexington Rescue Mission, Julius has expanded reentry work throughout the U.S. while identifying ways to reduce youth gun violence in Kentucky. Through this work and pursuit of education, Julius works passionately to make a difference in the lives he touches.



Troy Hilpp

Born and raised in Louisville Kentucky, Troy is a proud former All American collegiate athlete and successful 3 time State Champion. After excelling in sports, Troy dedicated his life to making a positive impact in the lives of others. With five years of experience in the recovery field, his focus is on helping individuals struggling with substance abuse & mental health challenges. Troy is passionate about building strong relationships & partnerships within the community. He strives to create programs & supports systems that remove barriers to those in need on their journey to recovery. Troy believes in the transformative power of recovery, connection, compassion, and is committed to fostering Hope & Healing in every life that he touches.



John Badalament

John is a recognized leader in the fatherhood field who brings a wealth of experience, knowledge, and innovation to The Fatherhood Project. He is the author of *The Modern Dads Dilemma: How To Stay Connected With Your Kids In A Rapidly Changing World* and the Director of the acclaimed documentary for PBS *All Men Are Sons: Exploring the Legacy of Fatherhood*. John's work has been featured on ABC News, National Public Radio, Men's Health Magazine, The Los Angeles Times and Huffingtonpost.com. Over the last two decades, John has spoken and consulted internationally in schools, government agencies, nonprofit and private-sector organizations. John holds a Master's Degree from the Graduate School of Education at Harvard University.



Lesa Dennis

Lesa Dennis was appointed Commissioner of the Department for Community Based Services by Gov. Andy Beshear on June 16, 2023. Dennis most recently served as DCBS acting commissioner since Jan. 1, 2023, and prior to this, served as DCBS deputy commissioner since Feb. 1, 2021. Dennis began her career at DCBS on March 16, 1997, as a frontline social worker. As a 26-year veteran of the department, Dennis has spent her entire career serving vulnerable children, adults and families, and she continues to lead DCBS efforts to engage families and community partners in a collaborative decision-making process where every voice matters. She earned her bachelor's degree in social work from Morehead State University and her master's of social work from the University of Kentucky. She resides in Sandy Hook with her husband, Chris, and has two adult daughters and one grandson.

SUMMIT SPEAKERS | 20 24



Lily Chan Patteson

Lily Chan Patteson is the Director of IV-D Enforcement for the Commonwealth of Kentucky since April of 2020. Her duties include application of federal and state child support statutes and regulations. Lily is a graduate of the University of Louisville's Brandeis School of Law. She previously held the position of Assistant Jefferson County Attorney for the Division of Child Support.



Seth Chamberlain

Seth Chamberlain is a Division Director in the Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families' (ACF's) Office of Family Assistance (OFA), with oversight of the Healthy Marriage (HM) and Responsible Fatherhood (RF) programs. Prior to work in OFA, he was a Senior Social Science Research Analyst in ACF's Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE). He has spent over 18 years working on federal HM and RF programs and evaluations, as well as evaluations of federal sexual risk avoidance education and teen pregnancy prevention programs. Prior to joining ACF, Mr. Chamberlain taught middle school Spanish in Chicago, interned at a program for men convicted of domestic battery, and interned as a clinical social worker at the University of Chicago Hospital. Mr. Chamberlain holds a B.A. from Goshen College and an M.A. from the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration.



David Fluellen

David Fluellen is the Founder and CEO of the Urban Family Development Center (UFDC), a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering families and stabilizing communities. With over 18 years of experience in the non-profit sector, Mr. Fluellen oversees all aspects of UFDC's operations, ensuring the organization effectively addresses the critical needs of its community. UFDC is committed to breaking the cycle of poverty by providing families with the tools and resources necessary to thrive. One of the organization's flagship programs, Dads2B, is a groundbreaking initiative focused on engaging fathers in the prenatal period. By educating fathers about maternal and infant health, positive family structure, and the importance of their role in the child's life, Dads2B has proven instrumental in reducing infant mortality rates in high-risk communities. Mr. Fluellen's passion for strengthening families is evident in his work with UFDC and Dads2B. Through his leadership, UFDC has become a leading voice in the fight against poverty and a model for other organizations seeking to create positive change.



Joseph R. Stiltner

Joseph R. Stiltner is a father of four and a passionate advocate for fathers, drawing from his powerful journey of overcoming addiction, healing from childhood trauma, and rebuilding his life and relationships. With nearly a decade of experience working at a fatherhood initiative, Joseph has dedicated his life to helping fathers navigate their challenges. His work guides fathers toward recovery, resilience, and healthier family relationships. Joseph's combination of professional expertise and lived experience makes him a uniquely impactful voice in the fatherhood community.

SUMMIT SPEAKERS | 20 24



Antoine Johnson

As Program Success Director for National Fatherhood Initiative® (NFI), Antoine raises awareness among human service organizations of the system of complementary services and resources NFI offers and provides training and technical assistance to NFI partners. Antoine is an experienced human service professional with a passion for supporting father inclusion in human service organizations. He also has experience launching a grassroots fatherhood initiative. At NFI, he enjoys building relationships with practitioners and organization leaders to create father-inclusive ecosystems where children and communities can thrive. Antoine received a Bachelor of Arts in Health and Human Services, concentrating in community and mental health, from the University at Buffalo, NY, and an Associate's Degree in Humanities and Social Sciences from Niagara County Community College (Sanborn, NY). He is a husband and father of two young children.



Carlos Christian

From the depths of incarceration, Carlos Christian chose a path of rehabilitation and education, earning his degree with an exceptional GPA of 3.83. Fueled by his own experiences, he co-founded The Starts Within Organization, driven by a vision to empower currently incarcerated individuals and guide them towards positive lives, post-release. Through his facilitation work and thought-provoking books, *Prison Without Bars: It Starts Within*, *The Walking Logo: Taking Back My Life, Volume 2*, and *The Greatest Responsibility: Becoming the Parent Your Child Deserves*, he has touched the lives of thousands, championing better parent-child relationships and fostering positive, nurturing environments for children. His organization's programs are implemented in various facilities, and communities as a grantee of The Ohio Commission on Fatherhood since 2019. Carlos was the main feature in *The Walking Logo Documentary*, filmed in 2018, showcasing the collaboration between SWO, elected officials, directors, pastors, and returning citizens coming together around prison reform. His recent TEDx Talk, "New Underground Railroad: Freedom from Imprisonment," amplifies his commitment to catalyzing change, not just locally, but globally.



Mason King

Mason has devoted his career to nonprofit and public service, community development and aiding vulnerable populations. Prior to becoming the CEO of Jubilee Jobs of Lexington in April 2022, Mason worked for Legal Aid of the Bluegrass in various roles supporting their mission to offer legal access to all Kentuckians. He is a graduate of Leadership Lexington and a member of various boards and commissions, including the Mayor's Taskforce on Digital Equity. During his tenure at Jubilee Jobs, Mason has launched successful initiatives such as the Second Chance Academy, a LFUCG-funded program to provide re-entry curriculum and support to re-entering citizens post-incarceration in Fayette County Detention Center, Innovate to Elevate, promoting career exposure and advancement opportunities to disadvantaged youth, and the Resource Connection Program, an initiative to ensure wrap-around support and service integration. Under Mason's leadership Jubilee Jobs has doubled the number of clients served.

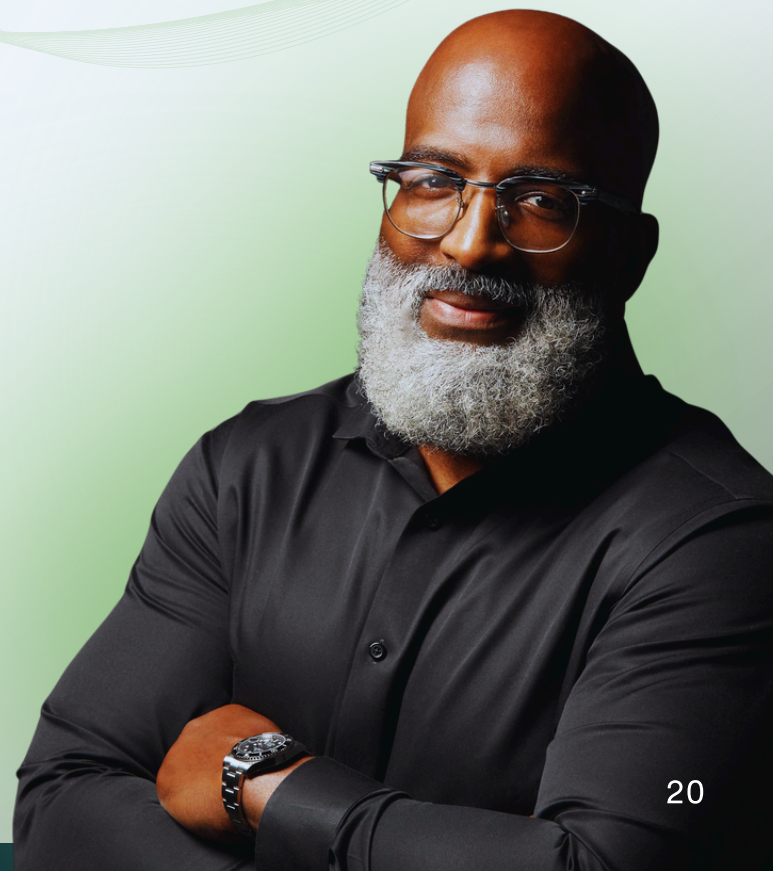


Robert Barbosa

Robert Barbosa is a passionate advocate for personal transformation and community support, with a rich background in outreach, ministry, and reentry counseling. He began his journey at Revive Life House, where he completed an intensive 1-year treatment program from January 2018 to January 2019 and was brought on board as an Intake Coordinator in May 2018. Furthering his commitment to spiritual growth and leadership, Robert completed a 2-year ministry school program at Jesus Image in May 2022. This experience deepened his understanding of faith-based community support and strengthened his ability to guide others through their personal and spiritual journeys. In April 2023, Robert joined the team at Jubilee Jobs as a Job Counselor. His role expanded to include instructing men and women in the Fayette County Detention Center on reentry, where he now dedicates his time to helping individuals transition successfully back into society.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER | JASON WILSON

Mr. Jason Wilson is the founder and CEO of the Yunion (pronounced union), a non-profit youth development organization in Detroit Michigan. Since 2003, the Yunion has effectively reached more than 15,000 youth and young adults through innovative prevention programming, trauma-informed care, parental engagement, and counseling. In 2008, Mr. Wilson's heart for fatherless and misguided black boys inspired him to create and direct the Cave of Adullam Transformational Training Academy (CATTA). As an expert in Emotional Stability Training®, Wilson's leadership has garnered the CATTA numerous acknowledgments and awards for his work teaching males how to introspectively confront and conquer their negative emotions with composure. In 2016, one of the CATTA's videos went viral with over 80 million views worldwide. As a result, Mr. Wilson was invited to be a guest on the Dr. Oz Show and to present the CATTA at President Obama's 'My Brother's Keeper' Showcase at the White House. Later that year, NBC's hit TV show 'This Is Us' was so inspired by Wilson's work, that they featured the CATTA's initiation ceremony in one of their most viewed and award-winning episodes. In 2018, Mr. Wilson signed with actor/producer Laurence Fishburne's film company Cinema Gypsy to produce a documentary film on Jason's work with the CATTA. The film world premiered at Tribeca Film Festival in 2022, winning Best Feature Documentary, Best Editing for a documentary, and 1st Place Audience Award. Mr. Wilson has over 25 years of martial arts experience, in addition to over 16 years of training and developing young black males. Mr. Wilson is a man of the Most High, a faithful husband of over 24 years and a proud father of two beautiful children.



CONFERENCE EVALUATIONS

86%

**OF PARTICIPANTS
AGREED**

THAT THE SUMMIT HELPED THEM
BETTER UNDERSTAND
THE IMPORTANCE OF
FATHERHOOD

92%

OF PARTICIPANTS

SAID THAT

THE VENUE WAS

SUITABLE &

ACCOMODATING

91%

OF PARTICIPANTS

WERE SATISFIED

WITH THE FATHERHOOD

SUMMIT

91%

OF PARTICIPANTS

SAID THAT

THE SPEAKERS WERE

KNOWLEDGEABLE

AND ENGAGING

CONFERENCE EVALUATIONS

92%
OF PARTICIPANTS
SAID THAT
STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS
PROVIDED EXCELLENT
SERVICE

94%
OF PARTICIPANTS
SAID THAT
THEY WOULD RECOMMEND
THIS EVENT
TO OTHERS

WORKSHOPS EVALUATIONS

92%
OF PARTICIPANTS
SAID THAT
SPEAKERS WERE
ENGAGING

93%
OF PARTICIPANTS
SAID THAT
THEY WOULD RECOMMEND
THIS TRAINING TO
OTHERS

PARTICIPANT COMMENTS

"THIS WAS MY FIRST YEAR AT THIS SUMMIT, I LOVED EVERYTHING. EVERYTHING WAS VERY TOP NOTCH AND PROFESSIONAL, EXCITED FOR NEXT YEAR!"

"THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER, JASON WILSON, WAS AMAZING!"

"THE ENTIRE SUMMIT WAS A BEAUTIFUL, BLESSED EVENT... WAS MOVING AND NEEDED."

"THE PARENT TRAINING WAS TOP NOTCH! I'VE BEEN TRAINED IN 4 OTHER CURRICULUMS, AND I LEFT THIS TRAINING FEELING AS THOUGH I COULD BEGIN TEACHING IT NEXT WEEK."

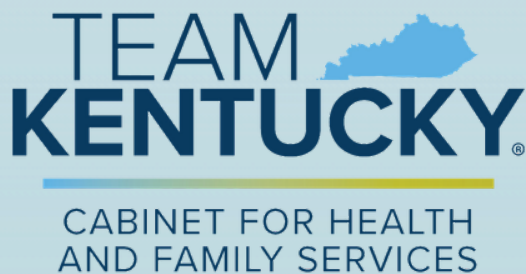
"I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ATTEND ALMOST ALL OF THE SUMMITS, AND I LEARN SOMETHING EVERY SINGLE TIME. I LEAVE FEELING VERY MOTIVATED TO ENGAGE THE FATHERS IN MY SPECIFIC SETTING."

"THE EVENT AS A WHOLE, IT WAS PERFECTION! ALL OF YOU WERE OUTSTANDING!"

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS !

We want to extend our sincerest thanks to our supporters, sponsors, and summit advisory group. We are filled with an overwhelming sense of gratitude for your invaluable partnership and guidance. Your contributions and expertise play a pivotal role in the success of the 2024 Kentucky Fatherhood Summit.

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