

The Commission's 5th Anniversary



*An Advocate for Greater Father Family Involvement
In the lives of Children & Families...
And the Intentional Transformation of Social Agencies and Systems of Care that
Serve Them*

**JFCS
Barbara and Harvey Brodsky Enrichment Center
345 Montgomery Ave
Bala Cynwyd
Pennsylvania 19004**

**Tuesday, December 10, 2019
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

*Pinning of Commissioners, Fellows, Corporate Staff and Event Volunteers
Musical Entertainment by V. Shayne Frederick Ensemble*

Complimentary Valet Parking

<https://www.thestrongfamiliescommission.com/>

A Day of Rededication and Celebration

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

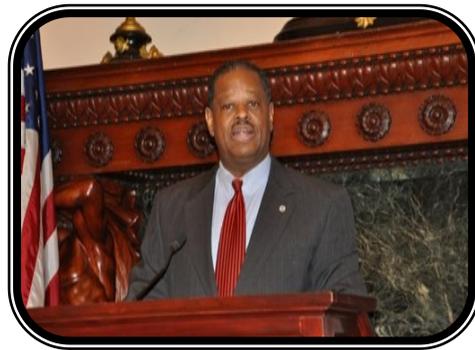
8:00 am – 9:00 a.m. – Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Commissioners

9 am – 10:00 a.m. – Annual Meeting of the Board of Commissioners

10 am – 3:00 p.m. – Inaugural Meeting of the Commission's Council of Fellows

5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. – Evening Reception and Formal Program

- Musical Entertainment by V. Shayne Frederick Ensemble*
 - Light Dinner*
 - Pinning Ceremony and Award Presentations*



December 10, 2019

Good evening supporters and friends of The Strong Families Commission, Incorporated (The Commission).

Thank you for joining us this evening, tonight's program, unlike any other of THE COMMISSION's sponsored events, is not about the work of THE COMMISSION, but instead the supporters and friends of THE COMMISSION.

In that regard, we are honoring the **Rev. Dr. W. Wilson Goode, Sr.** for his philanthropic efforts to better the lives of children and families; **David A. Wyher** for his selfless contributions of time, talent, and funds; **Dr. Joel N. Myers** for his willingness to leave, for periods of time, the comforts of his corporate world and mirror behavior that will undoubtedly draw other corporate giants to the struggle of men who want to care for their children and families, but face far too many systemic barriers that impede them from doing so; and finally **State Representative Edward C. Gainey**, who has been a supporter of the Fathers Collaborative Council of Western Pennsylvania for nearly a decade, and who had the foresight to see the value of connecting with Philadelphia's Fatherhood Advocates to move Pennsylvania forward toward an equally-just legislative, judicial and executive system of government that removes any and all systemic barriers that impede greater father family involvement in the lives of children and families.

Notwithstanding the tremendous gifts that these awardees have contributed to the growth of THE COMMISSION, there are many more, including some of you in this room, who deserve recognition as well. For example, our Board of Commissioners who have authority to ensure that we operate within the mission of our organization, which is to strengthen families and improve developmental outcomes for children. In addition, Board Members are the trustees of our government classification as a 501 (c) (3) Pennsylvania Corporation established to have the purposes and powers stated in our Articles of Incorporation.

Neither THE COMMISSION's Philosophy, mission nor vision that we celebrate here tonight would exist, if not for our Event Volunteers, especially those who prepare in advance for your arrival at our various program activities over the years to learn, share, and to advocate for greater father family involvement in the lives of children and families. Where would THE COMMISSION be without our corporate advisors, or our national Fellows and their content expertise? In short ladies and gentlemen, THE COMMISSION is you, and how well the corporation does is and will always been dependent upon you and your willingness to support us in making the policy changes that strengthen children, families and communities in America.

Thank you and enjoy your evening.

Rufus Sylvester Lynch

COMMISSION CHAIR

The Commission's 5th Anniversary

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Evening Agenda & Celebration

Tuesday, December 10th 2019

Greetings and Welcome – Carmina A. Taylor, Event Manager

Blessing of Event – George D. Mosee, Jr., Esquire, Vice Chair, Commission Board of Directors

Commencement of Program – Dr. Rufus Sylvester Lynch, Master of Ceremony, and Founder & Chair of the Commission

Swearing In of Commissioners – Judge Glynnis Delbert Hill, Pennsylvania Judge, Court of Common Pleas, City of Philadelphia

Commission Pinning of Fellows, Corporate Staff, and Event Volunteers –

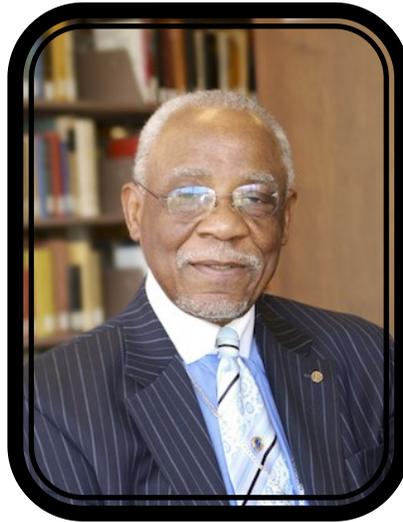
- **Pinning of Commission Board Members** – Carole Hass Gravagno & Darlene Tart-Scott
- **Pinning of Chair of Event Volunteers** – Magaly Hernandez, Commission Board Member
- **Pinning of Event Volunteers** – VeRita Amelia Barnette Lynch, Chair of Event Volunteers
- **Pinning of Corporate Staff** – Michael A. Golembiewski, Commission Board Member
- **Pinning of Council of Fellows** – Dr. Amy C. Sagen, Commission Board Member
- **Pinning of Past Commissioners** – George D. Mosee, Jr., Esquire, Commission Vice Chair

Musical Entertainment by V. Shayne Frederick Ensemble

Presentation of Awards –

- **Dr. Rufus Sylvester Lynch Presenter of the Commission's Inaugural Philanthropic Award** to The Reverend Dr. W. Wilson Goode, Sr., Chair of the Philadelphia Leadership Foundation & President and Chief Executive Officer of AMACHI, Inc.
- **Attorney George D. Mosee, Jr., Presenter of the Commission's Inaugural Corporate Award** to David A. Wyher, President and Chief Executive Officer, Delta Community Supports, Inc.
- **Lynn Fields Harris Presenter of the Commission's Inaugural Pennsylvania Fatherhood Award** to Dr. Joel N. Myers, Founder, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of AccuWeather, an American media company that provides commercial weather forecasting services worldwide. Receiving the Award on behalf of Dr. Myers is Mark T. Lynch, Member of the Board of Directors for the Dads' Resource Center, at State College Pennsylvania, founded by Dr. Myers.
- **The Honorable Anthony Hardy Williams, Pennsylvania State Senator & Lynn Fields Harris, Founder, President and Chief Executive Officer, Commonwealth Consultants, Inc. Presenters of the Commission's Irvis, Fields, & Williams Distinguished Public Service Ward** to State Representative Edward C. Gainey, Pennsylvania House of Representatives.
- **Commission Chair, gives The Charge Going Forward...**

Awardees in Review



Rev. Dr. W. Wilson Goode, Sr.

Dr. W. Wilson Goode, Sr. is the President and CEO of AMACHI, Inc., a nationally acclaimed faith-based program for mentoring children of incarcerated parents which has served more than 350,000 children in all 50 States. He is also Chairman and CEO of Self, Incorporated, a *nonprofit corporation dedicated to serving more than 600 homeless men and women*. He is a Senior Fellow at the Fox School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Goode was the first African American member and Chairman of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission. He broke racial barriers again with his appointment as Managing Director for the City of Philadelphia. In 1984 he became the City's first African American Mayor and served two terms.

Dr. Goode has earned degrees from Morgan State University (BA), the University of Pennsylvania (MA), Palmer, Theological Seminary (D. Min.), and fourteen conferred honorary doctorates. He is a member of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity and Kappa Alpha Psi. He is being honored tonight for his leadership as Chairman of the Philadelphia Leadership Foundation.





David A. Wyher

David A. Wyher, President and CEO, Delta Community Supports, Inc. founded in 1977 the non-profit corporation known as Delta Community Supports, Inc. (“Delta”), which operates in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Delta has been empowering individuals to live fulfilling lives through a wide-range of community-based services. From our foster care and adoption services to support services for adults with developmental disabilities, we help people grow and thrive through all stages of life.

Our mission is to enrich the lives of individuals and families through outstanding community-based supports and mutually rewarding relationships. The people we support and their families are our most valued customers. We start by making it all about them. Nothing makes us happier and prouder to say that on an annual basis over 2000 people are assisted by the services Delta provides.

The company employs over 750 staff and 200 foster parents. Offices are located in Blue Bell, Glenside, Warminster, and Levittown in Pennsylvania; offices also in Raritan and Mays Landing, New Jersey.

Dave received his BA from Eastern College, and a MA from Villanova University. He and his wife Terri reside in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania.. He is being honored tonight for his selfless contributions of time, talent, and funds.





Dr. Joel N. Myers

Dr. Joel N. Myers is Founder, Chairman and CEO of AccuWeather and has been recognized as one of the greatest entrepreneurs in American history. A confirmed leader and extraordinary visionary Dr. Myers has successfully led AccuWeather to become the largest and fastest growing global source of weather forecasts and warnings with proven Superior Accuracy. Today, the company reaches nearly 2 billion people worldwide through digital media, as well as through radio, television, newspapers, and the 24/7 AccuWeather Network channel.

Dr. Myers also founded the Dads' Resource Center in 2015. Of his many awards, accolades and philanthropic endeavors, Dr. Myers is most proud of his special relationship with his seven children and 10 grandchildren.

After a careful national search by The Strong Families Commission, Incorporated (THE COMMISSION) for the correct image to launch the Symposium Organizing Committee's Pennsylvania Campaign, "**Brighter Futures for Our Children...Through Greater Father Involvement**" it was recommended that the right choice was within our state geographic boundaries, just north of our state capitol in Centre County, Pennsylvania, the home of Dr. Joel N. Myers. Joel is being honor tonight for his willingness to leave, for periods of time, the comforts of his corporate world and mirror behavior that will undoubtedly draw other corporate giants to the struggle of men who want to care for their children and families, but face far too many systemic barriers that impede them from doing so.





State Representative Edward C. Gainey

State Representative Ed Gainey brings new leadership and a new vision to the neighborhoods that makes up the 24th Legislative District, in Allegheny County, Western Pennsylvania.

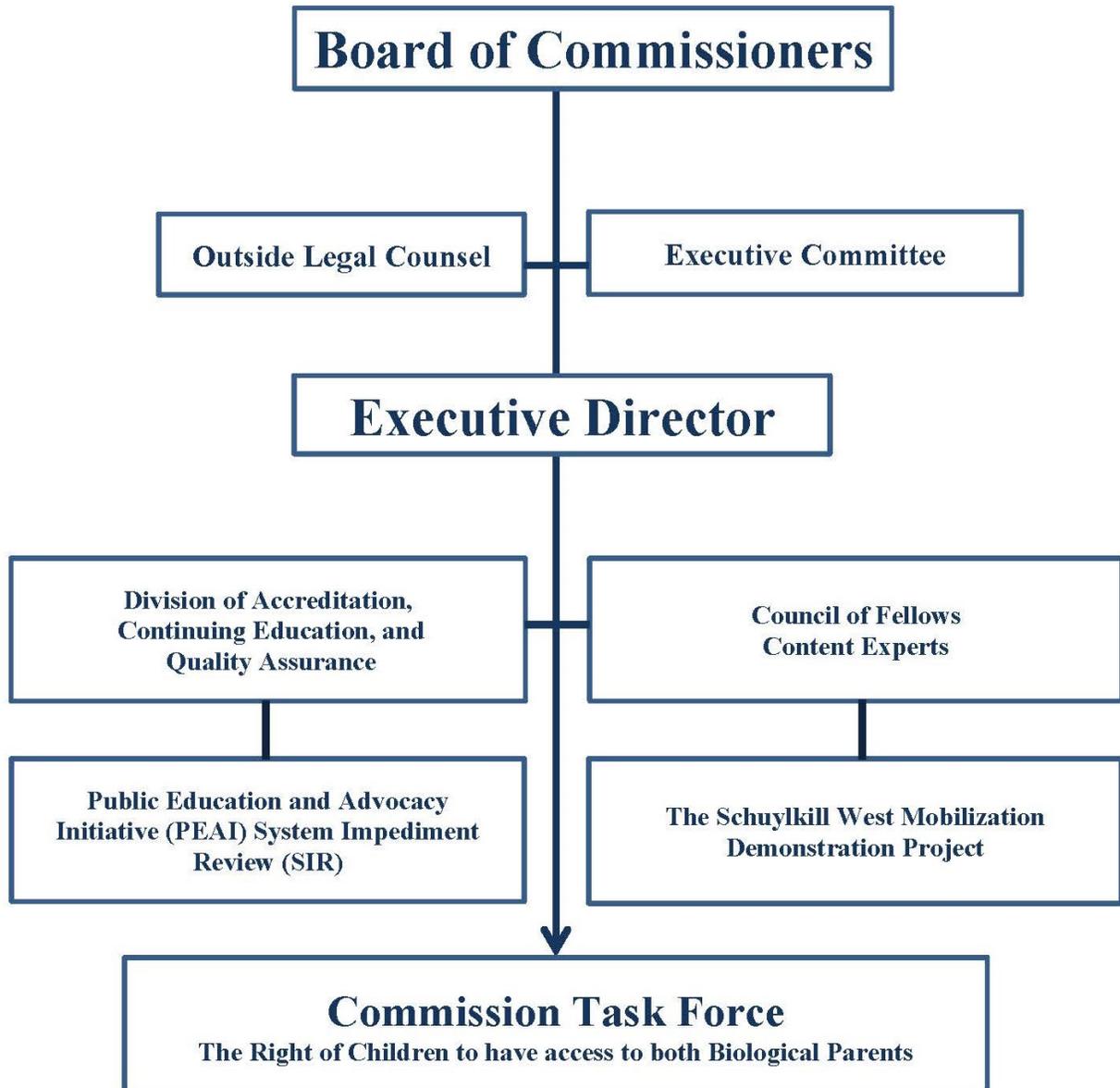
His legislative priorities are labor issues, working-class families, transportation, education, community development and enhancement. Before joining the House of Representatives in 2013, Representative Gainey worked as the community development specialist for the city of Pittsburgh, where he implemented several initiatives such as business seminars, the Minority Media Initiative, diversity education for the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police, and the 52 Weeks of Peace Initiative.

Representative Gainey is being honored tonight for his commitment to services to fathers in Western Pennsylvania, and his willingness to use his Office to support a statewide movement to establish a Pennsylvania Committee on Greater Father Family Involvement.





Organizational Chart



Approved July 2017

Program Opportunities for Service

**Commission Task Force
on the Rights of Children
to have access to both
Biological Parents**

**Division of Accreditation,
Continuing Education and
Quality Assurance**

**Commission's Council
of Fellows**

**Public Education and Advocacy
Initiative (PEAI) / System
Impediment Review (SIR),**

**Schuylkill West Mobilization
Demonstration Project**

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Program Opportunities for Service

Commission Task Force on the Rights of Children to have access to both Biological Parents:

Establishing the right of children to have access to their parents and vice versa is both feasible and necessary. A strong legal foundation exists for this right, as documented by Kevin A. Golembiewski, Esquire, Co-Founder, of The Strong Families Commission, Incorporated (THE COMMISSION). However, equally necessary is strong leadership to move this right forward. THE COMMISSION seeks a **Task Force Chair** willing to explore this issue further.

Division of Accreditation, Continuing Education and Quality Assurance:

The Strong Families Commission, Incorporated (THE COMMISSION) is committed to helping Philadelphia become the most father friendly city in America. In order to be effective, THE COMMISSION must be able to build its following with the assurance that our practices and approaches will be executed with fidelity. In that regard, in April 2016, after a 4 year continuous learning process, THE COMMISSION recognized and certified 25 Philadelphia children, youth and family-focused agencies as 3FAs (Father Friendly Flagship Agencies). In January 2018, after an additional 2 years of collaborative learning, 11 of those agencies were accredited as 3FAs. A 3FA is an entity (Agency, Institution, or System of Care) that is dedicated to the well-being of children, youth and families, and is committed to the inclusion of fathers in a service delivery model. THE COMMISSION seeks a **Program Administrator** to manage its Division of Accreditation, Continuing Education and Quality Assurance.

THE COMMISSION's Council of Fellows:

The Strong Families Commission, Incorporated (THE COMMISSION) is pleased to announce its **Practitioner/Scholar Development Program (PSDP)**. PSDP is designed to support and encourage practitioners, researchers, policy analysis, and administrators interested in making informed contributions to society's understanding of the importance of fathers within the lives of children and families. Successful applicants will be known as "Fellows of the Commission" and will receive faculty rank based on a set of criteria. The annual selection process is designed to be highly competitive. Applicants are expected to possess an understanding of and a commitment to Commission values and philosophy; they must be performance-driven and have an entrepreneurial spirit. THE COMMISSION seeks a **Council Coordinator** of Fellows activities who will interface regularly with Council Members, and THE COMMISSION's Chair.

Public Education and Advocacy Initiative (PEAI) / System Impediment Review (SIR):

The first public education and advocacy initiatives of The Strong Families Commission, Incorporated (THE COMMISSION) in 2015 was *PEAI*; designed to support children, youth, and family agencies that are Father Inclusive, and which face systemic barriers to connecting, re-connecting, or maintaining connections of fathers to their children.

PEAI will use an internal process referred to as (SIR) "Systems' Impediment Review" to document the systemic barriers. Philadelphia's children, youth and family-focused contracted city agencies will be invited to partner with the Commission to educate the public regarding systemic barriers that they face providing safety, permanency, and well-being for children and families that they serve. THE COMMISSION seeks a **Program Director** to manage its Public Education and Advocacy Initiative, using its internal review process known as SIR.

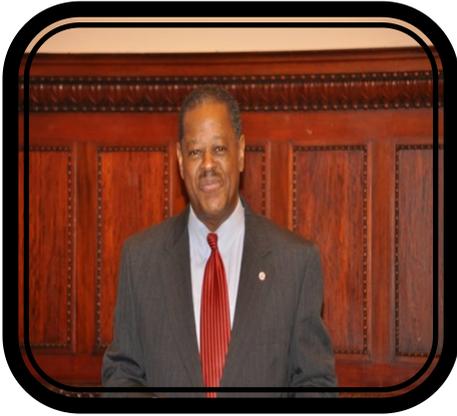
Schuylkill West Mobilization Demonstration Project:

The Strong Families Commission, Incorporated (THE COMMISSION) has come to understand in order to promote involved, responsible, and committed fatherhood, communities of families and service providers must enter the conversation together and thereby change the cultural context and strategy for strengthening families, inclusive of fathers. In that regard, The Schuylkill West Mobilization Demonstration Project will be launched by the Commission within the first 90 days of the year 2020, as a preventive measure, to raise the awareness within communities, of the consequences for children and youth entering, re-entering, and/or remaining in child welfare, juvenile justice, and/or other systems of care, due to the inability of parents to form and sustain an intact family structure. The Project will serve primarily Philadelphia Zip Codes: 19131, 19151, 19139, 19104, 19143, 19142, & 19153. The major anticipated outcome from the Project will be the opening of the Zach's Research Center (ZRC), which will serve as a support system for fathers that take into account the systemic impediments they face taking care of their children, often alone, without using the polemics of victimization that contaminates positive male development. ZRC will utilize a tri-prone approach to its service delivery, beginning first with fathers, providing services and opportunities, while identifying the needs of the children, and at the same time fitting the pieces of the puzzle together, including mom, that will create family well-being for all.

This ambitious project calls for THE COMMISSION to seek a **Chief Organizer, Community Developer & Program Implementation Officer**.

Commission Gallery

Board of Commissioners



Dr. Rufus Sylvester Lynch, ACSW
Founder, and Chair of the Commission



George D. Mosee, Jr., Esquire
Vice Chair of the Commission



Dr. Amy C. Sagen, LSW, ACSW, MSE
Treasurer of the Commission



Magaly Hernandez
Secretary of the Commission



Michael A. Golembiewski
Manager for External Outreach & Information Technology

Corporate, Research, Administrative & Field Operations, and Event Volunteers



Reizdan B. Moore, Esquire
Commission outside Legal Counsel



Dr. Virginia Johnson Smith, ACSW
Director of Research



VeRita Amelia Barnette Lynch
Chair of Event Volunteers



Ver'non D. Brown
Director of Field Operations



Catherine L. Blackwell,
Event Volunteer

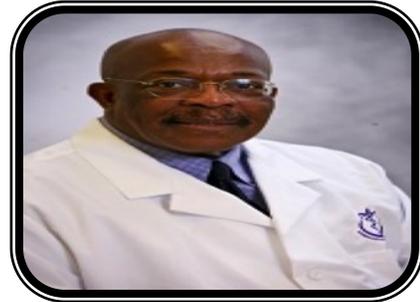


Nadine Blackwell
Event Volunteer



Elyse Diane Spearman
Event Volunteer

Commission Fellows



**Dr. Eugene Herrington, Ph.D., M.S.W., M.Div., L.C.S.W.
Inaugural Chair
Behavioral Health Workgroup**



**Patricia L. Charlemagne, J.D., M.P.S.
Inaugural Chair
Administration of Justice/Public Safety Workgroup**



**Sulaiman A. Wood, MSS, MLSP
Inaugural Chair
Child Support Custody, Services & Enforcement Workgroup**



**Dr. Julia M. Kobulsky, PhD
Inaugural Chair
Dependent, Delinquent & Crossover Children and Youth Workgroup**

Commission Fellows Continued



Dr. Jeffrey K. Shears, Ph.D.
Inaugural Chair
Early Childhood Development Workgroup



Dr. Alicia Barbara Harvey-Smith, Ph.D.
Inaugural Chair
Education Workgroup



Dr. Rahsaan R. Turpin, Ph.D.
Inaugural Chair
Employment and Training Workgroup



Angela McIver, MSS, LSP
Inaugural Chair
**Housing, Supervised Independent Living,
and Homelessness Workgroup**



G. Lawrence DeMarco, LLM
Inaugural Chair
Parent Education/Supportive Services Workgroup



Dr. Kirk Edward Harris, MPA, JD, PHD, Esq.
Inaugural Chair
Public Health Workgroup

Past Commissioners



Kevin A. Golembiewski, Esquire
Co-Founder of the Commission



Lynn Fields Harris, MPA
Inaugural Treasurer of the Commission



Tomas Sanchez, JD
Co-Founder of the Commission



Carl W. Bailey, BA
President and CEO
CWB Consulting Services (Ret.)



Troy Brindle, LCSW, QCSW, DCH
Co-owner and Director of Springfield Psychological



Malkia Singleton Ofori-Agyekum, MS
ParentChild+ Pennsylvania State Director



Larry T. Woody, BS
Manages the Focus on Fathers Program for the Health Promotion Council,
an affiliate of the Public Health Management Corporation, City of Philadelphia.

Financial Sponsors

-Within the last five years-

Friends

- Dr. Darlyne Bailey, Professor and Dean Emeritus, “The Social Justice Initiative”, Bryn Mawr College
- Michael A. Golembiewski, Product Training Manager at CPI Card Group, Nashville, Tennessee
- Dr. Millicent Carvalho Grevious, State Equal Employment Manager, Pennsylvania National Guard
- Dr. Eugene Herrington, Professor Morehouse School of Medicine (Ret.)
- Cathryn L Irvis, Wife of K. Leroy Irvis, former Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives
- Craig Long, CPCU, ARM, CLU, MBA, MSW, President, Solutions For The NONPROFIT
- Kirkland Alexander Lynch, J.D., CPA, Music industry professional, Los Angeles, California
- VeRita Amelia Barnette Lynch, R.N. (Ret.)
- Eric Mackie, Associate at Eimer Stahl, LLP, Chicago, Illinois
- Jacquelyn Mitchell, Esq. (Ret.)
- Dr. Jeffrey K. Shears, Professor, Social Work Research Consortium Director, UNC – Charlotte, North Carolina
- Jamel T. Slaughter, Program Administrator, Office of Community Care, City of Dallas
- Mr. & Mrs. John F. White, Jr.
- Dr. Wayne L. Varnadore, DDS

Champions

- Anonymous Donor
- Carl W. Bailey, President and CEO of CWB Consulting Services, (Ret.)
- Patricia L. Charlemagne, J.D., M.P.S.
- David R. Fair, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Turning Points for Children
- Lynn Fields Harris, President and CEO, Commonwealth Consultants, Inc.
- Reidzan B. Moore, Esquire, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
- George D. Mosee, Jr., Esquire, Executive Director, Philadelphia Anti-Drug/Anti-Violence Network
- Dr. Virginia Johnson Smith, ACSW, Professor Lincoln University
- Jeff and Gwen Steiner, Dad’s Resource Center, State College, Pennsylvania
- Ted N. Strader, Executive Director, COPES, Inc. “*Creating Lasting Family Connections*” Louisville, Kentucky www.copes.org

Corporate Public & Private Donors

- Allegheny Intermediate Unit, Fathers Collaborative Council of Western Pennsylvania
- City of Philadelphia, Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbilities Services
- Community Council Health Systems of Philadelphia
- Daddy Appleseed Fund, Allan Shedlin Founder, Washington, D.C.
- Dr. Joel N. Myers, Founder, CEO, and Chairman, AccuWeather, State College, Pennsylvania
- David A. Wyher, President/CEO, Delta Community Supports, Inc., Pennsylvania & New Jersey
- H.F. “Gerry” Len Fest, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- PECO – An Exelon Company
- Joan Pratt & Associates, CPA Firm, Baltimore, Maryland
- State Senator Anthony Hardy Williams
- Temple University’s Fatherhood Research & Practice Network (FRPN)
- The Heinz Endowment Foundation
- The Philadelphia Foundation
- The Stoneleigh Foundation

Institutional Partner

- Allegheny Intermediate Unit, Fathers Collaborative Council of Western Pennsylvania
- DAD’s Resource Center
- Delta Community Supports, Inc.

In Kind Supporters

-Within the last five years-

- Administration for Children and Families, Region III, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- AMACHI, Inc.
- Child Welfare League of America (CWLA)
- Educating Communities for Parenting
- Films – 4 – Good.com
- Jewish Families and Children Services of Greater Philadelphia
- National Association of Social Workers – Pennsylvania Chapter
- Pennsylvania Department of General Services
- Philadelphia Leadership Foundation (PLF)
- School District of Philadelphia
- United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey
- University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work, Child Welfare Resource Center
- Zion Hill Baptist Church, Philadelphia Pennsylvania

A special thanks to the many speakers, workshop presenters, and content experts from around the state who gave of themselves so freely, and at no cost to The Strong Families Commission, Incorporated (THE COMMISSION), to support its mission to strengthen families and improve developmental outcomes for children by advocating for greater father family involvement in the lives of children and families ... and the intentional transformation of social agencies and systems of care that serve them.

Hero of the Year

State Senator

Anthony Hardy Williams

Prime Sponsor of Senate Bill 476



“Few things in life bring more joy than the opportunity to raise children and witness them become the best versions of themselves. Every parent deserves that reality. Too often, children across Pennsylvania grow up without the benefit of both parents through no fault of their own. In many instances, institutional barriers play a limiting role in what could otherwise be positive and meaningful parent-child relationships. The parent who receives too little attention in conversations about the family structure tends to be the father. If we continue to overlook the vital role all fathers, regardless of social status, play in the development of their children, we will continue to see a decline in the societal structure grounded in love and respect we’ve all come to cherish. Each of us has a responsibility to encourage and, where possible, facilitate healthy family relationships; and, there must be a greater focus on the father’s role in the family. I introduced legislation to create an Advisory Commission on Greater Father Family Involvement not to minimize the extraordinary value mothers bring to the family, but to recognize that a child’s development will never be whole until the father is allowed to participate in a complete and authentic way. I’m grateful for your concern and support in this endeavor. Our collective strength can make all the difference.”

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