

Healthy Marriage and Relationship Education: What Advocates Need to Know

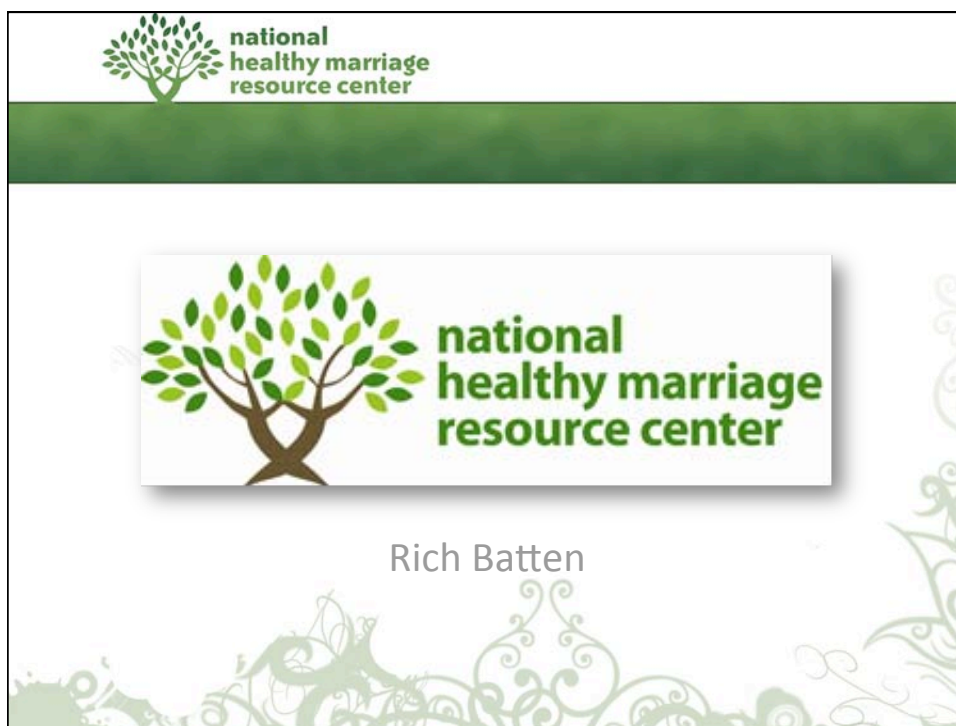
WEBINAR

September 19, 2011 ~ 2:00-3:30pm Eastern



Our State and Local Presenters





Rich Batten

NHMRC Partners



**The Administration for Children
and Families (ACF)**

The Annie E. Casey Foundation

**The National Campaign to
Prevent
Teen and Unplanned
Pregnancies**

NHMRC Priorities

- “First Stop Shop” on marriage information, research and resources for programs, practitioners, policy makers and the public.
- Support ACF in its commitment to promoting healthy marriages and child well-being.
- Provide supports and technical assistance to federally funded and community based programs and practitioners.
- Develop and expand strategic partnerships nationally to advance the field of healthy marriage & relationship education



Twoofus.org



**national
healthy marriage
resource center**

*So, what is Healthy
Marriage and Relationship
Education (MRE) anyway?*



**national
healthy marriage
resource center**

Defining MRE

A prevention service offered throughout the life span to teach effective communication, problem solving, empathy, and understand what is/is not healthy in an intimate partner relationship.



**national
healthy marriage
resource center**

Rich Batten

Rich.batten@publicstrategies.com

303.830.0400

Healthy Marriage and Relationship Education:

What Domestic Violence Advocates Need to Know

ANNE MENARD
NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR HEALTHY MARRIAGE PROGRAMS

**Deficit Reduction Act of 2005
(passed by Congress 2006) included:**

*\$100 million annually in grants to
public or private entities to conduct research
and demonstration projects,
and provide TA focused on a specific
set of activities.*

**Funding extended by Congress through 2011
but reduced to \$75 million**

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR HEALTHY MARRIAGE PROGRAMS

Eligible Activities

- Public advertising campaigns on the value of marriage and the skills needed to increase marital stability and health.
- Education in high schools on the value of marriage, relationship skills, and budgeting.

3

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR HEALTHY MARRIAGE PROGRAMS

Eligible Activities

- Marriage education, marriage skills, and relationship skills programs, that may include parenting skills, financial management, conflict resolution, and job and career advancement, for non-married pregnant women and non-married expectant fathers.

4

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR HEALTHY MARRIAGE PROGRAMS

Eligible Activities

- Pre-marital education and marriage skills training for engaged couples and for couples or individuals interested in marriage.
- Marriage enhancement and marriage skills training programs for married couples.

5

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR HEALTHY MARRIAGE PROGRAMS

Eligible Activities

- Divorce reduction programs that teach relationship skills.
- Marriage mentoring programs which use married couples as role models and mentors in at-risk communities.

6

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR HEALTHY MARRIAGE PROGRAMS

Eligible Activities

- Programs to reduce the disincentives to marriage in means-tested aid programs, if offered in conjunction with any activity described above.

7

2011 DV REQUIREMENTS

"Applicants must identify in their applications the domestic violence experts with whom they have initially consulted regarding program design, content, outreach, outcomes, and target population, among other issues.

In addition, applicants must include evidence of consultation with one or more experts on domestic violence prevention, or with domestic violence coalitions in the community, to assist in developing an appropriate domestic violence protocol tailored to the program prior to program implementation."

(pp. 19-20 of 2011 HM grants program announcement)

8

SIX KEY ELEMENTS OF DV RESPONSE

- Creating safe opportunities to disclose
- Responding in appropriate and culturally proficient ways
- Truth in advertising
- Cross-training
- Protocol development and implementation
- Respectful partnership-building

9

LESSONS LEARNED TO DATE

- Development of protocol prompts HMRE projects to involve local domestic violence programs or state coalitions
- Often a need for cross-training:
DV programs need to learn about HMRE and HMRE partners need to learn about domestic violence and community services

10

MORE LESSONS LEARNED

The devil is in the details, which vary across sites

- The number and type of HMRE partners and their experience dealing with domestic violence issues (“domestic violence competence” levels)
- Familiarity with the target population and cultural competence

11

MORE LESSONS LEARNED

Details vary across sites

- The population(s) being targeted and their relative risk for domestic violence
 - Families under high stress and in transition; families with high rates of domestic violence, such as those in the child welfare system
- The perceived consequences of disclosing domestic violence in different settings

12

MORE LESSONS LEARNED

Details vary across sites

- How potential participants are identified and referred to HMRE activities
 - Formal vs. informal intake processes
 - Settings in which screening/assessment occur and opportunities for confidential disclosure (home visitation, hospital-based, welfare/cps agencies, multi-service community agencies, high schools, churches)
 - Reliance on self-screening

13

MORE LESSONS LEARNED

Details vary across sites

- The types of marriage and relationship education and other services offered and the curricula being used
- Alternative services available to families "screened out" of marriage education

14

SCREENING: *A MEANS NOT AN END*

- Communicates that you care about the safety
- Underscores that violence or abuse – in any form – is not a part of a healthy relationship.
- Better prepares all participants to help themselves if necessary, but also family or friends who might need information on DV protections of services.
- Helps HMR Education programs determine who is at risk in their relationship and make better decisions about participation as well as informed referrals to community resources.

15

STILL LEARNING....

16