

A man in a striped t-shirt is carrying a young girl on his shoulders. The girl is wearing a yellow shirt and has her arms outstretched. They are silhouetted against a bright sunset sky with a lens flare effect.

# 2022 Oklahoma Fatherhood Summit Evaluation

September 14, 2022



OKLAHOMA  
COMMISSION ON  
CHILDREN AND YOUTH

*The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA*  
**etteam**  
COLLEGE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION



The Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth (OCCY) and its partners presented the Oklahoma Fatherhood Summit on October 14, 2022, at the Tulsa Dream Center. OCCY is working with the Educational Training, Evaluation, Assessment, and Measurement (E-TEAM) Department of the University of Oklahoma to evaluate stakeholder engagement and capacity-building efforts.

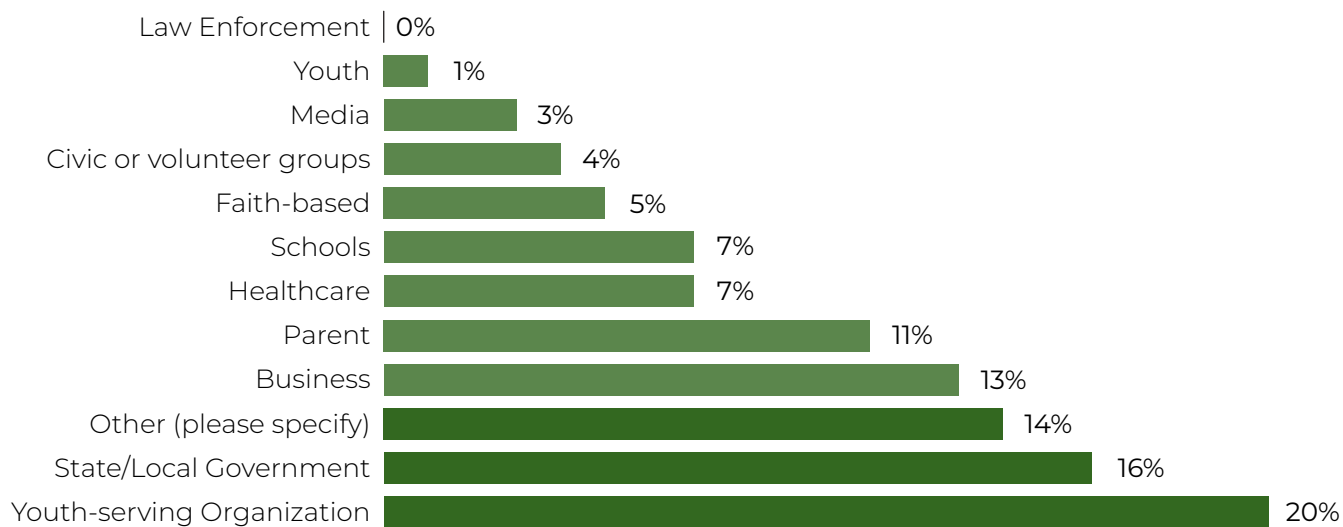
Following the summit, participants were invited to take an online evaluation survey. Following are the results of the survey, which 47 participants completed.





Respondents represented a variety of community sectors, with youth-serving organizations and state and local government representing the largest population. The “other” category was highly reported and consisted of nonprofit organizations, government agencies, community agencies, and legal and educational organizations (Chart 1).

**Chart 1. Community Sector (n=46)**



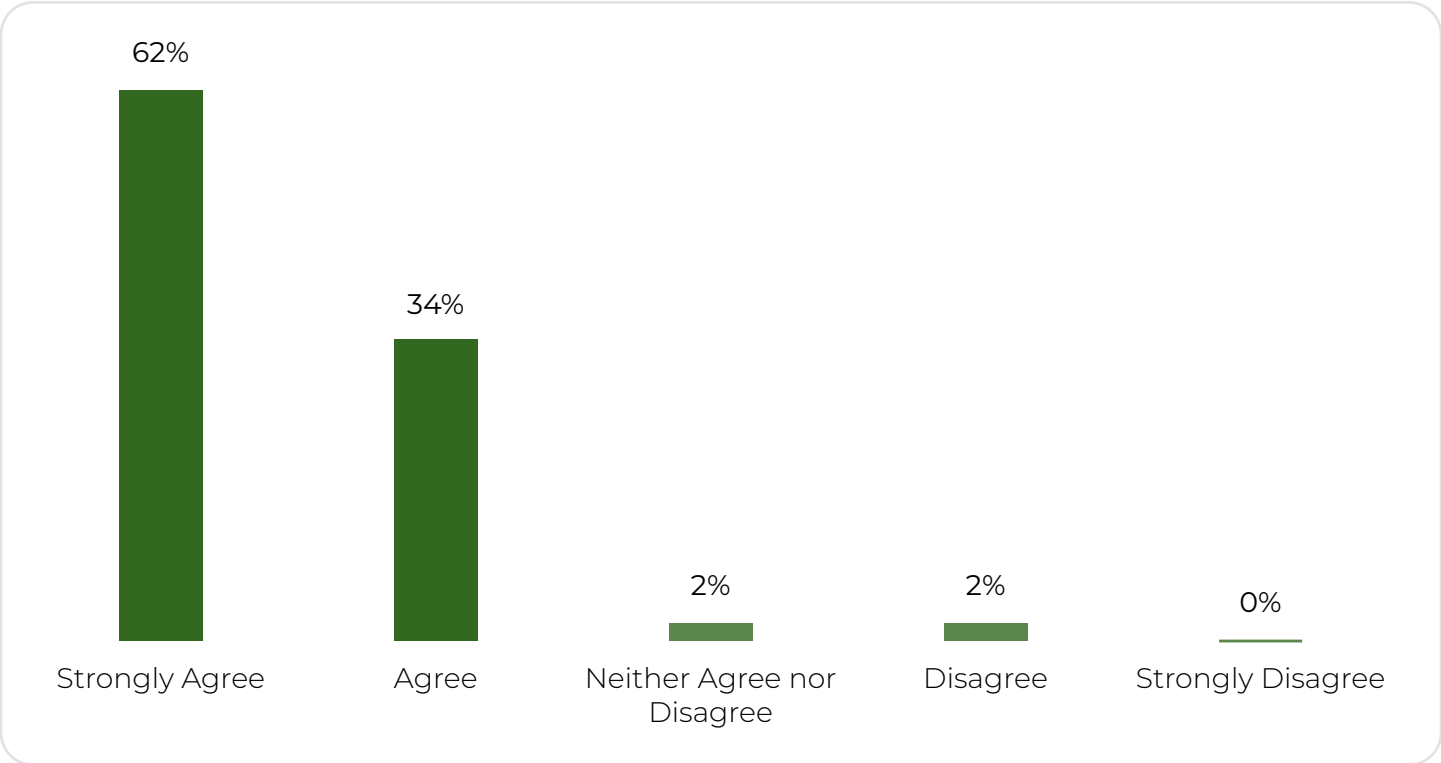
# Changes in Awareness and Confidence

Participants responded to survey items to measure increased awareness of resources and increased confidence in engaging family members, service providers, and community partners. Almost all respondents reported increases in awareness and confidence.

Ninety-six percent of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed that as a result of the 2022 OK Fatherhood Summit, they are more aware of community resources and programs to help fathers meet the social, emotional, and financial needs of their children and families; one respondent (2%) remained neutral, and; one (2%) disagreed (Chart 2).

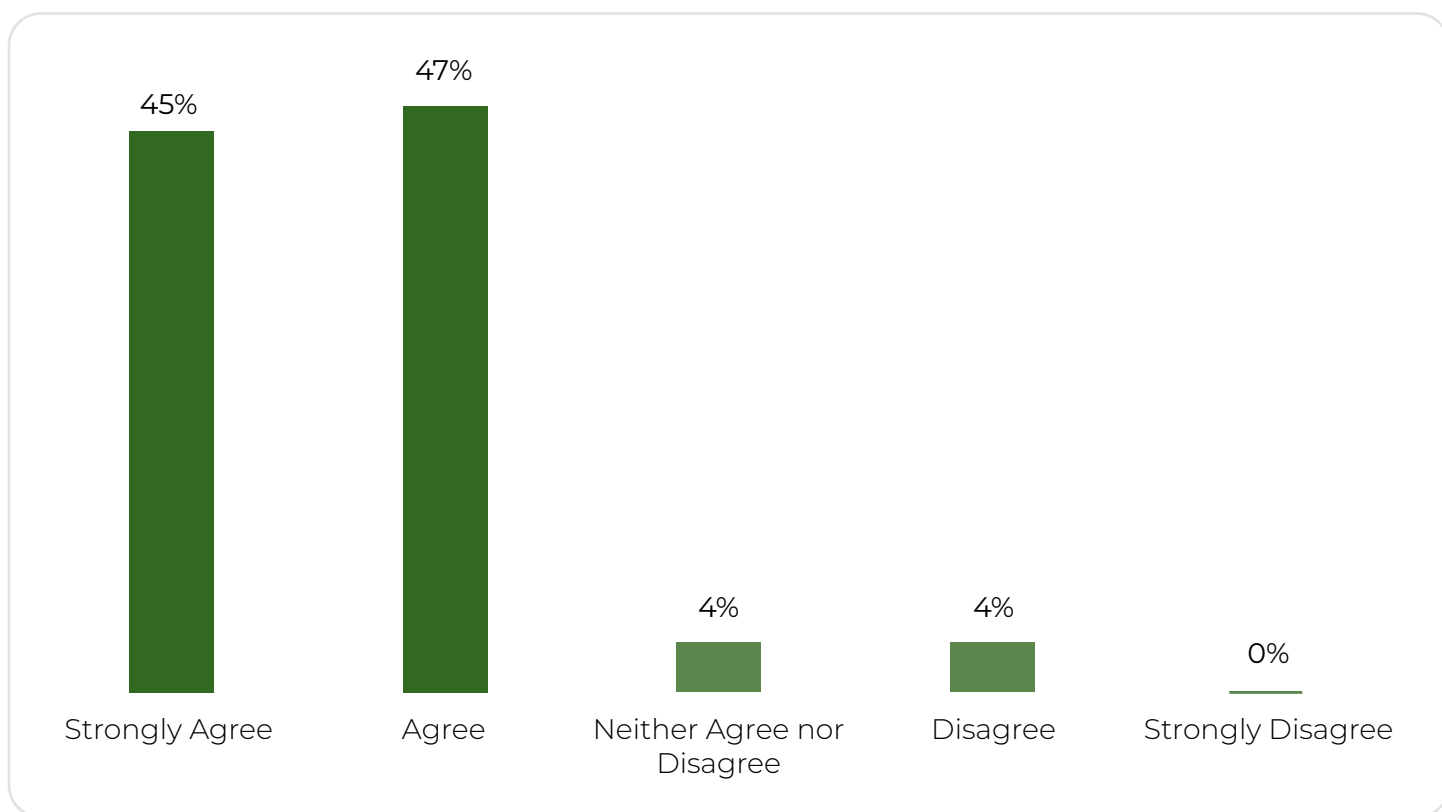
**96%**  
of respondents agreed that they are more aware of community resources and programs to help fathers...

**Chart 2. As a result of the 2022 OK Fatherhood Summit, I am more aware of community resources and programs to help fathers meet the social, emotional, and financial needs of their children and families (n=47).**



Ninety-two percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that as a result of the 2022 OK Fatherhood Summit, they are more confident in their ability to engage fathers, their children, and their families, and/or engage with their own children/grandchildren and family; 4% remained neutral, and; and 4% disagreed (Chart 3).

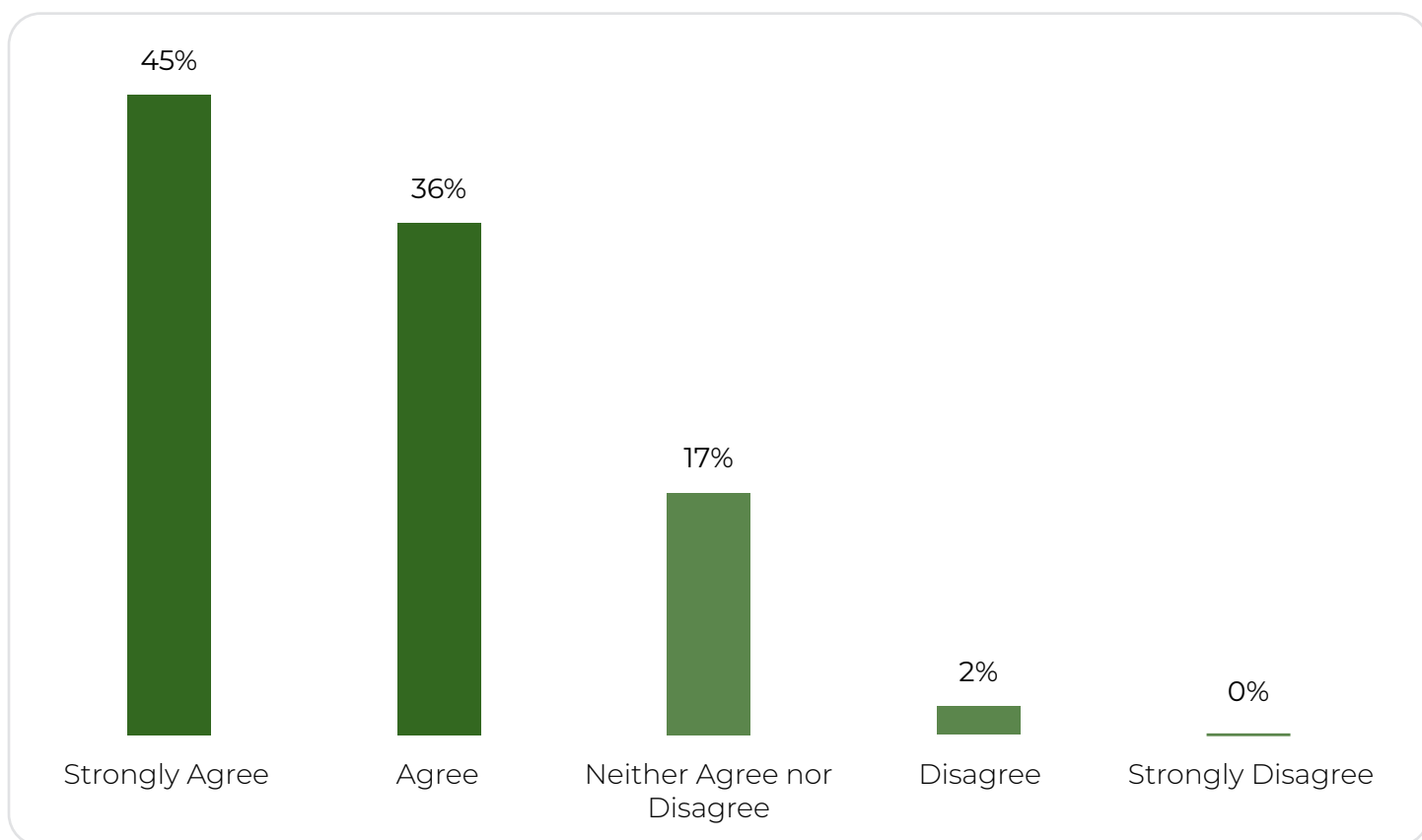
**Chart 3. As a result of the 2022 OK Fatherhood Summit, I am more confident in my ability to engage fathers, their children, and their families, and/or engage with my own children/grandchildren and family (n=47).**



**92%** of respondents agreed that they are more confident in their ability to engage fathers, their children and their families

Eighty-one percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that as a result of the 2022 OK Fatherhood Summit, they are more confident in their ability to engage service providers in their efforts to provide equitable services to fathers, children, and their families; 17% remained neutral, and; only one person (2%) disagreed (Chart 4).

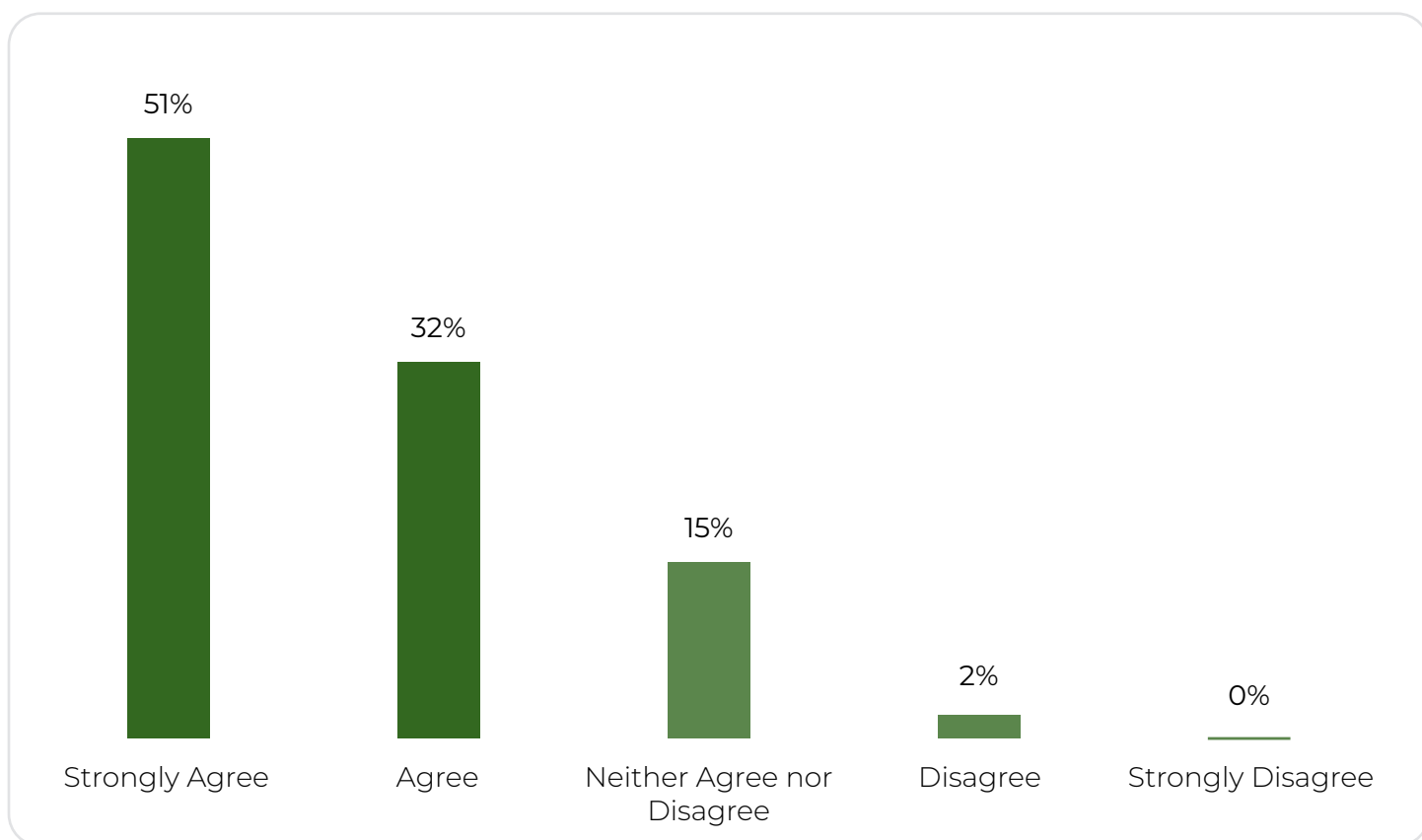
**Chart 4. As a result of the 2022 OK Fatherhood Summit, I am more confident in my ability to positively engage service providers in their efforts to provide equitable services to fathers, children, and their families (n=47).**



**81%** of respondents agreed that they are more confident in their ability to engage service providers in their efforts...

Eighty-three percent of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed that as a result of the 2022 OK Fatherhood Summit, they are more confident in their ability to build momentum and/or engage community partnerships around amplifying fathers' voices; 15% remained neutral, and; only one person (2%) disagreed (Chart 5).

**Chart 5. As a result of the 2022 OK Fatherhood Summit, I am more confident in my ability to build momentum and/or engage in community partnerships around amplifying fathers' voices (n=47).**



**83%** of respondents agreed that they are more confident in their ability to build momentum and/or engage...

## Open-ended Comments Summary

The open-ended survey items are summarized below. See page eight for all open-ended questions and responses (Tables 1-3).

Respondents found the breakout sessions and the keynote speaker to be useful aspects of the summit. Access to resources and hearing the fathers' stories were also mentioned as valuable elements. Several respondents found the data and statistics presented to be eye-opening and informative. Other "ah hah" moments included hearing the male perspective of parenting, learning how supporting fatherhood issues can impact communities, and becoming more aware of the amount of fatherhood work being done in the state.

When asked how they would apply any new tools, resources, or information acquired from the summit with their work with youth, families, and communities, and/or their role as a parent or grandparent, respondents noted they would be using the information in their parenting to build stronger family bonds. They also said that they would be taking the information back to their colleagues and clients to increase their understanding and awareness of fatherhood issues.

"This was one of the best summits that I have attended in a while. From the information shared, to the speakers, the vendors, the break out sessions, the venue and the food! I was wanting to attend so many sessions, but had to pick just one and that made it hard, which is a good sign. But I would love to hear more on some of the other topics."

-2022 OK Fatherhood Summit Participant



## Open-Ended Comments

The following comments are presented here verbatim.

**Table 1. Most useful aspect**

### What were the most useful aspects of the 2022 OK Fatherhood Summit?

Meeting the vendors who provide programs for families.

PAC workshop and resource tables.

Vendor fair, Breakout Sessions, and Keynote speaker session.

Session on Fathers/Daughters was engaging and beneficial information. However, I did not have much take away from other speakers and information that was shared. I found some of it to be bias and geared toward a different audience than I had expected. I work for Head Start and did not feel it truly reflected the family dynamics that we serve in HS that are quite often single family households. There was a focus on marriage-dad's being in the home.

- Ken Canfield keynote about the cost of Fatherlessness and the positive outcomes we should be focusing on.
- Michelle Watson workshop on helping dads love their daughters.
- Panel discussion was very insightful.

Everything was excellent - the venue, the speakers, the community partner booths

The speakers, panel members, sessions, and resource tables.

Resource Fair and Subject Matter Experts.

The breakout sessions and the panel at the end were my highlights.

I enjoyed the keynote speaker and the breakout sessions.

Hearing about the stats, both negative and positive, on the effects of fatherhood or the lack thereof.

IT ALL WAS USEFUL!!!! I can't wait until next years Summit!

The positive messages and the presence of community resources.

Informative Breakout Sessions, Dynamic Keynote Speaker, Great Panel Discussion.

From the discussion panel, I enjoyed the grandparenting aspect of panelists: how they are very intentional to engage their older adult children and grandchildren, being verbal about your pride of them, and telling them good things about them. I wish that part of the summit was longer.

The breakout session with the attorney was great! She offered terrific instruction. My supervisor and I learned more that will help our clients. It was wonderful to see all of the different groups/organizations that have the passion for dads that I've had for 35 years. Awesome stuff, we will be at every one of these summits.

The resources were an amazing way to find local groups that can assist fathers. Also, the breakout seminars showing the need for changes in supporting fathers as a necessary part in our children's lives.

Enjoyed speakers!

The breakout sessions were great. I learned and took something new with me.

As the father of a daughter, I really found value in the breakout session focused on nurturing the relationship between a father and daughter.

Meeting Marquess.

Breakout sessions.

I really appreciated the panel discussion with the 3 fathers. Hearing unique perspectives about fatherhood was very informative. I also very much appreciated Governor Stitt's appearance. I know not everyone might agree with his politics but having him behind the push to engage fathers is fantastic and encouraging.

Thank you all so much! I certainly hope this becomes a yearly event (if it isn't already).

I really liked the break out sessions. I wish that I could have had the time to explore each of the different break outs. I had an amazing time with the whole summit.

The data and the information shared, The workshop was amazing, but also I wish I have the opportunity to join the other ones since there were some that I was interested in. Everything was great!

Everything was very helpful. I don't do a lot with the fathers of the kids who attend Head Start/Early Head Start. I feel more confident to be able to do more things to include the fathers.

The entire summit was extremely helpful.

I was able to ask the lawyer questions I've had about whether or not the father is on the birth certificate and learning about resources for fathers.

Breakout sessions.

The resources, for sure.

The Keynote Speaker and the breakout sessions. The breakout session was valuable in that it provided expert resources and engagement from the community.



I have to say all of the summit was eye opening.

The collaboration of each group. The event was well organized and extremely professional.

The father's stories and the break out rooms. All the different resources and willingness of the people to help. This summit was amazing. I hope it continues for years to come.

I loved the keynote speaker. He was great to listen to and had a lot of knowledge about the topic.

Finding new resources and making new connections.

I loved the speakers and the break out sessions.

I greatly enjoyed the breakout session with The Restorative Justice staff where we discussed Restorative Parenting in Fatherhood. In particular, how to be a relationship-centered Father.

This was one of the best summits that I have attended in a while. From the information shared to the speakers, the vendors, the break-out sessions, the venue, and the food! I was wanting to attend so many sessions but had to pick just one and that made it hard, which is a good sign. But I would love to hear more on some of the other topics.

Gathering of local resources available to families and caregivers.

The panel discussion helped to understand the cross spectrum diversity fathers and fatherhood figures.

## Table 2. “Ah Hah’ Moments

What “ah hah” moments did you have during the 2022 OK Fatherhood Summit?

The fatherhood movement in Oklahoma is deeply faith based and may not appeal to all families.

Numerous orgs and citizens interested in increasing father engagement.

Must include marriage in research about strong families.  
Ample resources for Tulsa and okc area COIPs.

Surprised it wasn’t sold out, standing room only with more faith leaders attending. Makes me wonder, who is in the best position to recruit and equip fathers in our state? I think at my churches.

We can do much more to educate the community about the roles that Fathers play in a child’s development (and the consequences when that role is absent.)

The brain science related to the engagement of fathers with their children - fascinating!

I can’t even tell you which ah ha moment was most influential.

The story about Poland having the highest positive father birthrates. But even more so the fact that fathers meet in clubs all over Poland Timote positive fatherhood. How can this be replicated here in the US.

How to be a better girl dad.

Breakout session.

More so, the statistics more than anything else.

The statics for unfathered, and the money it costs the state and city.

The phrase that the attorney tells her clients. "You need to love your kids more than you hate your ex."

Heart moments from the breakout seminar for fathers of daughters.

All was good.

The whole experience.

The keynote speaker and panel really helped lay a framework for where father figures can appear in different life situations to make a positive impact. They can be older brothers, uncles, coaches, and so on.

How powerful the breakout sessions were.

How fathers are being excluded.

Being involved in fatherhood initiatives for a while now, I don't think I really had an "ah hah" moment. Nevertheless, this was a fantastic event and I learned a lot.

Understand the impact that supporting fatherhood can have on our communities.

Just to heard the male perspective in parenting.

I took so much notes there was so much useful info. I even mended my relationship with the father figure I was raised with.

Birthright legacy services and the challenges a father could face trying to reconnect with children from old relationships.

Govenor Stitt.

I didn't really have one being so involved with fatherhood work.



Females start menstruating early without the presence of their father.

The amount of fatherhood work being done.

When Tyson was telling his story.

My ah hah moment was basically when it was explained the value of the father in the home and how fathers shape children into who they become later on in life. They provide their own unique piece to the family.

Identifying our reactive parenting parts to better build our relationship with our children.

When Dr. Canfield alluded to Clinton's and Lewenskey's affair being linked to a father being missing in the home. The ah-hah moment was not necessarily about the individuals, rather it was about the behavior. It was interesting to see how fatherlessness presented itself in adults in less than desirable behaviors.

### Table 3. Using the tools, resources, or information from the summit

How will you apply any new tools, resources, or information acquired because of the 2022 OK Fatherhood Summit in your work with youth, families, and communities and/or your role as a parent, grandparent, or father figure?

I will follow up with any vendors about their programs.

partner with other community engagement groups

Research about strong families embedded within program design for faith-based org. Network building and potential partnerships with nonprofits

Good resources.

I will be focusing on promoting more media resources that encourage and equip fathers to be more active and more effective.

My hope is that this is just the beginning of dialogue and new opportunities to partner and collaborate!

Community mobilization!

I will be networking and sending families to them asap.

Take it back to the work setting.

Will be empowered by the necessity of fathers.

I will encourage my husband more in his fatherhood and support his efforts to guide, protect, and nurture our children. I will encourage him to do the same for his friends that are fathers. I will also encourage him to support single fathers.

Stay in contact with the community resources.

Educate and utilize community partners to promote awareness.

Personally use some ideas, personally and professionally share some of the statistics and stories to make people more aware in general that not having a father in the home is detrimental to the entire family.

Again, the attorney's recommendations will be shared with our clients along with the various support groups available for our dads.

The resources that I found are going to be distributed to all 9 of my direct employees for case management. Also, practices and perspectives on more heavily involving and engaging fathers on our cases. Not solely focusing on the mothers.

Found some resources our young men can use in help w jobs housing etc.

I already spoke to my daughter on a new communication tool we will use when she wants one on one time with me.

As a parent, I will incorporate different strategies to nurture a strong bond with my daughter as she grows p through various life stages.

I have already started to learn more about ways to engage my kiddos.

Be aware.

From a personal perspective, I appreciate the role of father figures even more. Being a father myself, I gained more perspective from listening to the other fathers.

From a professional and/or community perspective, I gained confidence in bridging gaps between fathers who are different than me. My organization is in the early steps of incorporating a fatherhood program and I took away some great bits of information from this summit to use to that end.



Find unique ways to launch action in the community of muskogee. Take the information I learn to enage my family and church family.

Parent meetings and projects in the classroom.

My fiancé is very confident now in his ability to parent because of the information presented to him and the resources he knows how to

I plan to refer the fathers of my clients' babies to the fatherhood group at Birthright

Will refer my families to your resources.

Bettering my program in connection of helping dads grow and continuing to challenge them in the midst of all of the negatives that go around about fathers.

I gave a heart provided during the breakout session to my husband so that he can engage with our daughter.

More training for my youth and parents.

Put them to work , practice, communicate with others, and share the information.

I am better able to explain the importance of fathers.

The Fatherhood Summit was amazing from beginning to end. I loved every second of from the information to the community partners to the breakout sessions! IT ALL WAS USEFUL!!!! I can't wait until next years Summit! I'll be using what I learned piece by piece as it applies to life & circumstances that may arise.

# We help organizations make sense of data & connect the dots.

E-TEAM, at the University of Oklahoma, designs research and evaluations to help organizations understand and use information and data to solve real-world problems with progress and outcomes monitoring, technology solutions, study findings, and recommendations.

All E-TEAM research and evaluations are designed to comply with nationally mandated standards for conducting research involving human participants. E-TEAM recognizes that demographic, sociopolitical, and contextual perspectives matter fundamentally in evaluation.

E-TEAM also recognizes that privilege and intersectionality impact data collection and analysis and interpretation. We align our evaluations from planning, implementation, data collection, analysis, interpretation, and reporting with an understanding of these issues. In service to this, we recruit and hire staff from across diverse racial and ethnic groups, cultures, and perspectives.